



ΦΕΠ • 1916

Xi-Lights



ZBT • 1970

Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

September 2015

Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga.

UPCOMING EVENT

Homecoming 2015
October 23-25

Help Us Party in Style for Our Last Homecoming Celebration of the Century!

This year marks the last Homecoming celebration before we celebrate our centennial anniversary in 2016. Help us to put a great cap on our chapter's first century by joining us for part or all of the weekend.

Festivities include...

Friday, October 23

Young Alumni Homecoming Dinner; 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 24

Homecoming Brunch and Tailgate at the House

Georgia Tech vs. Florida State Kickoff TBD

Sunday, October 25

Alumni Homecoming Golf Tournament; 9 a.m.

Visit www.gtzbt.org for more details. See you there!

ANNUAL FUND

Your Donations Fuel Our Success

As reported to the right, the undergraduate chapter is working hard to maintain the legendary reputation we've all worked so hard to build over the last century. Your contributions fuel their success, and help preserve our chapter for the future.

Help us get a head start on our next 100 years by making your donation to kick off the 2015-16 annual fund. Donate at www.gtzbt.org.

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to alumnus **Lamar Perlis '49**, who at 90 was the oldest male participant and finisher in this year's Peachtree Road Race!

Read his story in the Alumni Profiles section of the website.

ALUMNI REPORT

6 Reasons ZBT is Not Your Stereotypical Fraternity

Xi Chapter is Flourishing in a Time When Many Fraternities are Not — With 15 New Brothers, Top Ten Grades and National Recognition

In a day and age where the headlines are riddled with negative incidents in the fraternity world, Xi Chapter is thriving. Comprised of a strong group of undergraduate leaders and backed by a solid alumni network, ZBT has been working hard to combat the negative stereotype that surrounds the Greek world today. Thanks to strong alumni support, Xi Chapter continues to provide young men with an environment that nurtures leadership, personal development, and other skills necessary for a successful college career and life beyond.

Here's how:

1. We're recruiting men whose core values are aligned with Intellectual Awareness, Social Responsibility, Integrity and Brotherly Love.

Focusing on these fundamental tenets of ZBT's Credo, we've set qualitative and quantitative benchmarks and expectations for our new members to achieve.

2. We care about our image. The chapter has developed a set of things we stand for and value in new members and our upperclassmen, tied to academics, service, athletics, and leadership. This process provides the framework for undergraduates to hold one another accountable, and to attain the expectations that they have promised to numerous stakeholders, including alumni, parents, the university community, and the international organization.

3. We're seeing results and being recognized. This fall, we recruited 15 new members who are attracted by what we offer and who have really



Undergraduate brothers Michael Varghese and Luke Greenway accept the Omega Award for Outstanding Publications at the 2015 ZBT International Leadership School, one of several awards the chapter received last academic year.

engaged in the fraternity. We achieved a top ten finish in IFC for grades last spring. And we were recognized at National Convention for alumni outreach/programming and for publications.

4. Our alumni are helping to pay it forward.

In addition to strong financial support, our alumni are giving back to Xi Chapter in honor of the great experience they had. This past August, alumni volunteers

presented valuable resume and interviewing advice at ZBT's Career Night, and alumni donations enabled the trustee board to present scholarships to two undergraduates for their academic achievements (best overall GPA and most improved GPA).

5. We're committed to a lifelong experience.

We value our alumni members, and want to preserve the bonds they formed at the fraternity and with each other. In addition to our annual Homecoming bash, we hold parties before each home game in the fall, and other reunions and events throughout the year.

6. We're proud of our roots. As the chapter approaches its 100th anniversary in 2016, we are especially honored to preserve our history and the unique characteristics of Phi Ep Pi and ZBT make us all part of a unified brotherhood.

ZBT will continue to flourish with a strong undergraduate chapter and your ongoing support. Read inside for more on the lifelong impact of our great fraternity and ways you can get involved. We hope you can share in our success this year at Homecoming!

ALUMNI PROFILE

ZBT Strengthens Brotherly Bonds for Stefan and Jason Woulfin

Pair Proud of Xi Chapter Membership and the Unique Experiences They Gained through Fraternity

For many of us, ZBT helped strengthen the bonds of brotherhood we formed with young men we met upon our arrival at Georgia Tech. For **Stefan '99** and **Jason Woulfin '01**—blood brothers who both became members of Xi Chapter—ZBT helped strengthen their familial bonds as well.

Jason, who often hung around the house with his older brother before he came to Georgia Tech, got to know a large portion of the brotherhood and was impressed with how accepting they were of him and everyone.

