

## Zeta Beta Tau - MIT Xi Chapter



MIT Alumni Association

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**Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, MIT Xi Chapter  
Application for Application for the D. Reid Wheedon Jr. '41 FSILG Alumni Relations Award  
March 25, 2015**

**Submitted on behalf of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, MIT Xi Chapter by**  
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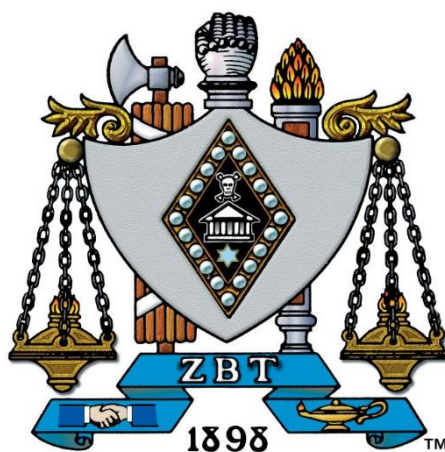
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## **Zeta Beta Tau - MIT Xi Chapter**

At Zeta Beta Tau, one of our slogans is “Not Four Years, but a Lifetime”. This truly embodies the goals of our alumni program and how we strive to encourage, support, and build each other up not only during our time at MIT, but also after we leave as alumni. We are truly blessed at MIT ZBT to have such a diverse and passionate group of alumni, and they have served as an incredible resource to us as we continue to grow and develop the fraternity. Our alumni program has made great strides in fostering alumni-undergraduate relations this year, and we are proud to call our alumni brothers.

**Quick Facts about Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, MIT Xi Chapter:**

Number of living FSILG alumni/ae population:	<b>761</b>
Number of current (student) members:	<b>53</b>
Year chapter was founded at MIT:	<b>1911</b>

## Zeta Beta Tau – MIT Xi Chapter

**I. Please describe your major annual alumni event(s) (e.g. Alumni weekend, Founders’ Day, reunion). Use the chart template below to describe each event:**

Name of Event	Alumni Weekend
Date	April 25-27, 2014
# of undergraduate members attending	40
# of alumni/ae invited	All (761)
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	32
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	18 years
Alumni role(s) at event	Attendees
Student role(s) at event	Organized by Alumni Relations Chair and Executive Board, attended by the brotherhood
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<p><b>Our Alumni Weekend is planned exclusively by the Alumni Chair, with advice from the undergraduate Executive Board and the Trustee Board. After planning with the Social Chairs, the Vice President, the President, the Rush Chair, and the Philanthropy Chair, an optimal date that doesn’t conflict with other events is usually determined in the Fall Semester. As the Alumni Chair is compiling articles to go in our semesterly alumni newsletter, an announcement of the date and tentative schedule is placed in the newsletter.</b></p> <p><b>After the alumni receive their newsletters, the whole brotherhood reaches out to the alumni community to encourage alumni to attend! The Alumni Chair emails all of the alumni, and also individually contacts the Alumni Point People we have arranged for each class. These Point People then reach out to the rest of their class to set up a class reunion at Alumni Weekend. We also use our Alumni facebook page. Finally, every brother is responsible for personally reaching out to their line of big brothers on the phone.</b></p> <p><b>We start with the Trustee Board and the Point People as catalysts for encouraging other alumni to come. It’s much more interesting to attend alumni weekend when you know other members of your class will be there too!</b></p>

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	<p>The programming of the weekend stays generally consistent from year to year, though specifics are dictated by the interests of the undergraduates and alumni. After brainstorming ideas for activities, a survey sent to the undergraduates and alumni helps decide what will happen.</p>
<p>Event description &amp; outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix</p>	<p>Alumni Weekend consistently attracts almost all of the active undergraduates, as well as a wide spread of Alumni across many years. The weekend starts on a Friday afternoon and continues through Sunday morning. Because of alumni’s variable travel availabilities, the bulk of the activities are centered on Saturday.</p> <p>Typical programming includes a casual dinner at Chef Chow’s (a ZBT favorite traditional for Alumni Weekend), followed by social activities at the house. On Saturday, there is an outing to the Boston area in the late morning, an Alumni career panel discussion in the afternoon, and then Karen (our chef) throws a huge dinner with hors d’oeuvres and her specialty desserts. Dinner is arguably the most anticipated part of the weekend as it packs our dining room and common area with alumni and undergraduates, and we get to meet a great deal of people and share stories of ZBT!</p> <p>Sunday morning the Trustee Board holds an open meeting for interested alumni to attend. Together with the undergraduates, the Trustee Board uses this as an opportunity to share with alumni the recent events of the house, goals and plans for the future, and how alumni can be involved. Through this, we’ve seen a huge growth in the number of alumni involved outside of Boston, regularly organizing small reunions or supporting our operations my video chatting into Trustee Board meetings.</p> <p>Alumni Weekend is one of my favorite times of year, and we love reconnecting with alumni. The next Alumni Weekend is April 10-12.</p>

