

## ALUMNI BOARD

President and Chapter Advisor  
**Doug Bodner '87**

Incoming Treasurer  
**Nigel King '10**

Outgoing Treasurer  
**Derek Harris '95**

Assistant Chapter Advisor  
**Scott Saffran (Tufts) '89**

Board Neophyte  
**Logan Sandor '13**

## GRADUATING SENIORS

Congratulations to our spring and summer 2014 graduates:

**Kenan Gungor**  
Biomedical Engineering

**Tyler Harmon**  
Biomedical Engineering

**Stephen Pardue**  
Computer Science

## XI ON THE WEB

**Alumni Web Site**  
[www.gtzb.org](http://www.gtzb.org)

**Facebook Page**  
Search for "ZBT Xi Chapter Georgia Tech Alumni Association."

## HONOR ROLL

Thank you to our annual fund donors this year! Find a list of supporters to date (and add your name to the list) at [www.gtzb.org](http://www.gtzb.org), and watch for a full published 2013-14 Honor Roll later this summer.

[www.gtzb.org](http://www.gtzb.org)



ΦΕΠ • 1916

# Xi-Lights



ZBT • 1970

Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

June 2014

Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga.

## ALUMNI REPORT

### Zach, Inc. Progresses in Three Key Areas, Calls On You to Help Advance Our Organization

*Volunteers Count on Brothers' Participation to Keep Facilities Competitive, Develop Active Chapter and Engage Alumni Base*

*By Doug Bodner '87*

Thanks to the support of alumni like you, we continue to move forward in three key areas of our organization as we end the academic year:

- **Keeping our facilities competitive.** We continue to take an active role in maintenance programs designed to keep equipment in good working order. Additionally, we have improved and upgraded facilities in several key areas (see Facilities Report below).
- **Developing our active chapter.** We have engaged a number of recruitment advisors to assist our undergraduate chapter in recruitment. We have had success here, with nine new brothers initiated in the past academic year. However, attrition and graduation take their toll, and we are working extensively with the undergraduates

on recruitment and improving their fraternity experience over the summer.

- **Engaging our alumni.** We had successful participation in Homecoming, tailgates, and the alumni picnic. We will leverage that support in the upcoming year and encourage you to come back for an upcoming gathering.

As always, we count on your participation to keep our program going strong. See inside for ways you can renew your involvement this year.

In other news, **Derek Harris '95**, our treasurer for the past five years, is stepping down. Recent alumnus **Nigel King '10** is tapped to take his place this summer. We are also recruiting for additional positions (find more information at [www.gtzb.org](http://www.gtzb.org)).

## KEEPING OUR FACILITIES COMPETITIVE

### Upgrades Continue at ZBT

*House Improvements Include Electronic Locks and Landscaping*

Upgrades continue at ZBT! Recent improvements include:

- Installation of new sod in the front yard, along with a set of specimen plants to replace the old holly on the west side of the house.
- Replacement of exterior locks with a new electronic key fob entry system.
- Pruning of trees to keep them healthy, remove dead wood, thin canopies, and set branches back from the house.
- Installation of gravel on our property in the parking area to the west of the house.



*Portion of new sod installed on front lawn*

It should be noted that Georgia Tech owns the plot of land between ZBT and Kappa Sigma, which has been used by members of both fraternities for parking for many years. In the past few years, Tech has been looking to take over this plot of land, and they have announced plans to do so at the end of summer. Since our property line runs near and parallel with the retaining wall between our yard and the parking area, we will still have an area outside the basement door for parking and wreck construction. Updated information will be provided once Tech has decided a final use of the plot.

## DEVELOPING OUR ACTIVE CHAPTER

### ZBT Continues to Sharpen Chapter Image in Academics, Philanthropy and Athletics *Brothers More than Double Community Service Hours Compared to Past Semesters, Raise Money and Awareness for Children's Healthcare*

This spring semester, Xi Chapter adopted three focus areas on which we want to base our chapter image - academics, philanthropy and academics.

First, in academics, we compiled a 3.01 GPA. Eight brothers were named to the Dean's List, and one attained Faculty Honors.

