



# ZETA BETA TAU NEWS

ALPHA OMICRON CHAPTER OF ZETA BETA TAU FRATERNITY | THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA | WWW.UAZBT.ORG

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## Greetings AO alums!

As the brothers of Zeta Beta Tau Alpha Omicron Five chapter, we are very excited to reconnect with you and update you on the happenings of our chapter as well as your alumni community. This past semester saw a swell of growth in all aspects of our chapter, and we would like to share some of the highlights with you.

## President's Message

Rushing and joining Zeta Beta Tau was the best decision I have made in my entire life. As an incoming freshman from South Dakota, I was isolated and knew no one attending the University of Arizona upon arrival. ZBT provided a home for me and so much more. Upon joining the chapter I gained over 150 best friends and lifelong brothers that I know will have my back no matter the circumstances. I chose ZBT because of the chapter's incredible character and immense respect amongst all brothers and everyone in the community alike. Beyond this, I enjoy the house's diversified skill sets, alumni network, and strong brotherhood bond.

Since becoming a brother, I have come to know so much more about ZBT and each of my individual brothers. It is a joy that I will forever be grateful for that I am a part of such a respectable organization with men of high character. Joining ZBT and the Greek community at the University of Arizona has allowed me to be much more involved and do more good in my community. I have

certainly become a much more skilled, confident, and personable man since joining Zeta Beta Tau.

As President, I seek to promote the betterment of our great chapter through the establishment of respectful, virtuous young men in our community. We aim to do good and create a safe and welcoming environment for all, and we do this through many different avenues and events for brothers alone and the UofA community at large. Nearest to our hearts we hold our strong brotherhood bond.

We are immensely excited to reconnect with our alumni network! Please read through the newsletter and fill out the survey below or at the bottom of the letter. Thank you all so much for everything you have done as AO alums. We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,  
Evan Falconer  
ZBT AO5 President

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY**

**HERE**



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AaeSKLt70UFBCbPsG9H23Z8J15IPptsE30gwBKjkiW0/edit?usp=sharing&mailto:fmgshay>

# Eboard Introductions:

## Greetings from your 2022-2023 Executive Officers:



### Evan Falconer

President

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Accounting & Finance

**Hometown:** Watertown, SD

Coming into chapter presidency at a difficult time, Evan Falconer has done a fantastic job directing and managing the house. Beyond presidency, Evan is also involved with clubs like Eller ELITE, SPARK entrepreneurship club, and Theme Park Entertainment Group. Evan's goals for ZBT include winning chapter of the year, establishing a platform to interface with alumni, and becoming better overall men who serve their community.



### Asher Hawk

Operations Director

**Year:** Freshman

**Major:** Business

**Hometown:** Boston, MA

As Operations Director, Asher Hawk has continued to show his strong character and leadership skills. In his position, Asher oversees many of the house's internal operations and runs the Housing Committee where he helps search for a new ZBT chapter house in 2024. Beyond this, Asher has hopes to be the next chapter president and wants to help his brothers improve academically.



### Nathan Granger

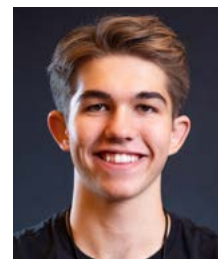
Programming Director

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Finance

**Hometown:** Scottsdale, AZ

In his role as Programming Director, Nathan Granger seeks to improve the house through coordinating educational events and managing the house chair positions. Nathan helps schedule important academic presentations, as well as helps on the Standards Board and Rush Committee. Nathan enjoys learning Finance in the Eller School of Management, where he is a member of the Investment Club. Beyond this, he has goals to further strengthen the bond between ZBT members through brotherhood bonding events and scholastic success.



### Garrett Myers

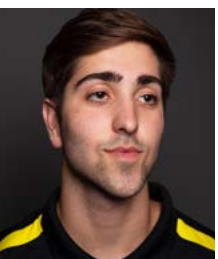
Communications Director

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Film & TV

**Hometown:** Saratoga Springs, NY

In his role as Communications Director, Garrett Myers has enjoyed helping the AO5 chapter in many ways. Garrett oversees the house's public relations where he helps on the Art Committee, Family Weekend Committee, and Philanthropy Committee, as well as oversees the Alumni Committee and house's social media accounts. Beyond ZBT, Garrett plays volleyball for the UofA club team and does freelance videography. Garrett's goals for ZBT are to help develop virtuous young men in the community, and eventually win chapter of the year.