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Name of Event	<b>Tech Reunions</b>
Date	<b>June 6, 2014</b>
# of undergraduate members attending	<b>25</b>
# of alumni/ae invited	<b>All (761)</b>
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	<b>32</b>
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	<b>50 years!</b>
Alumni role(s) at event	<b>Co-organized by Trustee Board Alumni Chair, other alumni are attendees</b>
Student role(s) at event	<b>Co-organized by Alumni Relations Chair, attended by the brotherhood</b>
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<b>Tech Reunions is a jointly organized event between the Trustee Board and the undergraduates. We regularly hold a reception at Area Four in Kendall Square during Tech Reunions, and that portion of the event is planned by the Trustees. Afterwards, there is a reunion and open house at ZBT's house in Brookline. The undergraduates plan transportation between the two venues, as well as activities and tours at the house for the alumni.</b>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<b>As stated above, the event consists of a reception and food at Area Four, followed by an open house and activities at the house. We have only recently been making this event a much bigger deal than previously, and we've been rewarded with a very positive response from the Alumni.</b>  <b>While Alumni Weekend tends to focus more on ZBT now, the current undergraduates, and meeting people, Tech Reunions focuses much more on reconnecting with old friends as the attendance is primarily alumni. This complements Alumni Weekend very nicely!</b>

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**2. Please describe other chapter events which alumni/ae were invited and participated (e.g. initiation, community service, informal alumni dinners, athletic events, faculty dinners, parents’ dinners, and Campus Preview Weekend).**

**Use the chart template below to describe each event:**

Name of Event	Alumni Career Panels
Date	October 5, 2014 & March 15, 2014
# of undergraduate members attending	20 at each event
# of alumni/ae invited	All (761)
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	6 (October), 7 (March)
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	5 years and 8 years
Alumni role(s) at event	Attendees – on the panel
Student role(s) at event	Organized by Alumni Relations Chair and GRA, brotherhood attended panel
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<p>Driven by a desire from the undergraduates to be mentored further by alumni, the Alumni Chair and the GRA work together to field suggestions from the undergraduates. We are blessed to have alumni from all walks of life in a wide variety of career fields, so we can gear our panels towards different topics.</p> <p>After a theme is decided upon, the GRA and Alumni Chair reach out to alumni for potential panel members, as well as publicizing to the brotherhood. The Alumni Chair also works to get refreshments set up for the event. As so much of the event’s purpose is driven by student interest, that is the primary driving force behind the organization and planning of the event.</p>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<p>We usually get around 7 alumni from the same general theme of career paths (finance, graduate/professional school, manufacturing, startups, etc.), some might even video call in to the panel. The Alumni Chair and GRA moderate discussion and Q&amp;A from the undergraduates about decisions the alumni made to get where they are today, advice on what to get out of MIT, and pointers on finding your passion and being successful. We hold one each semester to cover a range of topics. This year, the first panel was geared towards finance and consulting, and the</p>

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	<p>second was geared towards academia and graduate/professional school.</p> <p>In addition to getting practical advice on how to find your direction and passion in life, these discussions are also great for socializing and sharing memories of ZBT. It's a casual and organic way to meet alumni, and involved alumni often visit again after the panel is over. Brothers have provided very positive feedback about the panel discussions, and most use the advice they got to develop their resume for our resume review workshops where upperclassmen review other brothers' resumes and provide feedback.</p>
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Name of Event	<b>AMAZe (Ask Me Anything, Zebes)</b>
Date	<b>October 29, 2014 &amp; December 1, 2014</b>
# of undergraduate members attending	<b>15 and 11, respectively</b>
# of alumni/ae invited	<b>All (761)</b>
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	<b>3 and 2, respectively</b>
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	<b>10 years</b>
Alumni role(s) at event	<b>1 Attendee &amp; 1 Volunteer for questions</b>
Student role(s) at event	<b>Organized by Alumni Relations Chair and GRA</b>
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<b>The organization of this event is very similar to the career panel discussions in that the Alumni Chair and GRA set up the event, and then they seek participants and publicize.</b>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<p><b>A take-off of the popular Reddit “Ask Me Anything” (AMAs), this event is a great way to highlight a different alumni every couple of months. It is also nice because we run the events over video conference so we often get to meet and interact with alumni who aren’t able to make it out for Alumni Weekend.</b></p> <p><b>We have a spotlight Zebe who essentially takes questions about their career choices, stories from ZBT, life advice, interesting things they’ve been up to lately, etc. As the name states, it can be <i>anything</i>, so we always get a great deal of interesting discussion going. Through AMAZe, we’ve heard about exciting startups, fiascos with the ZBT chapter at Boston University, leadership advice, and more! Through these, brothers have started to take more ownership of the house, and seeing brothers’ passion for ZBT is really encouraging.</b></p>



