

ALUMNI OFFICERS

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ARE YOU GETTING OUR EMAILS?

Are you getting our Xi Chapter alumni email communications? If not, you're missing out! To sign up, just send a quick note to alumninews@affinityconnection.com and let us know to add you to the Zeta Beta Tau at Georgia Tech alumni emailing list!

HELP US FIND LOST BROTHERS!

Now more than ever, it's vitally important that we keep alumni brothers informed and involved with what's happening with Xi Chapter. We have 110 Alumni Brothers with no valid contact information. Visit www.gtzbtt.org to review our current lost mailing and email lists on the home page. If you have contact information for any lost Brothers, email your updates to alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

www.gtzbtt.org



ΦΕΠ • 1916

Xi-Lights



ZBT • 1970

Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

September 2020

Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga.

CHAPTER HOUSE SLATED FOR ACQUISITION

Volunteer Today—Xi Chapter Needs YOUR Help!

Dear ΦΕΠ/ZBT Brothers:

As I indicated to you earlier this summer, we have an urgent matter consider. I am writing to provide an update.

By now you're aware that Atlanta Midtown planners unveiled a major proposed transportation project that will dramatically affect campus and our chapter house. The Midtown Connector Transportation Improvement Project (MCTIP) proposes a major revamp of the interstate corridor from 17th Street to below North Avenue to provide more connections across the corridor from Georgia Tech to Midtown and to improve traffic flow in general.

This project would cap the interstate over much of Midtown. One component would extend 6th Street from Midtown to campus using a path that would barrel through where the Alpha Xi Delta house is, curve to the north, then curve back to join the campus Sixth Street.

This would take out the northeast section of our chapter house plus the front yard. Our property is slated for acquisition.

An initial online public comment period has concluded. Thank you if you responded. A summary is slated to be posted at mctip.org.

As described earlier, if our property is to be acquired, Georgia Tech has committed to help find other lots on campus for both houses. **Unfortunately, there continue to be numerous risks, uncertainties and issues involved.**

- **Where would the new lot be?** There is no real update here. There are no lots currently available on east campus. A lot elsewhere is problematic for fraternity viability. We have asked the university authorities to expedite any possible lot identification that may result from the MCTIP project elsewhere on east campus.
- **How would we afford the switch and new house construction?** We are consulting with preliminary counsel to determine a strategy and permanent counsel for eminent domain proceedings to get the maximum compensation

from a property-taking. Still, for a new facility, we would be faced with financing and/or fundraising the construction cost above and beyond the property compensation. Both amounts are highly uncertain.

- **What about the timing?** As discussed earlier, the project timeline is aggressive. If approved, construction is scheduled to begin at the end of 2023. This is a short time for us to plan and build a new facility, given the uncertainty about a new lot plus the time needed for design, financing and fundraising, construction, etc. As you know, the longer a fraternity is without a house, the more its viability comes into question.

- **What about alumni volunteer resources?** To pull this off, we will need much more alumni involvement than we currently have.

- **What about recruitment?** The situation could certainly make recruitment more difficult for the chapter.

The MCTIP is backed by very powerful interests, so it is likely the project will move forward. I strongly encourage you to become involved to ensure that Xi Chapter remains on campus and moves forward in its second century. Brothers: you should be prepared to step up. Don't assume "somebody else" will do it for you. I will be stepping back soon due to serious health issues and may need to end my involvement.

Look at the next pages of this issue of *Xi-Lights*. They speak to the powerful influence of the fraternity on brothers who were here from the 1940s to the 2010s. It is an amazing legacy, one worth preserving. Being ZBT men during our college years changed our lives—it made us who we are today. Together, we can keep Zeta Beta Tau at Georgia Tech going strong.

C., F., & S.,

Douglas A. Bodner

President & Executive Trustee

zachinc@mindspring.com

Share Your Alumni Update Today!

Thanks to these brothers for responding to our recent alumni email survey! If you'd like to submit an update of your own for publication in an upcoming eLetter or a future edition of *Xi Lights*, head over to our alumni website at www.gtzb.org and visit the "Submit an Update" page.

"I just became a grandfather. My younger daughter just gave birth to a boy and my older daughter is due in two months. I am still running and last completed the Peachtree at the age of 65! Still in time group 1A! I always look forward to going down to GT and seeing what's new at ZBT. There are so many great memories from my years at GT and Phi Ep/ZBT. I've made lifelong friends. When we get together it still seems almost like yesterday that we were at GT."