"I already had this established support network for me as I entered this new chapter, and it happened to include my brother, so it felt very safe and inviting," said Jason.

Once he became active in the chapter, the shared experience he had with Stefan served to strengthen their bond as blood brothers.

"I always tried so hard to be different from Stefan growing up that I never really called him my brother in a proud fashion," said Jason. "It wasn't until we were both at ZBT that I could realize what that really meant and proudly call him my brother, as I should have my whole life anyway.

"If it wasn't for Stefan and ZBT, I probably wouldn't have finished school," he said.

"Normally he calls me a bunch of things, but all kidding aside it is very cool to be able to share this much of my college experience with my brother," said Stefan. "Most siblings I know don't wind up at the same school much less the same fraternity. That has been a very unique experience I am glad to have shared with Jason."

"ZBT is a powerhouse of excellence."

Stefan first joined ZBT because the brothers made him feel accepted and at home. He was active during a milestone in Xi Chapter's history—when the brotherhood decided to resurrect the old "ZBTahiti" party, complete with a giant tin roof that failed to cover the bands on stage beneath it from the rain, and a lagoon built in the volleyball court.

"We basically had no money for the party, but a group of us got together, drew a line in the sand, and simply started getting it done," said Stefan. "It was inspiring to see everyone come together to pull something like that off."

Both brothers are proud of their ZBT membership thankful for the unique experience they had in the fraternity.

"ZBT is one of those fraternities that is hard to define," said Stefan. "There is something there for everyone and we excel at many great things. It's a powerhouse of excellence, if you will."

Jason agrees, and is thankful for the worldwide network that ZBT has provided post graduation.

"ZBT has such an extensive history and base that there are not many places on this planet where you can go and not find someone to turn to," he said. "For example, I was in Germany a few years ago when someone on the street yelled my name. It was a brother from Xi Chapter who happened to be working there at the time."

"ZBT brothers are truly there for each other year after year with a support structure, professional and emotional," he continued.

The willingness of the brotherhood to help each other out and lend their specific skills to the benefit of the fraternity went a long way to making ZBT such a great place," added Stefan.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Harry Carpenter III '74

(114A Rhyne St., Morganton, NC 28655; hcarpenter@wpcc.edu) I am an Instructor of History and Geography and a Master Advisor at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton, NC. I published a review of a book about NASCAR car owner, Bud Moore, in the *Journal of the Society of Automotive Historians* last spring.

For the past few years I have coordinated The Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church's outreach to the Charlotte Men's Rescue Mission. We purchase and prepare lunch for the clients once a month. For the past few summers, I have been a rater/reader for AP U.S. History and last June I was promoted to Table Leader.

My son, Everett, works at the Indiana School for the Deaf as a teacher's aide and football and basketball coach in the middle school. My daughter, Meredith, recently earned her Masters of Arts in Human Services from Liberty University and is a social worker in

Lincoln County, NC.

I am married to Flora Edwards Carpenter and we reside in Morganton.



David Zweighaft '84

(68-61 Yellowstone Blvd. Apt. 404, Forest Hills, NY 11375; dzweighaft@dszforensic.com) After a two-and-a-half year assignment as a Senior Forfeiture Financial Specialist for the Department of Justice, David Zweighaft (IMgt 1984) has returned to private practice, focusing on forensic accounting, financial investigations and public sector integrity monitorships. If any frater is going to be in NYC, please reach out. A special shout-out to Robert D. Schneider (CE 1983).

Tell us YOUR story!

Your brothers would love to hear about what you're up to these days.
Visit www.gtzb.org and click on the Alumni Updates button on the menu bar.
It's quick, it's easy, your brothers will thank you.

Influencing the Organization that Influenced Him

Former Chapter President Dan Lawrie '92 Gives Back to Xi Chapter as an Alum by Volunteering for Trustee Corporation

Nearly 25 years ago, **Dan Lawrie '92** led Xi Chapter through a period of major growth. He had such a great experience at ZBT that he continued to be involved as an alum, serving as treasurer of the trustee corporation. In this Q&A, Dan shares more on all that he has gained (and continues to benefit from) from his ZBT membership, and why he feels ZBT stands apart from other fraternities at Georgia Tech.



Dan Lawrie '92

“Twenty-three years after graduation, I still play poker, have dinners, lunches and golf games with about 30 of these guys. Every time we reconnect, it is as if no time has passed. They are my closest friends.”

AL, and, after a year and half, was promoted to Plant Manager and moved to Charlotte, NC. In 1999, I left plastics and took a role in manufacturing with Radiant Systems (now NCR Corporation). I progressed through Director of Manufacturing, Regional Operations Director, VP Business Operations until I left in early 2015 to join Powa Technologies as their SVP Supply Chain Operations, where I'm currently working to help grow a new business.

