



# Xi-Lights

Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity  
Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Georgia



APRIL 2025

ZBT • 1970

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE:

Doug Bodner '87

### TREASURER & SECRETARY:

Richard Threlkeld '12

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Andrew Rodrigues '09

Logan Sandor '13

David Peeler '22

## BY THE NUMBERS

**107**

Years of Xi Chapter

**\$14,000**

Annual Fund Goal

**\$2,204**

Raised as of March 24, 2025

## ARTICLES

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The older we get, the  
more we need our  
friends

## Update of Xi Chapter

I'm pleased to provide an update on the future of Xi Chapter and our on-campus house.

We are currently working to establish an interest group that would serve as the basis of a new chapter. Georgia Tech has provided us an open invitation to return to campus at any time. If we can establish such a group in the near future, we would be in a position to have it enter the regular IFC rush. If you know any motivated young men attending Georgia Tech who are currently unaffiliated, or if you know any such individuals entering Tech this summer or fall, please send us their name, contact information, and a brief background. We are especially interested in receiving legacy recommendations. This information can be sent to [recruitment@techzbt.com](mailto:recruitment@techzbt.com).

In the meantime, we have been renting the house to individual students this academic year. We are working to rent it to an organization for the upcoming 2025–26 academic year. Stay tuned for details.

As announced in our last newsletter, extensive work and renovations were performed on the house this past summer. This required a significant investment of funds. Fortunately, our house corporation had been able to stockpile funds from past years, well before the recent decline of the previous chapter. The house corporation, as you know, exists not only to own the property, but to ensure the future of the chapter, especially from a financial perspective.

We recognize that the house is older, and we need a new facility. The typical way of doing this, used by the other fraternities at Tech, is to start with a successful chapter that generates enthusiasm. This leads to a capital campaign to fund the new building. This would then be augmented by the normal stockpiling of funds from rent to provide seed funds and ensure financing. Not many people are in the business of providing a new chapter house without the key ingredient of a successful chapter. We had made initial plans for a new house before the pandemic and the decline of the chapter. Now we will work toward renewing those plans, starting with a new undergraduate group.

We thank those of you who have supported us, either financially or through time commitments. It is hard work to keep a fraternity going, and it requires money. Your donations assist with our alumni program and communications, as well as our efforts to recreate a successful Xi Chapter. We hope that some of you in town will consider becoming involved with chapter advisement, facilities management, or alumni programming. Let's all work together to keep the legacy of ZBT alive at Georgia Tech.

C., F., & S.,

**Douglas A. Bodner**

President & Executive Trustee

P.S. You can now visit our newly relaunched undergraduate website designed to recruit founding fathers. There, you can submit a founding father referral or volunteer to be involved. Check out [techzbt.com](http://techzbt.com) today!

## LOOKING BACK

# ZBT in the 1980s

The 1980s were a golden age for fraternities across the country. *Animal House* was released in 1978, rekindling interest in fraternities after the counter-culture movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s saw a marked decline.

Xi Chapter experienced its own revitalization. After a successful reboot in 1979, the 1980s saw steady growth, culminating in a return to the large chapter sizes of the late 1960s. By the end of the decade, chapter membership was at approximately 80 brothers, and ZBT was one of the top fraternities at Tech.

Of course, the 1980s saw many other trends and events across the country. The Reagan Revolution swept away the malaise of the 1970s. After a brutal 1982 recession, economic growth skyrocketed, and inflation eased. The Cold War gave way to the fall of the Berlin Wall. The space shuttle Challenger disaster touched the nation. And the MTV generation experienced VHS and Nintendo, Rubik's cube, big hair, boomboxes, aerobics, "Top Gun", "The A-Team", and more.



*ZBT's Wreck Parade Contraption 1982*




*Brothers Enjoy Spring 1988*



*Greek Week 1981*



*Pledge Class Fall 1988*



## In Memoriam

We honor the following frater and send condolences to his family and friends. May his memory be a blessing as he passes to the Chapter Eternal.

❧

**Benjamin I. Stegall, Jr. '55**

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for **Homecoming** on the weekend of **October 25**, as Tech takes on Syracuse. We hope to have an event associated with Homecoming. Stay tuned for details.