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Name of Event	<b>ZBT Fall Rush</b>
Date	<b>August 30, 2014 – September 9, 2014</b>
# of undergraduate members attending	<b>55</b>
# of alumni/ae invited	<b>Boston Area Alumni (48)</b>
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	<b>10</b>
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	<b>6</b>
Alumni role(s) at event	<b>Assisted undergraduate Rush Chair &amp; chapter as a whole</b>
Student role(s) at event	<b>Organized by Rush Chair &amp; run by brotherhood</b>
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<b>Rush is entirely organized by the undergraduate Rush Chair. During Rush itself, other brothers have delegated jobs such as organizing logistics of individual trips, helping keep the house clean, managing transportation to and from the house, etc. Alumni fit in wherever is most helpful at the time. It's always wonderful to have extra pairs of hands to help events run more smoothly and to have a unique perspective on MIT and ZBT to share with rushees.</b>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<b>Rush is one of the single most important events that ZBT holds each year, and every brother pours their heart and soul into it. The fact that we get to spend a week sharing with rushees our passion for ZBT and the difference it's made in our lives keeps pulling Alumni back to help. Furthermore, the past Rush Chairs will return to mentor and provide advice to the current Rush Chair.</b>  <b>The alumni can help wherever is most needed, as well as relieving the stress and pressure off of individual brothers. Rush can be very exhausting, and having a brother by your side to support you and encourage you makes a huge difference. Between their love of ZBT, experience and knowledge, logistical assistance, and desire to meet rushees, our alumni are an invaluable part of our rush program at ZBT.</b>

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Name of Event	<b>ZBT Brotherhood Winter Retreat</b>
Date	<b>January 31, 2015 – February 2, 2015</b>
# of undergraduate members attending	<b>54</b>
# of alumni/ae invited	<b>All (761)</b>
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	<b>6</b>
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	<b>4</b>
Alumni role(s) at event	<b>Attendees</b>
Student role(s) at event	<b>Organized by Vice President, attended by the brotherhood</b>
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<b>Winter Retreat is organized exclusively by the Vice President, with advice and support from the President and past VPs (usually alumni). The VP will set aside the last weekend in IAP before school starts for the whole brotherhood to get away from campus and spend time building community. Alumni are always invited as retreat is a time of intense bonding, and it is often one of the most memorable and exciting times of the year.</b>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<p><b>Every year at the end of IAP, the whole brotherhood travels up to New Hampshire for the weekend. The time is packed with activities and free time to spend together away from the stresses and distractions of MIT. It is one of the best times for every brother to be together completely undistracted, and build relationships. A great deal of memories and bonds are forged during this weekend and it is one of the key points of the year. Alumni are always invited, and it's wonderful to be able to share in this experience with them.</b></p> <p><b>The weekend begins at the house where we hold a chapter meeting, elect new officers, and get alumni involved in the happenings of the house. After social activities that evening, we leave bright and early Saturday morning to head to the camp for the weekend. After moving in, Saturday is packed with team building activities, sports, competitions, and free time to spend enjoying each other's company. We close the day off with a ceremony where we discuss what ZBT</b></p>