### Ethan Hinnant

Brotherhood Development Director

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Psychology

**Hometown:** Cave Creek, AZ

Ethan Hinnant loves educating and mentoring the next generation of ZBT brothers as their Brotherhood Development Director. He has had much success in this position, and beyond this he is one of our Family Weekend Chairmen. Ethan has dreams of being a counselor or physical therapist in a hospital, and his goals for ZBT include maintaining the chapter's strong brotherhood and fun-loving environment.



### Dalton Meekins

Recruitment Director

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Business

**Hometown:** Scottsdale, AZ

After spending time learning from the past Recruitment Director, Dalton Meekins has shown his influence and versatility for the house in many ways. As Recruitment Director and Social Chairman, Dalton has organized countless successful social events and brotherhood bonding events throughout the semester. In his role as Recruitment Director, Dalton seeks to recruit a diverse class of respectful and promising young men to the ZBT brotherhood. Dalton has goals to be the next president of ZBT and he wants to continue strengthening the chapter's brotherhood.



**Neo Garcia**  
Risk Prevention and  
Wellness Director

**Year:** Sophomore  
**Major:** Engineering  
**Hometown:** Torreon, Mexico

Partnering with our other Risk Manager Zachary, Neo Garcia has shown time and time again that he can keep his brothers safe and comfortable. Beyond his work as Risk Prevention and Wellness Director, Neo helps out our Chefs in the kitchen and is the manager for the UofA swim team. Neo believes strongly in a tight brotherhood, so he aims to protect the AO5 chapter while improving and collaborating with his brothers.



**Matthew Mackleit**  
Financial Director

**Year:** Sophomore  
**Major:** Accounting  
**Hometown:** Sammamish, WA

Beyond his role as Financial Director, Matthew Mackleit is one of the most beloved brothers in the chapter. Matthew manages the house’s finances, and beyond this he helps out the Community Service Chairman and Alumni Committee. Beyond ZBT, Matthew was a proud member of PWC Connect, which is an accounting club for freshmen. His goals for ZBT include winning the chapter of the year award.



**Zachary Oren**  
Risk Prevention and  
Wellness Director

**Year:** Freshman  
**Major:** Pre Business (Intended  
Accounting/Finance)  
**Hometown:** Miami, FL

As Risk Prevention and Wellness Director, Zachary Oren has done a great job ensuring all ZBT members and guests are at ease and out of harm’s way. Beyond this, Zach is one of our Sorority Relations Chairs and is a member of the Heritage Committee. Outside of ZBT, Zach is a member of Eller ELITE and Sports Management Association. His goals for the chapter include continuing to strengthen our brotherhood and increasing our impact on campus.

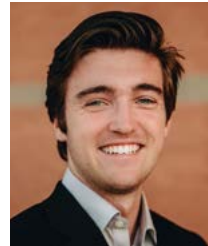
# Alumni Chairs Introductions:

On top of your 2022-23 executive board, we want to introduce you to your Alumni Chairmen, Francisco Virgen and Michael Frees.



**Francisco “Fran” Virgen**

**Year:** Sophomore  
**Major:** Applied Humanities in Fashion  
Studies & Finance  
**Hometown:** Colima Mexico, currently  
reside in Encin, CA



**Michael Frees**

**Year:** Sophomore  
**Major:** Management Information Systems  
**Hometown:** Chandler, AZ

As Alumni chairmen, Fran Virgen and Michael Frees have goals to engage alumni as much as possible to reinstate a strong connection with the active members in the house. We understand how amazing our current alumni are, and think it would be great to have small workshops where alumni can give active members advice and teach them lessons from adulthood. We also want to emphasize a strong sense of welcoming to ALL Alpha Omicron alumni. Beyond this, through building strong communication with Alumni we hope to host our Alumni back to the A05 house next semester and for years to come.



