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Erik Brewer '15

**Programming
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Andrew Rodrigues '09

Finance Advisor
Logan Sandor '13

BY THE NUMBERS

106

Years of Xi Chapter

\$14,000

Annual Fund Goal

\$5,542

Raised as of 11/14/2022

3

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ΦΕΠ • 1916

Xi-Lights



ZBT • 1970

Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

January 2023

Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga.

REUNIONS - 1960S, 1970 AND 1980S

Class of '67 Gathers for 55th Anniversary Reunion



Congratulations to the Class of '67, whose members gathered at Homecoming back in October for their 55th anniversary reunion. Here they are at their reunion dinner.

L-R Myra Witten, Eileen Benator, Barry Benator '66, Mark Witten '68, Steve Steindel '70, Renee Karchmer, Howard Karchmer '69, Lynne Steindel, Harry Lutz '67, Rosanne Lutz, Dane Ismart '68, Carolyn Ismart

Class of '72 Celebrates 50 Years



The Class of '72 held its 50th anniversary reunion at Homecoming this year with a reunion dinner at the Georgia Tech Hotel and a visit to the chapter house prior to the football game. Thanks to **Craig Varon '72** and **Joel Ackerman '73** for organizing.

1980s Alumni Reunite for Tech's Opener



This past Labor Day Weekend, 20+ alumni from the 1980s reunited for Tech's Labor Day opener against Clemson. The itinerary included a Braves game, dinner at a local pub afterward, tailgating at the house before the Tech game, and then of course the Tech game at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

What a great time for all. Kudos to **Dan Muller '85** for organizing.

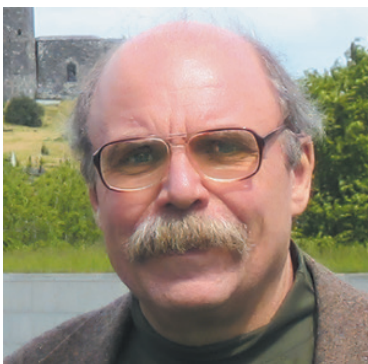
PETER SCHWARTZ '68

“I didn’t have the ability to pay it forward then so I do it the other way around”

Peter Schwartz '68 (peter.schwartz@gmail.com) believes in paying it forward. His experience at Zeta Beta Tau impacted him for the better and left him with a lifetime of memories. Here’s why he gives back.

Schwartz pledged to Zeta Beta Tau because “I was motivated by the sense of community that came through in the Brothers of Xi Chapter as I started at Tech, and this was reinforced after pledging. Our pledge class was small (eight or nine, I believe) but a rowdy bunch. Not one of us was from Atlanta or even Georgia.”

The sports scene on campus set Zeta Beta Tau apart for him. “The Chapter was either one of the larger of the smaller fraternities or one of the smaller of the larger fraternities and that made IFC sports interesting indeed.”



Schwartz’s favorite memories are innumerable. “Oh my, I have so many that I wouldn’t know where to start without slighting someone. But, to try to avoid that, here goes: Sheba, the ping-pong table, the endless bridge game, trying to adjourn Chapter Meetings in time for Star Trek. Pick one.”

“The lessons learned by interacting with people from all over the place with different life experiences, perspectives, hopes, and dreams were invaluable. I didn’t have the ability to pay it forward then so I do it the other way around.”

He believes in “the good of giving a new generation of Tech Rats the opportunities we had and then some of those we didn’t.”

Without Zeta Beta Tau, I wouldn’t be able to finish this sentence. (I told you we were a rowdy bunch!)

IN MEMORIAM

ZBT Mourns Passing of Steve Novak '83



We are saddened to report the passing of **Steve Novak '83**. Brothers from the 1980s shared memories of him over the past several weeks. Among the accolades, he was cited as a good friend and a “force of nature.” While in school, he was vice president of Xi Chapter. He will be missed.

Obituary courtesy of The Daily Star:

ERNANDINA BEACH, Fla. - Stephen Eric Novak, “Steve,” of Amelia Island, Florida, passed away on Nov. 29, 2022, at his home, surrounded by love. He was a beloved husband, brother, uncle, business partner and friend.

Steve was born on Sept. 6, 1960, in Syracuse, to the late Gene and Alyce Hunt Novak.

He was a graduate of Morris Central School in Morris, and Georgia Institute of Technology



in Atlanta.

