

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 30–April 3, 2015
Get on the Ball Week

July 16–18, 2015
ZBT Convention
(Las Vegas)

September 3, 2015
GT Football Home Opener
(vs. Alcorn State)

October 24, 2015
Homecoming (vs. FSU)

July 21–23, 2016
ZBT Convention & Centennial
Celebrations for Xi, Mu and Psi
Chapters (Atlanta, Ga.)

ALUMNI BOARD

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Doug Bodner '87

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ΦΕΠ • 1916

Xi-Lights



ZBT • 1970

Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

March 2015

Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga.

ALUMNI REPORT

Chapter Responds With Spring Recruitment Success

Now It Is time for Alumni to Respond ... How Can You Help?

By Doug Bodner '87, Alumni President

Since our last newsletter, our alumni board has been working to ensure our long-term success as a fraternal organization. The main short-term task was to decide whether the undergraduate chapter would be viable in the upcoming year to remain in the house. Over the past few years, we have had declining numbers, and there was a real concern that the undergraduates would not have enough members next fall to be realistically successful in maintaining a house.

We provided the financials that they would need to meet next year and told them they had to get out and recruit new members. Fortunately, they were able to recruit four new brothers in spring (see page 2), and this provides a foundation for them to be viable in the upcoming year. While this is a work-in-progress, we would like to focus on progress, especially as it relates to the long term.

We continue to work with the undergraduate leadership and are providing them with quantitative expectations and benchmarks as a basis for improvement in a new direction for long-term chapter success. These include recruitment, programming, leadership and academics, among other

key areas of fraternity value. We will keep you posted on progress. In other areas of responsibility, we continue to maintain the chapter house and make intelligent upgrades.

This turns us to alumni responsibility for maintaining a house on campus. We understand our responsibility in helping new generations learn what leadership and responsibility are. So, please consider giving your time to our Xi Chapter in 2015. We are continuing to rebuild our alumni board, with positions of facilities management, alumni relations and meal service management being available on the house corporation side, and a recruitment advisor being available on the advisement side. We assure you that this is not an overwhelming responsibility — just your time to help in oversight of the chapter and to serve in an advisory role.

It is time for more of our brothers to step forward to assume responsibility for our house and maintain our Xi Chapter of ZBT/Phi Ep at Georgia Tech. Won't you consider taking a more active role? If you are interested in throwing your name in the hat, please contact Brother **Doug Bodner '87** at doug.bodner@gatech.edu.

HOMECOMING 2014



Once again, Xi Chapter enjoyed a successful Homecoming. The Class of '74 held a very successful reunion the night before, and most joined the Homecoming luncheon on Saturday. It was a great day for ZBT!

CHAPTER REPORT

Chapter 2 Brothers Away From Doubling Membership

By Nima Madani '16, External Vice President

The brothers of ZBT Xi Chapter are at it again with another strong start to the semester. We've moved closer to our rush goals by initiating four brothers into the chapter. With only two more, we will have doubled our numbers from the beginning of the fall semester. Our next goal focuses on campus presence as our brothers are working toward leadership on campus. Please join us in congratulating **Nima Madani '16**, **Leo Zheng '18** and **Michael Varghese '16** for making it to the second round of the FASET interviews. We wish them the best as they move on. In addition, brothers are applying for membership on various IFC committees.

Another big goal for this semester is philanthropy. Our traditional big philanthropy event, Get on the Ball, is starting up again. As you know, we roll a giant ball around campus gathering signatures

and pledges to support Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. GotB is set for March 30–April 3. We are also sponsoring a party on April 9 for kids at Children's Healthcare. Thank you to all of the alumni who have currently pledged to support us in GotB fundraising. We are now at \$0.25 a signature and still looking to grow. If you want to be more involved, please contact **external@techzbt.com** with what you can do to help.

As we continue to grow on campus, we are still looking for new programs and ways for our brothers to continue our tradition of excellence. One example is the revamped New Brother Education brought on by Nima Madani and Erik Brewer. If you have any ideas,

please contact us.

Finally, we would like to highlight our academic performance this past fall. The chapter average from was 3.11. We are even more pleased with the new brother GPA of 3.49. Brother **Nash Bharwani '16** received both the award for most outstanding academics and the award for most improved academics.



Earlier this semester, our four new brothers enjoyed an initiation dinner with the rest of their ZBT/Phi Ep brothers.

FACILITIES REPORT

What Better Way to Launch Into Spring Than a New Deck? House Undergoes Important Upgrades Thanks to Alumni Support

We have continued to upgrade our facilities. As always, the list is long, but we have managed significant progress in many areas:

- The back deck was refurbished with new planking on all surfaces (including seating), repairs to the stairs that had collapsed on one corner, replacement of latticework and replacement of various railing pieces. It was a major undertaking, but we are pleased with the results. There were potential safety issues that we averted with this project.
- A curtain system was installed in the upstairs shower after the renovation this past fall.
- Numerous light fixtures were replaced throughout the house to give a more updated look and improve lighting.



The chapter house deck took on a new look in February during a major rebuilding project.

- A monitoring service was installed for our fire alarm system to bring it up to current code.