Philanthropy has been a second area of focus, and we posted 400 hours of philanthropy and community service this spring. This more than doubles our total hours from any previous semester.

Our two big successes included our annual Get on the Ball week and our participation in Georgia Tech's Dance Marathon, which is sponsored by GT For the Kids. Both efforts aid ZBT's national philanthropy Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH), which raises funds for children's healthcare and research. During Get on the Ball, brothers roll

a large ball across campus and various places in Atlanta, collecting signatures and pledges for donations. It is an attention-getter.

We had a number of brothers on the GT For the Kids executive board this year, and their campus-wide Dance Marathon event raised over \$85,000. This money was donated directly to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, a CMNH member hospital.

In addition, ZBT also won a competition held by GT Engineers Without Borders in which competing organizations donated loose change to their efforts. We wound up donating a tub filled with coins to win.

Finally, in athletics, we competed in four leagues this spring and almost made the playoffs in each one, missing by just one game. Next semester, we plan to make it to the playoffs in each sport.



*Undergraduates and alumni enjoy the end of fall semester 2013*

With these three focus areas, we have a solid product for new member recruitment. We initiated three new brothers in spring – **Connor Boyle**, **Lucas Greenway** and **Michael Varghese** – and we are currently starting summer rush and planning for fall.

## PHI EP HISTORY

### The Great Whistle Heist of 1950

#### *A Group of Phi Ep Brothers Is Behind a Half-Century-Long Prank at Georgia Tech*

It's time to finally 'fess up that a group of Phi Ep brothers is behind one of Georgia Tech's biggest and most mysterious heists, one that was kept secret for nearly 50 years. The story begins when the original steam-powered whistle that sat atop the A.C. Holland Power Plant went missing in the early 1950s. Even more remarkably, it was returned to its rightful owner nearly a half a century later.

According to legend, as told by **Al Lowi '51**, a group of Phi Ep brothers succeeded in their plan to pull off this master prank.

"The principal person to be recognized in this caper is **Marvin 'Stu' Stuart '51** (now deceased)," said Al. "Stu was not the first to attempt the whistle heist. He was just the one to succeed as the principal steeplejack and hacksaw artisan."

Stu and crew got the prized possession back to the Phi Ep house where it was the envy of the brotherhood.

"Stu was 'lucky,'" said Al. "He won custody of the whistle in a crap game at the Phi Ep house in 1951 and cared for the fugitive (my term) all these many years (Stu refers to it

as the "Holy Grail").

Stu always thought he might face charges, so he kept the knowledge to himself, convincing his brothers he had parted with the treasure. He even allowed the rumor to prevail that the whistle was buried in the front yard of the Phi Ep house. But he had kept it all of these years.

"It was not known for sure that Stu still had possession until 1990 when another of the daredevils from that midnight expedition back in 1950 and fellow Phi Ep brother, **Lewis Levenson '52**, got sight of it during a visit with Stu at his retirement place in the High Sierra," Al said. "Lew told me about it afterward, and then I breached his confidence at the class reunion of 1991. That's how I got involved with the return expedition and I hoped I would not live to regret having blown Stu's cover and coaxed him to give up his treasure without any assurances of escape from infamy."

The whistle was returned to Georgia Tech in 1996, when the thieves decided the statute of limitations had to be long expired, and shipped the whistle and other historical

memorabilia back to Atlanta.

Al added, "This story would not be complete without mentioning that Stu, Lew, my brother **David Lowi '53** (the chapter president at the time) and I were fraternity brothers and co-conspirators. Stu was my roommate who shared with me his pop's prized homemade Philadelphia zinfandel. Lew was my Navy buddy and partner in the most bizarre fraternity initiation stunt anyone ever heard of. My brother David shared his 'lucrative' G.I. Bill stipend with me, on occasion picking up the tab at the Fox, the Varsity, the Yellow Jacket and Harry's beer and steak joint. He also bought some parts for our '28 Chevy 'Reck. We were all thoroughly involved in all aspects of the meager social and extracurricular bill of fare Tech had to offer in those days. We have been close friends and confidantes since 1948. My brother and I were second generation Techsters and Phi Eps so we sort of knew what we were in for when we matriculated. It was otherwise for Stu, Lew and many others of my acquaintance. We were all remarkably innocent."