*Thank you again for being a dedicated member of the AO chapter of Zeta Beta Tau. We are so thankful for your continued support and we cannot wait to connect more in the future.*

# ALUMNI Highlight



Joe Lear has enjoyed a successful career for many reasons, but in his own view, his accomplishments stem from his mantra of being “the man next to the man.” Joe grew up in Philadelphia, PA and began his schooling at the University of Arizona in 1989 where he studied Business and Marketing. While in school, Joe joined Zeta Beta Tau where he eventually was elected as Chapter President. Joe believes that his connections made in ZBT were the foundation for much of his success throughout his career.



In his professional career, Joe Lear has brought value to many different people across many different industries. Starting in his college years, Joe founded a Lloyd’s of London Sports Insurance Agency called Athletic Insurance International where he protected top college athletes nationwide from losing future income through insuring their bodies in case of career ending injury. This along with being roommates with several UofA basketball players such as Khalid Reeves and Ben Davis allowed Joe to foster relationships with countless world renowned athletes and business men, which has shown to be very valuable throughout his career. He even insured a young Kobe Bryant during his highschool and early NBA years. A partner of Joe’s described him as, “one of the biggest movers and shakers inside the sports and entertainment world,” and “the quintessential self made entrepreneur.” An example of Joe’s entrepreneurship and innovation skills can be seen in his revolutionary approach to advertising during boxing matches with his company Big Boxing. This company printed henna tattoo advertisements on the skin of boxers to allow them to advertise during fights. This allowed Joe to be very involved with the sponsorships for UFC fights, work with over 175 boxers, and do contracts for big names such as Bruce Buffer, and eventually MMA fighters such as Tito Ortiz and Chuck Liddell. Beyond this, Joe Lear is a long time friend and business partner with Daymond John. Together the two of them worked at Shark Branding, where Joe specialized in health & lifestyle branding, PR, and marketing. In Joe’s most recent venture he joined forces with the Gandhi family at Medivant Healthcare. In this role, Joe focuses on signing contracts with high volume customers such as hospital systems, GPO’s & government organizations. Medivant Healthcare has brought value to countless individuals by producing single dose injectables, and even helped keep

the US supply chain stable during the COVID-19 pandemic by producing medicines on the US Shortage List. A few other interesting things about Joe are that he owns a basketball team in Costa Rica called Saprissa Basketball, he has recently helped launch NFT collections, and he is a massive collector of antiques such as Al Capone slot machines.

To this day, Joe Lear is still hard at work and seeking to bring value to every person he interacts with. Joe believes himself to be a networker more than anything, and claims, “if i’m the richest, smartest, most successful guy in a room, I better get out of that room because there’s nowhere left for me to go.” Looking at Joe’s fantastic career, it is amazing that he attributes the foundation of his success to his years as a ZBT and the connections he made through fraternity. We are so immensely proud to call Joe Lear a ZBT AO alum.

If you would like to connect with Joe you can contact with him through:

**LinkedIn:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joe-lear-45903b22/>

**Facebook:**

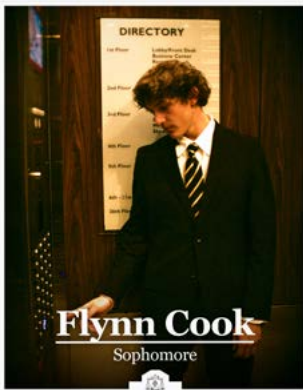
<https://www.facebook.com/joeylear>

**Instagram:**

[https://www.instagram.com/joe\\_lear/](https://www.instagram.com/joe_lear/)

# BROTHER Highlights

Say hello to some of our amazing active members!



**Flynn Cook** is a sophomore Architecture major from Scottsdale, AZ. He has thrived in UofA's architecture program, and beyond this he is a part of an architecture club on campus called Urban Guerilla Architects. Flynn loves creating artwork across many different mediums, and

this summer he is planning to intern at an architectural firm in the Phoenix area.

Since joining ZBT, Flynn has been on the Rush Committee and Art Committee for two years. Beyond this, Flynn is also known for helping design some of ZBT's awesome apparel.

A fun fact about Flynn is he is fluent in Spanish, and his favorite quote is "Its important to evolve and not sit it one space. - Virgil Abloh.



**Jake Jessup** who is known to most as simply "Jessup" is a senior Business Major who grew up in Naperville, Illinois. Upon joining ZBT, Jessup spent two years of his time on the recruitment committee. Beyond this, he was the new member educator where he helped spread the principles and philosophy of ZBT to the next generation of Zeebs.