Our main upcoming project addresses roof refurbishment and recoating. We are also planning chapter room refurbishment and new living room furniture in the future, potentially with alumni support.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Chapter Receives Recycling Certification

This past month, ZBT became the second student organization on campus to receive the Silver Leaf Certification from the Student Government Association for recycling efforts at events. This certification requires an approved recycling process for events to be used through the GT Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling at least twice a semester.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Learn, Listen, Be Kind & Never Give Up

Meet Brother & Former Tulane Chapter Advisor Mark Witten '68

Mark Witten's membership as a Class of 1968 brother of Zeta Beta Tau at Georgia Tech was just the beginning of his involvement with the ZBT fraternity. He also branched out and spent years as a chapter advisor at Tulane.

His dedication and hard work as an advisor opened even more doors that he never would have expected. This position at Tulane led to Mark receiving an invitation to be a member of the national Zeta Beta Tau council, which he gratefully accepted.

From his days at Georgia Tech, he gained a true understanding of comradery and meaningful friendships. Not only did he learn what authentic, lifelong friendship really means, Mark also discovered how important

it is to maintain them throughout life. He used these two central takeaways as inspiration for his roles at Tulane and as a member of the national council. He continues to draw from them today.

Mark's professional career was spent in the oil industry where he was an engineer. He went on to serve as a regulation advocate with various government agencies. If he could go back to the good old days, one piece of advice that he would give his former self is to "work harder and always, always apply yourself."

Although his professional life has certainly



been a success, his biggest success in life is, without a doubt in his mind, raising two great children. Now that the kids are all grown up and both successful in the field of finance, Mark and his wife, Myra, enjoy hiking, playing tennis, traveling and spending time with their grandchild.

In 50 years, he hopes that people will look back and think of him as someone who made a difference, even if it was something very small. If there is one thing that he has learned in life it is to listen and be patient. To the young men of the active Georgia Tech chapter, he greatly advises them to "learn, listen, be kind and *never* give up."

2014-15 HONOR ROLL

Thank you to those 63 donors listed below who have made a commitment to our Xi Chapter with a gift to our annual fund this giving year. Gifts received before August 31, 2015, will be acknowledged on our year-end honor roll. Help us meet our goal of 71 donors this year by going to our website, www.gtzbt.org, clicking on Donate in the upper right-hand corner and making your gift today.

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Buzz (\$50-\$74.99)

Class of 1974	
George Ragovis	1955
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Ralph M. Bard	1972
Steven E. Faber	1973
Michael A. McGrath	1976
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David L. Flum	1988
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Other

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Louis Wallen	1971
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Ira B. Margolis	1978
John R. Nott	2007



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In this issue...

- See our new deck!
- One alum advises: learn, listen, be kind ...
- Xi Lights brings brothers together after 63 years!

XI REUNIONS

Xi Lights Helps Brothers Reunite after 63 Years

Ernie Scheller and **Lew Levenson** graduated from Georgia Tech in 1951. **Marv Gechman** entered Tech in 1950. They were all active members of the Xi Chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi and, even though Marv was a co-op student, they got to know each other in the short time of their overlap. After graduation, they did not keep in touch. Jump ahead 63 years to the summer of 2014 when Marv submitted an "Alumni Update" article for the June 2014 issue of *Xi Lights*.

Through that article, Lew became aware



that he and Marv live about 70 miles apart in central Arizona. He contacted Marv, and they arranged to meet on the August motor trip Marv and his wife, Annie, planned that was taking them through Payson, Ariz., where Lew lives. They all met for lunch and had a great time reminiscing about what they could remember about life at Tech. As shown on the picture, Lew was running for a city office at the time but did not get quite enough votes. When Lew found out that Marv and Annie were driving to a vacation in the Vail Valley in Colorado, he

informed Marv that Ernie was likely to be in Vail at that time. Marv contacted Ernie, and they arranged a terrific dinner and evening in Vail Village. Lew and Marv are officially, but not actually, retired, but Ernie is still active with his business and especially with the Scheller College of Business he endowed at Tech. These reunions help to prove that fraternal bonds are for a lifetime.

Brothers can reconnect with Lew Levenson at equality@centurylink.net, Ernie Scheller at bertvv@comcast.net and Marvin Gechman at mcg@esconinc.net. For more photos and stories from alumni, go to our website, www.gtztbt.org.

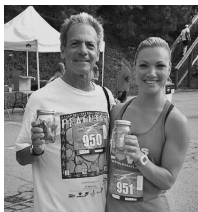
ALUMNI UPDATES

Jeffrey M. Goodman '71

(2052 Paran Ct., Marietta, GA 30062-5425; jeffgoodmanslc@aol.com) My daughter,

Jenna, just got engaged.

She will be getting married some time this spring. Also she finally beat me in a 5k road race a few weeks ago. I told her she should be real proud of herself beating a 65-year-old man! Hope to see everyone at Tech soon.



retired after 27 years as executive vice president and actuary at Primerica, Inc., in Duluth, Ga. I am living in Marietta, Ga., with my wife of 35 years, Susie.

Patrick D. McDougal '92

(402 Blue Jay Pkwy, Ringgold, GA 30736-4917; pmdougal@gmail.com) Melissa and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary last November. We met my sophomore year at Georgia Tech at the ZBT house.

Paul L. Grzybowski '12

(6968 Moontown Dr. E., Appling, GA 30802; bboytitan@gmail.com) I'm starting a business growing culinary mushrooms. I have moved into a new warehouse and am

currently setting up the clean room. Hopefully within a month, I'll have something delicious to show for it! The house looked great last time I stepped in there (a week ago). Home improvements look good (foyer, carpet and bathroom).

IN MEMORY

We have recently learned of the death of ...

Ted Levy '51

Xi Chapter mourns his passing and extends condolences to his family and friends.