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Donald Leeds '55

(12 Coach Rd., Rolling Hills, CA 90274; donleeds@mac.com) If you ever watched the Space Shuttle land on TV, I have patents on the carbon composite brake material that stopped ALL Space Shuttle flights ever made! My carbon brake material is also on the C5B Rapid Deployment aircraft that brought our tanks, trucks and troops to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan (assigned to BFGoodrich, of course). I won the Samuel Geijsbeek Award of the American Ceramic Society for the Ceramic Engineer who contributed the most to the Institute of Ceramic Engineers in 1994 and won admission to the Georgia Tech Hall of Fame in 1995. Dr. Edward Teller, father of thermonuclear energy (and the hydrogen bomb) was the guest speaker for the presentation to me. My wife and I got to talk to him for 15 minutes before the meeting. *Editor's Note: Read more about Donald's conversation with Dr. Teller at [www.gtztbt.org](http://www.gtztbt.org).*

### Marvin Gechman '57

(5301 Superstition Mtn Dr, Ste 104-475, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118; mcg@esconinc.net) Two years ago, after 50 years in the aerospace industry, I retired for the second time—well, almost. Between activities at the golf and country club where we are members, and the over-55 community where Annie and I live, there is an abundance of things to do. In addition, I am writing a book on control of the software development process, reactivating my former software systems consulting company, working on five hobbies that were dormant for decades, and I participate in a few organizations such as the veterans' group and MUFON. We hike in the nearby mountains, go on road trips, and try to spend as much time as possible with our four daughters, two 4-legged daughters (poodles), and nine grandchildren. At 82 my health is great as I swim or workout about three times a week, recently participated in a triathlon, and weigh less than I did my last year at Tech (because I am eating less Phi-Ep pie). So this Ramblin Reck is still ramblin and redefining the meaning of retirement.



### Allan Quiat '73

(5018 Hastingwood Dr., Houston, TX 77084; abquiat@yahoo.com) I retired from Chevron Corporation after almost 41 years of service, and welcomed a granddaughter Noa Quiat in May 2013.

### Tom Sanders '74

(11517 SW 124th Ct., Miami, FL 33186; tom.b.sanders3@gmail.com) Sharon and I celebrated my birthday in Key West. Also, I stopped by Mike McCormick's on my way to Savannah for St. Patrick's Day this year. One night was not enough, so we plan to get together again this year during Homecoming.

### Andrew Cripps '81

(19 Gerard Road, Barnes SW 13 9RQ, England; aecripps11@gmail.com) After 25 years at Paramount Pictures, I left at the end of 2011 when my job moved to LA and I did not go with it. I then joined IMAX Corporation as President for Europe, Middle East and Africa and have thoroughly enjoyed my time there developing the IMAX theater network across the region. I travel a lot in my role but having done that for years continue to find it interesting and stimulating. We were at the Cannes Film Festival very recently - one of the perks of the job. My wife Louise and I have three fantastic children, and I am presently on the board of the Scheller College of Business at Georgia Tech.