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	<p>means, the significance and responsibilities of being a brother, and what we'd like to see happen in the house in the coming year. We have an extended time of introspection where each brother shares what's on their heart how they'd like to improve themselves.</p> <p>The alumni add to the sense of community we all share at retreat, and together, we grow closer as a brotherhood.</p>
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Name of Event	<b>Boston Alumni Get-togethers</b>
Date	<b>October 23, 2014 &amp; December 12, 2014 &amp; January 15, 2015</b>
# of undergraduate members attending	<b>5, 3, and 8, respectively</b>
# of alumni/ae invited	<b>Boston-area alumni (48)</b>
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	<b>15, 11, and 12, respectively</b>
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	<b>~10</b>
Alumni role(s) at event	<b>Attendees, co-organized with Trustee Board Alumni Chair</b>
Student role(s) at event	<b>Co-rganized by Alumni Relations Chair, attended by the brotherhood</b>
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<b>Dates and venues are planned jointly between the Alumni Chairs of the undergraduates and the Trustee Board. Responsibility was split, and both Chairs publicized the events to their respective bodies of brothers.</b>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<p><b>These are much more casual get-togethers we've been starting as of late in the Boston Area. There are quite a few alumni in the Boston area, and given how close they are to ZBT we started this year in setting up dinners at various restaurants around the Boston area. Our goal is one meet-up every one or two months, with gaps around Alumni Weekend and Tech Reunions.</b></p> <p><b>They've been an excellent way to have regular get-togethers with local alumni, and some undergraduates have attended each week as well. We've enjoyed spending time with local alumni outside of structured events like Alumni Weekend.</b></p>

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Name of Event	San Francisco Bay Area ZBT Summer Get-together
Date	July 18, 2014
# of undergraduate members attending	15
# of alumni/ae invited	Bay-area Alumni (32)
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	10
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	~10 years
Alumni role(s) at event	Attendees, Co-organized by one alumnus in the area
Student role(s) at event	Co-organized by Alumni Relations Chair attended by brothers in the bay area for the summer
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<p>As this get-together is not in the Boston area and is during the summer, it's difficult for the students to have as much direct planning input into the event. Instead, the Alumni Chair is the catalyst for getting area alumni to set up a meetup at a restaurant, and then the undergraduates interning in the bay area and the alumni work to set up the details themselves.</p> <p>This is another type of event we're working to develop as this is the first time we've arranged something like this. While it is important to provide structured activities from the house, we want to instill a culture in alumni and undergraduates that they want to spontaneously plan things like this themselves. This is the first step in making this a pattern, and it was very successful!</p>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<p>Very similar to the Boston event, this is a meetup at a restaurant for dinner between alumni and undergraduates in the area. As the undergraduates are usually just there for the summer at an internship, this provides an excellent opportunity to meet people who live in the area and get an idea of what it is really like to live in the Bay Area.</p> <p>We plan to use this as a model and work to get alumni and undergraduates to set up similar events in other popular summer locations.</p>

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Name of Event	<b>Get On The Ball Philanthropy Event</b>
Date	<b>April 1, 2014</b>
# of undergraduate members attending	<b>52</b>
# of alumni/ae invited	<b>All (761)</b>
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	<b>3</b>
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	<b>~10 years</b>
Alumni role(s) at event	<b>Volunteers during the events at CPW and obtainers of company sponsors on the 1<sup>st</sup> .</b>
Student role(s) at event	<b>Organized by the Philanthropy Chair, the rest of the brotherhood helped make the event run.</b>
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<p><b>This event is entirely student organized and run, primarily by the Philanthropy Chair. The Philanthropy Chair sets up the company sponsorship policies, and the brothers reach out to local businesses and businesses we have ties to with Alumni to set up partnerships. Companies will pledge to donate some amount of money to Boston Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals per signature we collect on the large ball we roll around during CPW.</b></p> <p><b>The event and fundraising process is entirely run by brothers, and we reach out to alumni to partner with them as well. We usually make several connections to company sponsors through alumni, and alumni even help roll the ball on the day of the event!</b></p>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<p><b>As stated above, the Philanthropy chair will set up a policy beforehand, and the brothers will reach out to local businesses to obtain sponsors. This outreach also goes through the alumni to find connections there.</b></p> <p><b>Current brothers and alumni then roll a giant beach ball around during CPW and collect signatures. It’s a great way to raise awareness for Children’s Miracle Network, partner with local businesses to make a difference, and work with alumni to show how much ZBT cares about our community.</b></p>

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Name of Event	<b>Initiation</b>
Date	<b>September 10, 2014</b>
# of undergraduate members attending	<b>55</b>
# of alumni/ae invited	<b>Boston-area Alumni (48)</b>
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	<b>4</b>
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	<b>2 years</b>
Alumni role(s) at event	<b>Attendees</b>
Student role(s) at event	<b>Organized by the Rush Chair and Brotherhood Development Director, attended and run by the brotherhood</b>
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<b>Arranged by the Brotherhood Development Director and the Rush chair, initiation is held right after rush. It plays a critical role in integrating our new brothers into the community at ZBT!</b>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<b>Initiation is an exciting time of its own right, and having lots of brothers—both current and alumni—present makes the event all the more special. Sharing in our new brothers' excitement right after rush is over is a great way to celebrate, and initiation is a great way for alumni to meet our new brothers.</b>