In his personal life, Jessup enjoys spending time with his friends, and he has a passion for sports and music. Next year, Jake plans to begin his professional career as a commercial real estate agent working with Marcus and Millichap, which is commercial real estate and investment brokerage in Phoenix, AZ.

Something you may not know about Jake is he has a hidden talent for freestyle rapping. His favorite quote is: "If you have the opportunity to play this game of life, appreciate every moment. A lot of people don't appreciate the moment until it's passed" - Kanye West.



**Clayton Smith** is an Optical Engineering Major and Mechanical Minor from Chandler, AZ. He currently spends his time helping on ZBT's Philanthropy Committee and he was previously the house's Academic Chairman. Beyond this, Clayton has an exciting Optical Engineering internship at Raytheon

lined up this summer where they'll be specializing in laser systems.

Fun fact: Clayton is a 3rd generation UofA Wildcat. His favorite quote is: "Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value." -Albert Einstein.



**Frank LaFerlita** is a senior Finance major from Staten Island, New York. This past summer he gained experience working with Morgan Stanley and C7 Advisors where he developed skills in wealth management and healthcare investment banking research. Upon his graduation in May, Frank will be returning to NYC to work at Morgan Stanley and begin his career in wealth management. For ZBT, Frank

spent one semester on standards board and two years on our recruitment committee where he helped guide the next generation of Zeebs.

Frank loves spending his summers at the beach, and his favorite quote is "The best revenge is massive success." - Frank Sinatra.

# ZBT ALPHA OMICRON

## PHILANTHROPY

Looking back at our philanthropy week, we are very proud to say the first “ZBT Miracle Week” was a massive success!

With more than 10 million children every year checking into their local children’s hospital in North America alone, we are excited to announce that we raised over \$17,000 for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals is an amazing organization that works to fill the funding gaps faced by children’s hospitals to ensure the proper funding for every child’s care.

Our philanthropy week started strong with a successful percentage night at one of UofA student’s favorite tea locations called Scented Leaf. Each sorority was put against each other in a competition to gain overall points, so we had lots of sorority sisters and many others visit Scented Leaf and mention “ZBT Miracle Week.” After this event, the next day we had a riveting afternoon of Powderpuff of flag football on the UofA mall. Hundreds of people showed up to support the sororities and their ZBT coaching staff. On the day following Powderpuff we headed back to the fraternity house for the first ever ZBT carnival. The carnival included many fun events such as a dunk tank, “pie a zeeb” station, photo booth, face painting, and yard games. For the final event of “ZBT Miracle Week,” we packed our courtyard for the ZBT Fashion Show. The fashion show was a fan favorite event where we had sororities dress up their ZBT teammates to best fit different categories such as streetwear, wild west, and more. A panel of judges including Arizona Men’s Basketball star Azuolaz Tubelis gave 1-10 ratings for each outfit.

We had such a fun time getting involved with our community for this successful philanthropy week. As stated before, we ended up raising over \$17,000 for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, and the sorority who finished with the most total points was Gamma Phi Beta.

We are excited to continue this tradition next year and continue with strong philanthropy events in the future.



# RECENT EVENTS

## Mother's Weekend

Another highlight from this year comes from our Mother's Weekend event. After the pandemic had limited family events such as this for the past two years, as a house we were all very excited to bring this event back and spend time with our wonderful moms.

Our Mother's Weekend Chairman Colin Fuller ensured we had a memorable event. The long weekend included several days of events including a brunch prepared by our chefs, mimosas with moms, wine tasting by fire, yard games, and much more. Enjoy a couple photos from this fun event!



## Social and Brotherhood Events

This semester we enjoyed a plethora of memorable social and brotherhood events.

Looking at brotherhood events, we participated in several educational presentations about topics such as responsible alcohol use and mental health. Beyond this we increased the number of bonding events for brothers only much thanks to our Brotherhood Chairman Connor Findsen. During these events all the



active brothers gathered for different fun activities such as watching the Super Bowl or playing in a basketball tournament.

Beyond this we also enjoyed many successful social events this year.

During the fall semester we enjoyed a memorable Tahiti party with French DJ Dombresky, and in the spring semester we had our first ever Zeta Beta Zoo concert where we got world famous singer/rapper Swae Lee to perform. Both events were viewed as very successful, safe, and fun for everyone involved. We're excited to continue hosting events like these in the future.