### David Zweighaft '84

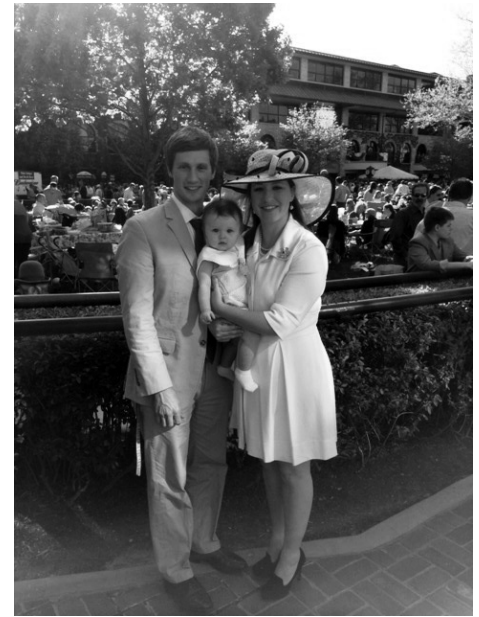
(68-61 Yellowstone Blvd. Apt. 404, Forest Hills, NY 11375; dzweighaft@dszforensic.com) I am running a forensic accounting firm in NYC and I count among my clients the US Department of Justice, several co-op apartment buildings, private equity firms and individual investors. I serve on the boards of the EPIC Theatre Ensemble and the Seabgo Canoe and Kayak Club (I also serve on some national professional accounting committees that everyone might find boring). Recent travels (personal and business) have taken us to Istanbul, Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore.

### Andrew Gonczy '93

(2072 Fairway Crossing Dr., Woodstock, GA 30188; drew.gonczy@me.com) We celebrated our 20th anniversary in June and enjoy our three children. In May, I left Oracle (Sun Microsystems) after 16 years and started a new job at EMC as the chief technologist in a cloud services/operations group.

### Mark Zoller '08

(911 Tates Creek Rd., Lexington, KY 40502; markzoller@gmail.com) Virginia and I are knee deep in baby toys and diapers as our son James recently turned 8 months. Here we are at a Kentucky Derby party with the young lad. I am working with a small energy services company engineering and developing energy savings projects. Our collaborative venture George Bear Wear has us learning and working in the outdoor apparel and textile industry. We are active in the Lexington Alumni Club with fellow brother **Andy Kiesler '12** and wife Leslie.



### Joshua Styles '11

(7225 Sawgrass Dr., Dawsonville, GA 30534; joshua.w.styles@gmail.com) I recently returned from a 12-day business trip to Europe to see our UPS facilities in Amsterdam, Frankfurt, London, Brussels, and Cologne. My wife and I are preparing for her upcoming surgery. Her brother is donating his kidney to her. We're praying for a smooth surgery and better health on the other side.



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***In this issue...***

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

***See You at Fall Tailgates***

Fall will be here before you know it, and so will Georgia Tech football. We hope that you will join us for tailgates before each football game.

Due to the expense of maintaining our lawn in an acceptable condition (see Facilities Report on page 1), we will provide lawn parking only to those supporters of our Honor Roll (either current year or prior year) at the Xi level (\$75) or higher. Parking on the lawn causes substantial damage and costs, so there's no such thing as "free parking." Find a year-to-date Honor Roll at [www.gtzbt.org](http://www.gtzbt.org), and if your name is not yet listed, click on the Donate button on the site to make your contribution. Thanks for your support!

***Reunion Classes – Class of '74 and More***

Thinking about a class reunion at this year's Homecoming? Now is the time to make plans and put them into action. The Class of '74 is already making plans for their reunion. Classes of '73, '74 and '75 can contact **Tom Sanders '74** (tom.b.sanders3@gmail.com) for more details.

For other years, we can help by providing contact information for alumni in your class, as well as logistical and event planning assistance. Contact **Doug Bodner** (doug.bodner@gatech.edu) for more details.

***2014 Home Games***

- Aug. 30: vs. Wofford
- Sept. 13: vs. Georgia Southern
- Oct. 4: vs. Miami
- Oct. 11: vs. Duke
- Nov. 1: vs. Virginia
- Nov. 15: vs. Clemson



**ENGAGING OUR ALUMNI**



**Spring Alumni Picnic is a Xi Chapter Tradition**

The spring alumni picnic continues to be a Xi Chapter tradition. This year's event was held at Pinckneyville Park and was attended by a number of alumni who reconnected with one another and the active brothers.

Zach, Inc. provides plenty of opportunities for you to reconnect with your Pi Ep Phi and/or ZBT brothers, including monthly happy hours, fall football tailgates and our annual Homecoming celebration and Spring Alumni Picnic. Stay tuned to [www.gtzbt.org](http://www.gtzbt.org) for details.