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Name of Event	<b>ZBT Campus Preview Weekend</b>
Date	<b>April 10-13, 2014</b>
# of undergraduate members attending	<b>59</b>
# of alumni/ae invited	<b>All (761)</b>
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	<b>10</b>
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	<b>4 years</b>
Alumni role(s) at event	<b>Assisting chapter with events, getting to know prefrosh, and transportation.</b>
Student role(s) at event	<b>Organized by the Rush Chair, the brotherhood helps run events and make sure prefrosh have fun.</b>
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<b>This is very similar to rush in that the Rush Chair organizes everything with advice and mentorship from others, and then the brotherhood and alumni help where needed.</b>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<b>Very similar to rush, CPW is a very intense and rewarding time! We love having alumni help out and share the passion for ZBT. We usually get the most response from recent alumni who are still strongly connected to the brothers currently living in the house. Much of the excitement, logistics, and outcomes are shared with the blurb about rush above.</b>



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Name of Event	Faculty Dinner
Date	May 5, 2014
# of undergraduate members attending	30
# of alumni/ae invited	Boston-area recent graduates (20)
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	3
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	1 year
Alumni role(s) at event	Attendees
Student role(s) at event	Organized by the Vice President, attended by the brotherhood
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	This event is organized by the VP, and brothers and alumni reach out to some of their favorite professors. We generally only include recent alumni in this event as those who have graduated longer ago have a much less significant connection to faculty.
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<p>Our chef Karen throws a huge dinner for all of the brothers, recent alumni, and invited professors. It's a wonderful time to get to know our teachers outside of class, and to show them how gentlemanly a fraternity can be. Often a lot of them have stereotypes about fraternities, and we are glad to show them what ZBT is like and how we are different.</p> <p>The evening is full of wonderful conversations and food, and the connections made at ZBT faculty dinners often spark further teacher-student interactions outside of the classroom (and in some cases even UROPs!). Recent alumni often invite interesting faculty that we love to meet and they add to the immense variety of people we see at faculty dinners.</p>

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Name of Event	<b>Parents' Weekend</b>
Date	<b>Mid to late April. Last year, the date was April 25-27, 2014</b>
# of undergraduate members attending	<b>40</b>
# of alumni/ae invited	<b>Boston-area Recent Graduates (20)</b>
# of alumni/ae attending (please include list of names and class years in appendix)	<b>4</b>
Class year range of attending alumni/ae	<b>2 years</b>
Alumni role(s) at event	<b>Attendees</b>
Student role(s) at event	<b>Organized by Vice President, attended by the brotherhood</b>
How was this event student-driven? If collaboration with alumni, how were responsibilities shared? (250 word limit)	<b>This is very similar to the faculty dinner above, but is for parents and families visiting during family weekend. It is exclusively student run, and recent alumni and their families are invited.</b>
Event description & outcomes (250 word limit) Please include captioned photos in appendix	<b>The event is very similar to the faculty dinner above, but with brothers and recent alumni's families. Many brothers had little to no intention of joining a fraternity when they came to MIT, so their families are often very hesitant in supporting their decision to join ZBT. Family weekend is a great time to meet the families of other brothers and to help them put a face to the name of ZBT and understand that we aren't always what they were expecting. ZBT gives its members a great deal of community and personal development and together with our alumni, we love showing families the strong friendships we've formed at ZBT.</b>

### **3. Please describe your chapter's interaction with your House Corporation. In what ways is it student-driven? (250 word max.)**

The house corporation (the Trustee Board) consists of many active and interested alumni, as well as several undergraduate members. The undergraduates who are formally on the board are the President, the Treasurer, the House Manager, and the Alumni Chair. Trustee meetings are always held in the main chapter meeting room and are open to anyone who wishes to participate, so we often also get other undergraduates participating as well.