After graduation he worked in the chemical industry in the Atlanta and Charlotte areas until his retirement. While in Charlotte he met and married the love of his life and best friend, Taisa. They moved to Fernandina Beach in 2015 where he began a second career in consulting and as a partner in Srion Tech.

Steve had a lifelong love of cooking, the beach and football. Weekends were always celebrated with his great food from the grill or smoker. He was a fan of the Ramblin’ Wreck and Carolina Panthers, no matter how good or bad the season. He even tolerated the UT orange his love insisted on wearing on Saturdays saying he would just put on his sunglasses. He was known for his uplifting

lived life to its fullest. He is free now to let his spirit soar.

Steve leaves behind his wife of 29 years, Taisa; their dog, Kali; his sister, Gene Novak and husband, Matt Hanson; brothers, Kevin and Darryl Novak; nephews, Sam and Alex Hanson and Garrett Novak; and sister-in-law, Tanya Essary.

The family thanks Dr. Vu and his staff at MD Anderson and Community Hospice for their care.

A Celebration of Life will be planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Special Olympics or one’s local humane society.

sunrise pictures he posted online every morning. He was also an avid reader and always had a book nearby.

Steve had a kind heart, infectious laugh and was always ready for a good joke. He was a generous man and dedicated to his family and friends. He truly

Throwback to 1985

Check out this throwback from Xi Chapter from Georgia Tech's Blue Print Yearbook in 1985! Do you recognize yourself, or anyone in these photos? Do you have a story to share from this day? Send them in to be featured in our next communications at alumninews@affinity.com.

ZETA BETA TAU

Brothers Experience A Renewed Resolve to Excel

The year of original charter: 1916
 Order of appearance on campus: 13
 Acquisition of present house:
 The present number of members:
 Number of initiated brothers:

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This past year the brothers of Zeta Beta Tau experienced a renewed pride and a determination to excel. Fall rush was an example of this as the brotherhood emphasized the wide range of activities offered by fraternity life at ZBT, including academics, social events, sports, and other extracurricular activities. ZBT had its best rush in several years as fourteen men pledged. ZBT did extremely well in academics,

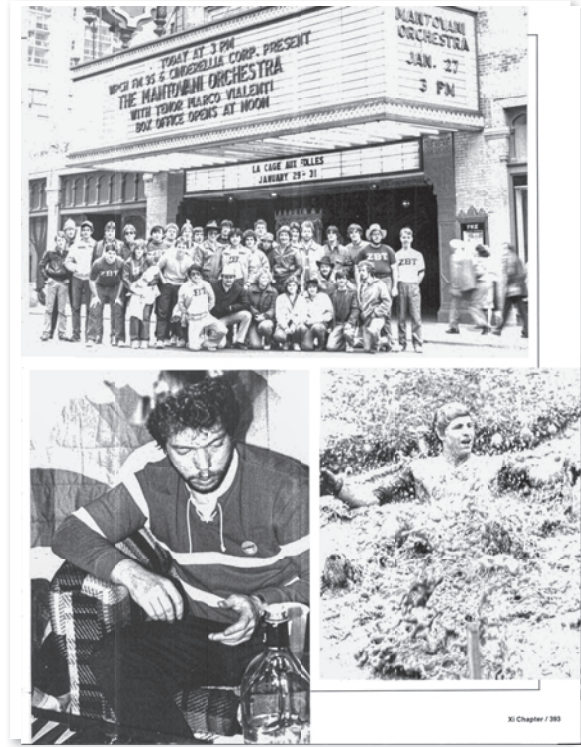
placing near the top last fall and winter and finally getting first place spring quarter. These academic accomplishments did not get in the way of the brothers' social life, however. The Halloween party was a huge success, and members resurrected the Rhino party. During Homecoming, the brotherhood entered a fixed body wreck in the parade, built a display and held a very successful brunch for alumni. The Little Sister program was strengthened this fall with new little sister pledges. In sports, ZBT competed in football, volleyball, ultimate, soccer, basketball, water polo, and softball.

As Tech moves into its second century, ZBT takes time to look back at its history and Tech's. Originally, the Georgia Tech chapter of ZBT was a chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity, until Phi Epsilon Pi

merged with ZBT nationally. The Xi Chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi was founded here on November 23, 1916, and moved to its present location in 1952. The Xi Chapter became the Georgia Tech chapter of ZBT in 1970. The brotherhood of ZBT looks forward to being a part of Tech's second century of achievement.