~ Jeff Goodman '71

"I'm Managing Partner of RSZ Forensic Associates. I was recently appointed Chair of the Fraud Task Force of AICPA's Forensic & Litigation Services Committee, providing thought leadership and practice aids to practitioners. My older son is getting his MBA at Villanova and my younger son is a security, audio and video systems design engineer at Stantec Engineering in NYC. I'd like to reconnect with [Doug Ramsay '82](#) and [Andrew Cripps '81](#)."

~ David Zweighaft '84



Steve Wassell and family

"I have been working for Atlanta Gas Light and its companies and now Southern Company Gas for over 29 years. I am currently Vice President over our Peaking and Storage Operations. In English, this means that I have the Liquefied Natural

Gas (LNG) Plants and our Underground Storage facilities. They are all over the U.S., so I travel a few times a month. My son Sam is now 17 and my daughter Ansley is 15. They both attend Dunwoody High School and are having fun touring colleges. Yes, we did tour Tech. It is the standard by which I have judged all other schools. I don't have many photos from my time at Tech, which is probably a good thing. Here's a picture of my family. From left to right: Sam, Shari, me, Ansley."

~ Steve Wassell '90

"After 5 years, I finished my technical management book which was published in 2019 by a major publishing company. *Project Management of Large Software-Intensive Systems* covers management of the entire system life cycle as well as the full software development process. To learn more about the book, find it on Amazon or CRC Press. I'm continuing my project management consulting services and have not contemplated retirement."

~ Marv Gechman '57

"For the past 14 years, I have been working at a company I founded in 2005 called CHAMPS Analytics, where we specialize in helping our customers make better decisions by leveraging data and analytics to improve their business performance. We are wholly owned by CHAMPS Software—a business that was founded in 1976—that specialized in Enterprise Asset Management specifically for the Nuclear Power Industry. Basically, we make software to run nuclear power plants. I get to work from home and spend time with my wife, Tejal, and my son (Kishan Eastwood, age 12) and daughter (Shivani Elle, age 15) and my Doberman, Ellie. I live in Johns Creek and enjoy playing tennis, golf and training in Krav Maga with my kids."

~ Chuck Patel '93

"I was in the Army for almost 33 years and two Combat Deployments. In keeping with the pride and arrogance of an 11 Bravo, "Thank you for my Service."

~ SFC (RET) Steven P. Toth '77, US Army

"I have been in Atlanta since graduation. I have been in the life and employee benefit insurance business for 50 years, the last 46.5 as an owner of a successful Atlanta brokerage

firm—Pritchard & Jerden, Inc. I will be retiring later this year. My wife, Jeanne, and I have two grown children. Our son Andrew received his Master's in Aerospace and an MBA from Georgia Tech. He now works for the Booz, Allen, Hamilton consulting firm in Washington, D.C. Our daughter, Sarah, and her husband, Jason, are both physicians finishing fellowships in Houston, TX, and we are the proud grandparents of Ellie (age 2.5) and Wyatt (age 4 months). From my pledge class, [Larry Henschel '69](#), [Paul Mande '69](#) and I have been close for 55 years."

~ Robert Shulman '69

"I retired from the oil industry a couple of years ago. My older son Alex graduated from Miami of Ohio last year and my younger son Chris will attend TCU this coming fall. Although I wasn't able to get either of the boys to follow in my footsteps at Tech, I'm proud to say that I kept them from attending UGa."

~ Nicholas Vasti '80

"I work as Hardware Product Manager for Lime (e-mobility company) based in SF, CA. I recently moved out here with my wife and dog and we love it, but we miss our friends in ATL."

~ Steve McEvoy '13

"Joan and I recently established a small charitable fund in partnership with the Beaufort County Schools and Beaufort County Library System. The Gift of Reading program purchases books for underprivileged children that they can keep as their own. The School's English Language Arts Coordinator works to see that the program encourages older kids to read to their younger brothers and sisters. Without reading, a child's future is written. With reading, a child's future can be almost anything."

~ Alan Dechovitz '72

"I am now in the midst of my 4th (or 5th) career and have completed my third mystery, *Marsh's Folly*, since turning 90. The other two are *A Skeleton in the Tree* and *Corpus Absentia* (in which two of the principal characters are fraternity brothers, though not from Ga. Tech). I still keep in touch with [Bobby Hecht '49](#), of Columbus, GA. He and I may be the last surviving members of our classes."

~ Lee Sterne '50

WHY XI CHAPTER?

Brothers Share How Being a Phi Ep/ZBT Man Changed Their Lives

You already know the impact Greek life has—because you lived it. The term ‘social fraternity’ might give the impression that the Greek experience is superficial, but research shows that personal connections and friendships are the key to happiness.