We use the Trustee meetings as forums to discuss longer-term issues with the house, financial concerns, action items with MIT regulations and administration, and setting goals and planning for the future. The President and Treasurer have a great deal of input into this, and they represent the house's interests in these matters. The House Chair provides their expertise on house matters, and they help direct planning of major renovation projects (like the IRDF grant-funded renovation we just completed of our basement academic spaces). The Alumni Chair works with the Trustees, who have very strong connections to a wide spread of alumni, to plan alumni events and improve alumni involvement in the chapter. The Alumni Chair also works to recruit alumni to be on the Trustee Board in the first place. Finally, the selection of the GRA is checked on occasionally by the Trustee Board, but the process lies almost entirely in the hands of the undergraduates and the committees they form to make these decisions.

### **4. Please describe your chapter's interaction with your Alumni Advisors. In what ways is it student-driven? (250 word max.)**

Many of our alumni advisors are also a part of the trustee board, so they are particularly involved in the house. In general, the Trustee Board works with the undergraduates to make significant decisions that will affect the house, and they actively seek our opinions and input when making decisions. In return, the Trustee Board provides more long-term continuity to the house leadership and provides mentorship and advice to current undergraduate leaders.

However, the alumni advisors take this a step further and provide position-specific advice to the undergraduates. We have many past Presidents, Rush Chairs, Treasurers, and Brotherhood Development Directors in the area who have regularly been in contact with and supporting the current officers. With their advice and feedback, we can work to improve our positions every single year!

When an undergraduate seeks help from an advisor, the alumnus makes sure not to get too involved or to try and solve the problem themselves. It's important for our current officers to work through the leadership process themselves and be able to confidently make decisions. Advisors make themselves available on a personal level to assist current brothers with managing stress and handling MIT in general. Balance being a student at MIT and being in a leadership role at ZBT can be particularly difficult, and we are very blessed to have such an extensive and caring alumni community willing to help and support us in that.

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### 5. Please describe how you communicate chapter news to alumni/ae.

We have a newsletter we send to all current brothers and alumni called *The Brookline Grapevine*. We distributed it once every semester and it highlights important events in the house, new developments with MIT policies, and introducing new brothers every semester. We distribute it electronically and via mail, as well as posting a link on our website. Links to some of the previous newsletters are included below.

The Alumni Chair works together with the officers to collect articles for the newsletter based on important happenings in the house over the past semester. After selecting the best articles from the officers and the best photographs provided by the photographer, the Alumni Chair works with Stewart Howe to put together a newsletter for the semester. Stewart Howe does not generate any content for the newsletter, they simply arrange all the content into an organized and visually pleasing fashion. The Alumni Chair and Trustee President then work to draft a letter to each alumni summarizing ZBT's upcoming goals, as well as a donation form for alumni to pledge to donate to the chapter. This year we have been working particularly hard to obtain alumni content for the newsletter so alumni can hear from their classmates. We obtained a great deal more than we were expecting due to the Alumni Point Person system that the current alumni chair has put in place! We hope to use this as a launching point for even better newsletters in the future.

<http://web.mit.edu/joelinia/Public/BrooklineGrapevine-Dec2014.pdf>

<http://web.mit.edu/joelinia/Public/BrooklineGrapevine-May2012.pdf>

<http://web.mit.edu/joelinia/Public/BrooklineGrapevine-Dec2012.pdf>

On top of this, we also maintain an alumni facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mit.zbt.alumni/>) where we share significant events like alumni's weddings, reunion events, and other important milestones. Alumni post here frequently with exciting news. We also maintain email lists for every single ZBT class, as well as metro areas. For example, we have email lists for alumni in the Boston, San Francisco, New York City, Philadelphia, and Dallas/Ft. Worth areas which alumni use to coordinate local gatherings. We also have a more informal email list [zbt-misc@mit.edu](mailto:zbt-misc@mit.edu) that contains both alumni and undergraduates and is used as a casual forum for discussion, sharing of funny stories, telling of jokes, and announcements. Between these communication methods, the Point People from each alumni class, and the big-little connections we have with current brothers, we connect with our alumni in a variety of ways!

### **6. Please describe how you use your chapter’s website to communicate with alumni/ae. (250 max.)**

Our website is located at <http://web.mit.edu/zbt/www/>, and it is maintained by the current undergraduate Webmaster and the Trustee Alumni Chair. We also have a much less-official wiki of information that alumni and current brothers use to keep track of internal information about the house, officer position guides, and a history of stories about ZBT. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties with our house server, this wiki is down at the moment.

The current undergraduate Alumni Chair and the Trustee Alumni Chair have been working to add an alumni section to the website. We post updated information about alumni happenings, as well as a link to donate and get involved with the chapter. We are still in the process of fleshing out this particular part of the website (there is something up right now), so there will be much more on the way! Currently, it does not have a link to alum.mit.edu, but it will by this year’s alumni weekend.

