Xi-Lights
Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity
Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Georgia
OCTOBER 2025
ZBT • 1970

Update on Xi Chapter

As we kick off the new academic year, we can step back and see where we stand in continuing Xi Chapter's legacy at Georgia Tech.

Our main focus has been on the chapter-house property. As reported previously, we conducted significant renovations to the property so that we could continue providing an attractive on-campus housing option for Tech students. For this academic year, we have rented the property to a newly formed group of undergraduate computer-science students who emphasize collaborative projects. So far, things have worked out well.

In fact, based on feedback received, our experience is that the chapter house continues to provide value to Tech students. Its on-campus location is convenient, especially to east campus and Tech Square. The house itself is in good condition and provides amenities that students appreciate: large bedrooms, useful common areas and study rooms, a nice outdoor recreation space, and, of course, the campus wireless network. We've received additional rental inquiries in recent months.

Consequently, we will continue to rent the house to non-ZBT students until we are able to reestablish a chapter on campus. Speaking of which, we can now start more serious planning for starting a new undergraduate group. As you know, we have an open invitation to return to campus. If you know any motivated young men attending Tech now or in the future, please send us their names, contact information, and a brief background. We are especially interested in receiving legacy recommendations. This information can be sent to recruitment@techzbt.com, or you can fill out our online recommendation form (www.techzbt.com/founding-father-referrals.html).

Thanks again for your support. We appreciate those who support us through financial or time commitments. We have a lot of work ahead keeping the house maintained and rented, restarting the fraternity, and providing value through alumni programming. As always, your support helps us with these critical tasks.

C., F., & S.,
Douglas A Bodner
President & Executive Trustee

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

$380
raised as of October 6, 2025

$14,000
Annual Fund Goal

109
years of Xi Chapter

3
Ways for YOU to Give:

1. **LOG ON** to **www.gtzbt.org** and click on **DONATE**
2. **CALL 800-975-6699**
3. **MAIL A CHECK** to our donation processing center.

Zeta Beta Tau
Georgia Institute of Technology
Alumni Records Office
P.O. Box 876
Ithaca, NY 14851-0876

We honor the following fraters and send condolences to their families and friends on their recent passing. May their memories be a blessing as they pass to the Chapter Eternal.

Leonard S. Frieden '50

Larry H. Prisant '54

Martin J. Burke III '72

Thank You, Brothers

A heartfelt thank-you to the brothers who generously supported ZBT–Phi Epsilon Pi during the past giving year. Your commitment and generosity make an incredible difference, and alumni support continues to be at the heart of everything we do.

You can find the names of the 2024–2025 donors on the enclosed honor roll. We hope you'll join us again in the new 2025–2026 giving year, which began on September 1, and help us continue building on this strong foundation of brotherhood and tradition. You can scan the QR code today to donate, use the enclosed donation form, or head to the website at gtzbt.org/ways-to-give/annual-fund-form.

Rick Nathan '66: Great Parties Lead to a Great Life

When **Rick Nathan '66** was at Tech, Phi Epsilon Phi had an eclectic reputation on campus. "Phi Ep was mostly known for the brothers' GPAs and our dog Sheba," he said.

It wasn't always hitting the books at the Phi Ep house, however. "Someone had gotten a lot of cardboard bricks and had built a wall in front of the door to one of the bedrooms," Rick said. "I don't remember who was inside the room at the time."

Along with good times, there were also close relationships. "**Tommy Feld '66** was my best friend. We've kept up with each other."

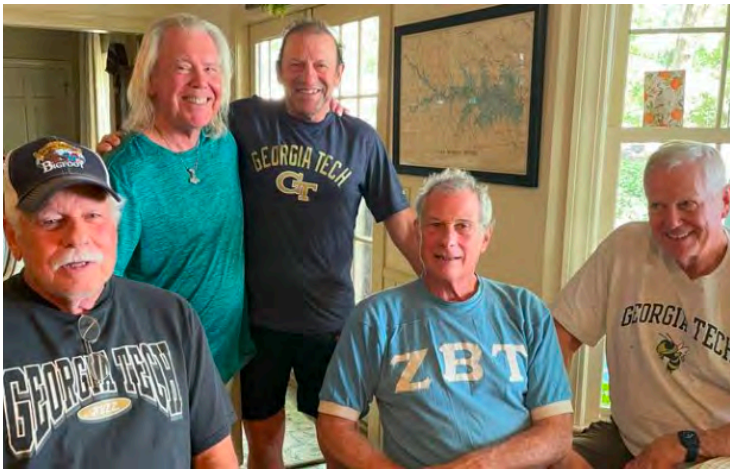
Some of Rick's memories are more somber. "I will never forget the day John F. Kennedy was shot. I came into the den after finishing my classes and everyone was gathered around the TV. It was very sad."

Rick said the chapter threw great parties with bands, and one of those events looms particularly large in his mind: "The party at the Phi Ep house where I had my first date with Cathy Spurlock, a senior at Emory, who became my wife. We married on June 10, 1967, and are still married today."

Alumni Gatherings Continue

Recent alumni at a ZBT event in September.

Alumni Update: Jeff Grover '75



Pictured left to right: ***Morris "Coot" Nussbaum '73, Tom "TBS" Sanders '74, Jeff "Buzz" Arbitral '75, Jeff Grover '75,*** *and* ***Mike "Mac" McCormick '74****.*

The ZB-Geezers met for the Fourth of July 2025 weekend in Chapin, SC!

Alumni Profile Project

Thank you to our alumni brothers for sharing your stories with us through our Alumni Profile Project! If you'd like to be featured in an upcoming profile, we'd love to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to complete this quick online survey using the link below or by scanning the QR code!

Your insights will help us strengthen and share alumni connections, celebrate your achievements, and preserve the legacy of ZBT–Phi Epsilon Pi for generations to come.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/GDRMQ3D

Chapter Eternal: Martin Burke '72

Brothers, we are saddened to announce the passing of Martin Burke '72 into Chapter Eternal, we want to extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and loved ones.

Source: Courtesy of Laughlin Service.
Martin J. "Marty" Burke III passed away Monday, January 20, 2025. Born in Munich, Germany, to Colonel Martin Jr. and Edress Burke, Marty spent his early years traveling the world as an army brat. He met and married the love of his life, Ann Leonard, while a student at Georgia Tech. He graduated in 1972 with a degree in engineering. They moved to Huntsville in 1976 when Marty accepted a job with Beacon Electronics. Following his retirement from Beacon in 2001, he became a consultant for Electrowise Inc. and fully retired in 2011.

Marty (aka The Trout Dr.) had a passion for fishing, hunting, and listening to music. He moved his Pathfinder boat from Port St. Joe, Florida, to Smith Lake in Double Springs, Alabama. The lake became a wonderful second home to share with family and friends. An avid bird watcher, his favorite pastime became driving his Beemer to Ditto Landing to watch for bald eagles.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Ann Burke, daughter Laura Burke Davis (Laura) and her children, Maci Burke and Laekin and Oaklie Davis; daughter Ashley Smith (Micheal) and her children: Addison, Hayden, and Nolan Smith; his sister Cheryl Burke Van Aken (Steve); mother-in law Carol L. Prince (aka "Nana"), and a well-loved extended family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: **Wheeler Wildlife Refuge** (www.friendsofwheelernwr.org/make-a-donation) or to **Summit Crossing Student Summer/Winter Camp Scholarship Fund** (ppay.co/5AyKDzFOSHc).