Why did you join ZBT as an undergraduate?

As soon as I walked in the door, I felt at home. The brothers had a way of making you feel welcome. You made connections immediately, and they were inviting me back for activities the next day. It really made the transition to college life a lot easier.

What were your experiences, lessons, and recommendations from your position as chapter president?

It is quite an initiation into leadership. Being a 21-year-old leader for 75 other young men is humbling, at a minimum. The biggest lesson I learned is that leadership is most certainly not about title or position. It is about relationships, respect, honesty, and doing the right thing, even when that makes you uncomfortable.

You also served as treasurer of the trustee corporation as an alum. What were your experiences, lessons, and recommendations from that position?

This is a very “behind-the-scenes” role, but absolutely vital to the health of the chapter. If the chapter has major issues, you will certainly be involved. You need to be committed, at least for two years (many guys have done 5 times that). The reward? Helping grow that chapter that was at the center of some of the greatest memories you'll have.

Why did you volunteer as an alum? Why would you encourage other alumni to get

involved?

This is a simple answer. Twenty-three years after graduation, I still play poker and have dinners, lunches, and golf games with about 30 of these guys. Every time we reconnect, it is as if no time has passed. They are my closest friends. I wanted to ensure that the chapter would grow and provide this experience and opportunity to other young men. ZBT was a huge influence on me.

You were active during a major growth of the chapter in the late 1980s and early 1990s. What did the chapter do to be successful? How do those lessons apply today? How did you gain personally in terms of leadership skills, etc.?

We focused a tremendous amount of effort on Rush. Not just arranging parties nor any of the technical aspects. We focused on training guys how to meet people, how to sell themselves, the Greek system, and specifically ZBT. Being able to walk up to someone who may feel out of place or anxious, offer them your handshake, engage them in conversation, encourage them to engage other brothers in conversation....these are all life skills that are very valuable in business.

Tell us about your career after leaving Tech.

I graduated BME in '92, and went to work as an engineer for a cargo/ship loading company operating in Savannah and Jacksonville, FL. After three years, I took a position in a management development program at a plastics manufacturer in Birmingham,

What did you learn from ZBT and Georgia Tech that helped you in your career success?

From ZBT, how to build relationships, how to live with and befriend people with different backgrounds and viewpoints, and how to always treat people with respect. From Georgia Tech, how to think, how to solve problems, how to produce under pressure, and how to separate that which is important, from that which is not.

In your opinion, what makes ZBT stand apart from other fraternities at Georgia Tech?

ZBT has always been a strong brotherhood. There's a true focus on looking out for each other, helping each other be successful and building strong bonds. It is a place where you will make friends for life, and I'm not sure I could put a price on that.

What's new in your life today?

I live in Suwanee, Ga. with my wife Julie and daughters Madeleine (15) and Kathleen (12). When I'm not travelling to Asia for Powa, I try to travel for leisure with the girls, play some really bad golf, and some occasional poker with my ZBT brothers. Incidentally, I met my wife through her sorority sisters, who were little sisters at ZBT, 25 years ago.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I would not trade my years at ZBT for anything. What a fantastic experience.



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In this issue...

**6 Reasons ZBT is Not Your Stereotypical Fraternity,
Plus Details for Our Last Homecoming Celebration This Century!**

AT THE HOUSE

Continuing Improvements at ZBT

If you've been to the house already this fall, you've likely noticed some improvements to the facility.

This summer we completed a much-needed roof recoating; recarpeted the bar room, stairwell and upstairs hall; refreshed the landscaping; and refurbished the deck. The house looked great for fall rush and for all of our alumni returning this football season.



The newly refurbished deck.

Catch the Buzz this Season



ZBT will host tailgates at the house before every home game this fall, including our weekend-long Homecoming celebration October 23-25. See page 1 for full details of this year's Homecoming festivities. It's a great chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, including the new brother class of fall 2015, pictured below.



FROM THE ARCHIVES



*Phi Epsilon Pi in the 1916
Blueprint, perhaps the first-ever
published photo of Xi Chapter.*

We're Looking for the Best Pictures, Stories, and Memories from the Last 100 Years!

As Xi Chapter prepares for its 100th anniversary in 2016, we are compiling the best pictures, stories, and memories from the last century. Now is your chance to preserve your piece of our chapter's history!

Make your submissions online at www.gtztbt.org, or email them to our editors at alumninews@affinityconnection.com. We'll feature the best submissions in publications throughout our milestone anniversary year.