This year, we have made many great strides in developing our alumni program, and finding point people for each class of alumni has been one of the more important ones. By having at least one person in every class that is a point of contact with the Alumni Chair and the Trustee Board, it is much easier to reach out to all of the alumni. In addition, alumni are much more interested in getting involved if they know that other members of their class are as well. Through these point people, we have been keeping in touch with alumni to update their information both in our email listserves, and with the MIT Alumni Association. As this program is still in its early stages, but we have already seen great success, I am excited to see where the alumni program goes in the future.

### **7. Please describe how undergraduates engage alumni/ae as mentors, career advisors and/or for networking. (250 word max.)**

As described above, ZBT as a house holds a great deal of events to connect undergraduates with alumni, both on a personal level, and in a mentorship capacity. We hold regular career panel discussions, and we have recently started the AMAZe program for more casual discussions with particular alumni. Our alumni have a great deal of experience and wisdom, and we appreciate every opportunity we can get to learn from them.

In addition, we have a mentorship program set up through our big-little pairing. Your big is a current undergraduate who will help you transition into life at the house and manage your responsibilities and passions at MIT. However, your grandbig is almost always an alumnus, and they serve as more of a mentor role. Having “branch” dinners is a common occurrence at ZBT, and grandbigs are excited to get involved in their grandlittles lives and give them advice and mentorship.

Finally, we have a leadership mentorship program. We have many previous officers on hand who provide great wisdom to the current undergraduate leaders. This helps prevent us from making the same mistakes over and over again, and learn what it takes to be an effective leader that can make a difference in the house. During this most recent fall rush, we have five rush chairs simultaneously working together and providing advice and feedback from all their experience. Our alumni are a great resource, and we are blessed to have such a diverse and passionate network.

**8. Please describe any other programs, events or outreach not described above (e.g. Holiday Cards, Relational Phonathons, and email listservs).**

**(500 word max. Bulleted list acceptable)**

- Email lists for each class, for metropolitan area groups, and for general discussion, as outlined in question 5.
- Beach Retreat – We hold an afternoon-long beach retreat at the beginning of the fall semester right before rush starts. We invite all of the alumni who will be helping out with rush as a thank-you and to bond with each other before we dive into rush.
- Fundraising – the Trustee Board works with the undergraduate Alumni Chair and the Alumni Point People from each class to solicit pledges from the alumni. This also extends into recruiting additional members for the Trustee board. Just this past year we added almost 10 people to the Trustee board, nearly doubling it in size!
- Brookline Community Haunted House – in addition to Get on the Ball, we also hold a philanthropy event in the fall. This haunted house has been open to the community of Brookline for over 30 years, and many parents bring their kids to the haunted house because they came when they were children! Alumni often help with this activity, and it's great fun being able to give back to the community.
- Intramural sports – we have many intramural sports teams (Frisbee, tennis, unihoc, water polo, and foosball, just to name a few) that see frequent participation from recent graduates who are still in the Boston area.
- Zeta Beta Tau Regional Conclave – the Northeast region holds a regional conclave every year, and we send representatives as a chapter. We always get a mixture of freshman, upperclassman, and alumni so they can get to know each other, as well as provide unique perspectives on ZBT at the conclaves. There is a great deal of brainstorming and discussion on how to improve ZBT at the conclaves, and we look forward to hearing the ideas they come up with each year!
- Composites – Every year we have photographs taken of every brother which are then framed and put up in the house for display. We save every years' photos, so we have composites in the house dating all the way back to the 1950s! Alums will often ask to see their composites when they visit, or have an electronic copy of them to show their friends. Keeping them all and on display helps us see and share in the history we have at ZBT.

**9. How do you develop, improve, setup and/or pass on your program from year to year? (250 word max.)**

The undergraduate alumni chair is a position appointed by the President, so before their term begins in the fall, possible candidates need to think through what the position means to them, their goals for the year to come, and what unique things they can bring to the position. As a part of this process, a great deal of discussion between the current alumni chair and the prospective candidate occurs, sparking brainstorming for new directions and introspection on areas of improvement. This helps to set the stage for the coming year and help the upcoming alumni chair develop vision for their role in ZBT.

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On top of this, we have a transition guide that summarizes the important responsibilities, key dates, and action items for the coming year. This serves as a launch board for the officer to take their role into the coming year. At the end of every term, the alumni chair will add their reflections and comments to the guide, so it is a living and constantly improving resource.