These lifelong relationships are only part of what makes the fraternity experience so transformational. From our career trajectories to our family’s values, our Xi Chapter experience played a key role. Our experiences helped make us into the people we are today.

But don’t take our word for it. Here’s what your alumni brothers had to say:

“Because of ZBT, I learned the importance of being part of an organization and working to further the common goals of the individuals and the group. I also learned how to organize, balance priorities, and become a responsible adult. I recognize the benefit that my ZBT experience gave me and want to help further the chapter's ability to give future members the same life skills and preparation that I enjoyed during my college years.”

~ **David Zweighaft '84**

“I know the chapter needs help and I have always felt close to Phi Ep (now ZBT). Phi Ep was a great learning experience. As undergraduates, we were given the opportunities to take leadership positions, make collaborative decisions, and learn from our mistakes. This helped me later in life as I entered the business world. It was a great foundation for life. I made lifelong friends during my years at Tech. Since many stayed in Atlanta, our families have grown up together, and it all started in college.”

~ **Robert Shulman '69**

“The best part of my ZBT experience was the brotherhood. It got me through some rough times. Someone was always there to help. I can't imagine going through Tech without the fraternity. I eat dinner with my old ZBT roommate, **Mark Stadter '92**, once a month after work.”

~ **Steve Wassell '90**

“Xi Chapter gave me lifelong friendships and a more enjoyable college experience. We had our annual Arizona mini-reunion lunch with **Gerry** and Louise **Epstein ('58)** recently.”

~ **Marv Gechman '57**



Nick Vasti & Brothers

“As an alum I feel that the most valuable parts of my ZBT experience are the lifelong memories of my shared experiences with my fellow brothers at the house as well as the lasting friendships that have continued over the years. We communicate with each other often and try to get together whenever we have the chance. I donated to the annual fund as I wanted to do my part to help the chapter to continue to grow.”

~ **Nicholas Vasti '80**

“During my college years, I was Social Chair of ZBT for many semesters. **Kenan Gungor '14** was my best man; **Greg Smith** is my other best friend. I also kick it with **Jason Provenzano '16** and **Nick Profit '16**, and occasionally see **Sid Desai '15** and **AJ Newton '15**. These guys are my family and I've stayed in touch with them closely.”

~ **Steve McEvoy '13**

“Reflecting back as an alum, the most valuable part of ZBT was building relationships with my Brothers not only during the school years, but for many more decades beyond graduation. I stay in touch with so many of my Brothers either by regular, frequent lunch meetings, dinners, watching Tech football and basketball games as well as text and email with brothers that moved out of the ATL area. I will always support the Zach annual fund because it's a form of voluntarily giving back to an organization that helped me greatly when I came to Tech.”

~ **Chuck Patel '93**

Make Your Gift
There are three ways to donate:

Log on to www.gtzb.org and click on **Donate** in the upper right-hand corner

Call
800-975-6699

Mail a check payable to
“Zach, Inc.”
to: Alumni Relations Office, P.O. Box 7007,
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007



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In This Issue of Xi Lights...

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ANNUAL FUND—A CALL TO ACTION

Help Us Make the 2020-21 Giving Year Strong!

Alumni contributions are at the heart of everything we do. Our communications, events and support for the Chapter all rely on gifts to our annual fund. And, as alumni, we play a critical role in making sure our Chapter lives on.

We would like to thank those 68 Brother who contributed to Xi last giving year! You can find their names listed in the Honor Roll archive at www.gtzbto.org. Their gifts made a significant impact.

The giving year began anew on September 1, 2020; help us make this giving year the strongest one yet for ZBT at GT. As an alumnus, you hold the key to preserving our fraternity for its next 100 years. To give to the 2020-21 annual fund today, use any of these methods:

- Visit our website to donate online at www.gtzbto.org;
- Call our toll-free Donation Hotline at 1-800-975-6699;
- Mail a check to our donation processing center listed below.

Zeta Beta Tau
Georgia Institute of Technology
Alumni Relations Processing Center
P.O. Box 7007
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

Together, we can keep Phi Ep/ZBT at Georgia Tech going strong.



2018-19
Giving Year Total:
\$8,460

2018-19 Donors:
58



2019-20
Giving Year Total:
\$11,209

2019-20 Donors:
68

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Connect with Xi Online!

Are you following us on Facebook? Search for "ZBT Xi Chapter Georgia Tech Alumni Association" and like our page to reconnect with brothers online, see pictures of alumni events, and read the latest Jackets news.



To Get Current News, Share Memories,
See the Honor Roll, AND TO DONATE!
Visit Our Website: www.gtzbto.org