Sometimes you just gotta say . . . Z-Run . . . feeding time . . . PMO . . . eyes and ears patrol . . . life's a pain, then you die and people talk . . . Geech O . . . I challenge! . . . Omni, Omni . . . hi Bob . . . Did we win? . . . Mister Hand, You're sick, sick mind . . . Ezekial Bocephus Elijah.

BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT: Spectators were stunned by the intricate design of the ZBT entry in the Greek Week chariot race. ZBT's deserve only the best rest and relaxation after studies. Tug-of-war brought this brother down.



How you can pay it forward to our Zeta Beta Tau actives

Zeta Beta Tau is a student-run, living-learning society that advances leadership skills, cultivates innovation, and promotes social responsibility by engaging the Zeta Beta Tau community and its resources through projects, events, and mentorship.

While active brothers are able to learn and develop through our traditions and amongst each other, it is evident that alumni involvement and connections are far more important now

than ever. Brothers of all ages can pay it forward to our actives by choosing to mentor the younger generations. We have the following positions available for mentoring: Facility and Operations Management, Chapter Advisements in Recruitment, Communications, Operations, and more. If you are looking to give back to the chapter in more than just donations this year. Consider being a mentor to our actives.

TOM SANDERS '74

"I also can't say enough about the help I received from my brothers"

Tom Sanders '74 (tom.b.sanders3@gmail.com) writes, "I have many happy memories from my Tech years, and most of them are from the fraternity."

He says that those memories are why he gives. "That's why I've always been a part of the annual donations -- a small contribution that I hoped would help the fraternity continue to provide the type of brotherhood that I enjoyed."

He says, "The fraternity offered a relief from the stress of Tech academics, which was tough on everyone whether you wanted to be top of class or just wanted to graduate."

"One example is the times a few of us went over to O'Keefe in the middle of the night to throw a frisbee; another is the sledding after a rare snowfall. The games of hearts between classes was also a stress reliever — particularly if you'd just come back from a test."

"I could go on and on about the adventures we had at Helen, Georgia, Amicolola Falls or just life in general in Atlanta (I'm thinking Underground). I also can't say enough about the help I received from my brothers (you know who you are) that helped me get through classes that were tough."



Zeta Beta Tau
Georgia Tech

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In This Issue of Xi Lights...
– **A letter from the Board**
– **Alumni Profiles**
– **Throwback to 1985**

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A LIFE WELL LIVED

A Sad Goodbye to Brother Paul Mandé '69

As many of you already know, we said goodbye to Brother **Paul Mandé '69** earlier this year. He led our alumni board for many years during the 1980s and 1990s and actively supported Xi Chapter throughout his alumni experience. He made a real difference for generations of Phi Eps and ZBTs.

Brothers, if you have any stories, memories, or special moments you shared with Paul, we are asking that you submit them to our alumni communications partner at alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

Read on to view his partial obituary. To view the entire obituary, visit the website at gtzbt.org

Source Courtesy of *Atlanta Jewish Times*

Paul Mandé, a devoted family man and standout musician with a passion for serving his community, passed away peacefully on May 3 at the age of 74.

Paul was known for his engaging personality, his love for storytelling and his dedication to family, friends and the organizations he so passionately served. His commitment to his many



causes was surpassed only by his love for his wife, Audrey, his three children and their spouses and his four beloved grandchildren.

Paul was born in Mamaroneck, N.Y., and raised in Miami, where he attended Coral Gables High School and honed his skills on the clarinet. He later attended Georgia Tech on a full academic scholarship, where he was president of the Georgia Tech Band and a proud member of Phi Epsilon Pi.

After earning a physics degree in 1969, Paul embarked on a career in engineering before beginning his own company, Cherry Systems, which specialized in data recovery. Later, he branched out into an emerging new cybersecurity realm by launching

Discovery Computers and Forensics.

Inspired by his experience on Georgia Tech's campus, Paul was an executive trustee for Zeta Beta Tau's House Corporation for more than 15 years, and a generation of graduates still remember him fondly. His passion for Judaism ran deep. He was a proud member of Temple Emanu-El and, later, Chabad of East Cobb.

For much of his life, Paul could often be found on nights or weekends in friendly competition on the tennis court, speeding through choppy waters on his boat at Lake Arrowhead or playing clarinet and saxophone for the Modernaires Big Band and other large audiences.



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