From this point on, the previous alumni chair as well as the alumni advisors we have play an important role in developing the alumni program for the year. Between them and the planning/visionary meeting the alumni chair holds with the President and VP at the beginning of the term, there are a lot of resources in place to help the alumni chair be successful and improve the position from the previous year.

### **10. Please note changes, both additions and deletions, to your alumni/ae relations program from last year (250 word max. bulleted list is acceptable).**

We have made no deletions to our alumni program from last year. Additions include:

- A change in the term of the undergraduate Alumni Chair from 1 semester to 1 year. This greatly improves continuity and the planning capabilities of the alumni chair. It was very difficult to maintain consistent vision and direction with the position changing every semester. This helps with that, as well as increasing the amount of interaction with the Trustee Board.
- Acquisition of Alumni Point People in each class to serve as points of contact and catalysts for event recruitment and planning.
- Addition of AMAZe events
- Casual get-togethers every month or two of Boston area alums and undergraduates
- Casual get-togethers with alumni over the summer in areas where many undergraduates are interning
- Significantly expanded alumni section of *The Brookline Grapevine*
- Alumni section of the MIT ZBT website

### **11. What challenges and/or successes did your chapter's alumni/ae relations program face this year (250 max.)?**

The biggest challenge we faced this year was a lack of continuity and vision from previous alumni chairs. As the position was only 1 semester long, the position changed hands often and it was difficult to do long-term planning. Before this year, our alumni program lacked many of the above elements that we added this year, and it was very difficult implementing many of these programs from scratch. I am confident that now that these are in place, they will only be the beginnings of future years' programs that will be even better.

Our chapter has historically had very strong connections to recent alumni, and reconnecting and maintaining those relationships long-terms was a large goal this semester. The establishment of point people in each class has been a huge step forward in building more consistent relationships and

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communication with our alumni. Because of these point people, we have seen a great increase in attendance to our alumni weekend, increased interest in joining the Trustee Board, and more spontaneous reunions organized by alumni themselves.

This, combined with the additional more frequent, casual interactions alumni through the AMAZe discussions and local get-togethers have strengthened the bonds between our undergraduates and our alumni network. We have made great strides in both alumni and undergraduate involvement in ZBT's alumni program this year, and I am truly thankful for all the hard work everyone has put into the program and I am excited to see ZBT's alumni program continue to grow and thrive!



**Appendices**



The Alumni who stuck around until the Sunday morning Trustee Board Meeting at the end of Alumni Weekend 2014 pose in front of the ZBT fireplace

## Zeta Beta Tau - MIT Xi Chapter



Brothers celebrate Eric Chen's ('17) birthday last semester soon after he moved into the house. He was newly initiated in the spring during Spring Rush

## Zeta Beta Tau – MIT Xi Chapter



Alumnus Sidhant Pai ('14, far right) helps support the ball with undergraduates Brian Saavedra ('17) and Matthew Ko ('17) during ZBT's philanthropy event Get on the Ball at CPW

## Zeta Beta Tau - MIT Xi Chapter



ZBT's common room is packed during the Brookline Community Haunted House; Alumni return to help with the event. Parents often bring their children to the event because they attended when they were kids!



Alumnus Evan Thomas ('14, far left) plays board games at ZBT Winter Brotherhood retreat with undergraduates

## Zeta Beta Tau - MIT Xi Chapter



Alumni (front row) Alexander Mentzopoloulos ('14), Robert Williams ('14), Benjamin Bell ('14), Jeffrey Chan ('14), and Adrian Miguel ('13) lead the snowy parade back to the lodge during winter retreat after a hard day's work on the frozen lake

## Zeta Beta Tau – MIT Xi Chapter



Alumni Charles Liu ('14) and Robert Williams ('14) compete in the ice skating wheelbarrow racing at Winter Brotherhood Retreat 2014



Alumnus Benjamin Bell ('14) celebrates his victory in a round of games at Winter Brotherhood Retreat 2014

## Zeta Beta Tau - MIT Xi Chapter



During Fall rush, alumni and past Rush Chairs (from left to right) Jeffrey Chan ('14), Robert Williams ('14), Alyx Daly ('13), and Robert Brik ('12) support current Rush Chair Alexander Jaffe ('16) both literally and through mentorship



Alumnus Alexander Lesman ('13) poses in ZBT's common room next to the "Mama Lesman", a boat he and 8 undergraduates built over the summer to watch the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. The boat sailed on The Charles without any problems!