We are also considering other alumni get-togethers this summer and fall. Stay tuned to your email for details.

Do you have upcoming reunions you are planning with you brothers? Let us know!

## Zeta Beta Tau alumni, where are you now?

As the years go by since our time as undergraduates at Georgia Tech, it can be increasingly difficult to keep tabs on what our Xi Chapter brothers have been up to. Time passes, life gets in the way, and we can lose touch.

To fight that progressive drift, we want to hear from you! What have you been up to since the ZBT days? Have you reconnected with any fellow alumni? Have you been thinking about any good stories from back in the day? We want to know!

Visit to our website ([gtzbt.org/alumni/share-alumni-news](http://gtzbt.org/alumni/share-alumni-news)) to submit any updates or stories you want to share, and we will publish them in an upcoming e-letter or newsletter!




*Alumni at Homecoming 2008*




## Xi Chapter on the Web

Are you plugged in to our Zeta Beta Tau at Georgia Tech social media page? Follow us to reconnect with your Xi Chapter alumni buddies online, find out about upcoming virtual and in-person events, and keep up with the latest news from the chapter.



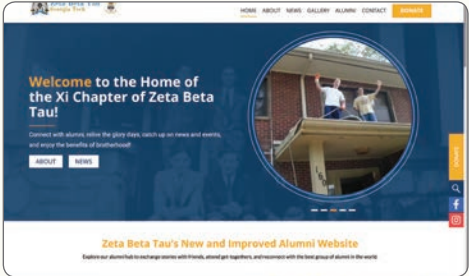
**Instagram:**  
ZBT at Georgia Tech



**Chapter Facebook Page:**  
Zeta Beta Tau - GT

**Alumni Facebook Page:**  
ZBT Xi Chapter Georgia Tech Alumni Association

**Check for frequent updates on what the actives are up to!**



# Join Your Fellow Brothers on the Honor Roll

We are halfway through the 2024–2025 giving year! Have you made your contribution?

Each year, we recognize our brothers for their generous donations to Xi Chapter in our honor roll. We would like to thank those brothers who have contributed so far. See the back page of the appeal to see who those brothers are!

Have you earned your place on the honor roll? Make your donation to the annual fund today, by scanning the QR code on the back page of the appeal or by sending in your check for the 2024–2025 giving year, to see your name added to the list!

## The Older We Get, the More We Need our Friends

*When you're in middle age, you start to realize how very much you need your friends. After decades of relentless striving—kids, house, career, spouse—we find ourselves coming up for breath at some point in these middle decades. And what remains? With any luck, our friends.*

An *Atlantic Monthly* article (do yourself a favor and read it at [tinyurl.com/lifelongfriends](https://tinyurl.com/lifelongfriends)), says that according to the Stanford Center on Longevity, those of us over 40 have aged out of the friendship-collecting business, which tends to peak in the tumbleweed stage of life, and move into the friendship-enjoying business, luxuriating in the relationships that survived as we put down roots.

The problem? Those friendships are awfully hard-won. Life's significant upheavals and changes can prove too much for many friendships to withstand. As years go by, some of the dearest people in your life have gently faded away.

But these bonds with friends are more than an extra in your life story; they are the story. Over and over, we hear stories of how Zeta Beta Tau friends drove overnight

to be in weddings, wept together at funerals, cheered at the news of new babies, toasted promotions, and gathered in adversity. In a nutshell: the friendships we gained, and still have, with our fraternity brothers are exquisitely rare in today's world.

Author Jennifer Senior says, "Practically everyone who studies friendship says this in some form or another: *What makes friendship so fragile is also exactly what makes it so special. You have to continually opt in. That you choose it is what gives it its value.*"

Our Xi Chapter friendships have seen us through so much, but don't take them for granted. Take a minute to text or call your roommate, or intramural teammate, and tell them that you are thinking of them. Our friendships have fueled these decades since graduation. Let's keep it going.



## Got Some News?

We'd love to hear about your updates: new jobs and career moves, weddings, new children, reconnecting with fellow brothers. You can simply go to our website ([gtzbt.org](https://gtzbt.org)), navigate to the Alumni section and select Share Alumni News.