# Where Are They Now?

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### **Clark Swartz '60**

Clark Swartz was initiated into Alpha Omicron in 1960 and graduated from the UofA in 1963 with a degree in Business. He pursued a career as the owner of Foodsco, Co. and currently resides in Gilbert with his wife, Linda.

### **Robert Alban '63**

Bob Alban was initiated into Alpha Omicron in 1963 and graduated from UofA in 1966 with a degree in Business. He currently works as an attorney for Alban & Alban, and resides in Huntington Beach, CA with his wife Jeannie.

### **Edward Plotkin '87**

With his degree in Economics, Edward graduated from the University of Arizona in 1991. He currently works as a Senior Vice President of Investments at Raymond James & Assoc. He resides in Scottsdale, Arizona with his wife, Ruth.

### **Mark Cohen '91**

Mark Cohen was born in Hewlett, New York and graduated from the University of Arizona in 1991. He is the current owner of Wild West Promotions & Security. Aside from spending time with his wife, Judi, and son, Michael (16), he enjoys traveling, sports events, and scuba diving.



Wild West  
Promotions Inc.  
Wild West Security  
LLC.  
Direct: 520-977-6334  
wldwst5@aol.com

### **Daniel Bloomenthal '92**

Danny served as treasurer from 1994-1995 while being a member of Zeta Beta Tau at the University of Arizona. He lived in the chapter house with Todd Koenigsburg and Dave Weitzenfeld. After graduating with a degree in Finance in 1996, he pursued a career as a hedge fund trader.

### **Liam McGrath '13**

Liam graduated from the University in 2016 with degrees in Political Science, Chinese, and Business Administration. While on campus he was involved in Arizona Wildcats D1 rugby. After graduating in 2016 he pursued a career as an insurance broker at INLE Risk Management.



### **Nicholas Heldt '13**

Nicholas Heldt was initiated into the Alpha Omicron chapter of Zeta Beta Tau in 2013 and graduated from the University in 2018. He majored in criminal justice studies and went on to become a caseworker at the Arizona Department of Child Safety. He currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

### **Scott Anderson '04**

While majoring in Communications, Scott was also the Treasurer and Social Chair of Alpha Omicron during his time at the University of Arizona. After graduating in 2008, Scott moved to Greenwich, CT and became the Head of Marketing at Confetti. He now lives with his wife, Sylvia.





*Don't Miss Alpha Omicron's*  
**Homecoming  
Weekend  
October 28-30, 2022**

## Closing Remarks

Looking into the future, the brothers of Zeta Beta Tau Alpha Omicron 5 are eager to continue striding to fulfill the pillars of our credo and forging responsible, mature members of society. We are so proud to be ZBTs for many reasons, including our amazing alumni network. This is why we want to further connect with you all so we can have a strong bond and relationship. If interested, please fill out the short alumni interest sheet so we can begin connecting.

Thank you very much for your time and we look forward to growing our relationship.

Best regards,  
Zeta Beta Tau A05

**JOIN OUR ALUMNI NETWORK**

**[HERE](#)** ◀◀

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AaeSKLt70UFBCbPsG9H23Z8JI5IPptsE30gwBKjKiW0/edit?usp=sharing>

### Friday, Oct 28

8:00 AM

University of Arizona Greek Golf Tournament at Arizona National that benefits the UA Campus Pantry and Corp. Kevin Barleycorn Scholarship Fund.

We had over 100 golfers last year. You can find more information and RSVP [here](#).

4:00 PM

Open House BBQ at the Chapter House  
1701 E. 1st Street (no cost)

### Saturday, Oct 29

3 Hours Before Game Time

Tailgater at the Chapter House  
1701 E 1st Street (no cost)

TBA

UA vs. USC football game.  
Order your UA vs. USC football tickets [here](#).

RSVP [Here](#) for Alpha Omicron Festivities.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please email Matt Noble at [matt.noble@fmgtucson.com](mailto:matt.noble@fmgtucson.com).

# Stay Connected with Alpha Omicron

**WEBSITE**

[www.UAZBT.org](http://www.UAZBT.org)

**INSTAGRAM**

[www.instagram.com/ua\\_zbt/](https://www.instagram.com/ua_zbt/)