

# The Alumni Quarterly



Volume 7, Issue 2

Eta Mu Chapter

Fall 2021

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Eta Mu Chapter's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Weekend has been set for:

# APRIL 8 – 10, 2022

“Celebrating 10 Years Since Chartering!”  
Details/RSVP to Follow

## SAVE THE DATE!

# June 24-26, 2022

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni & Family  
Weekend  
Rancho Colombini

Details/RSVP to Follow

### Alumni Briefs

(submit briefs about life events, graduations, new jobs/promotions, etc. to [jason.colombini@gmail.com](mailto:jason.colombini@gmail.com))

- Congratulations to Sweetheart Cate Fisher (Gamma) on the birth of her son Jay Alexander te Velde IV!
- Congratulations to David Ritter (Lambda) on his marriage to Marissa Tietz!
- Congratulations to Trent Janes (FF) on the birth of his son Paxton William Janes!
- Congratulations to Grant Lilles (Omicron) on his engagement to Caroline Howard!
- Congratulations to Bradley Cooke (Epsilon) on his engagement to Brea Luton!

### Eta Mu Initiates Alpha Alpha Class

On October 14, the Eta Mu Chapter initiated their newest class into our Fraternity. The Alpha Alpha (AA) Class consists of 25 new brothers representing a variety of majors. The class is a good mix of first and second years looking to build ZBT throughout their entire college experience.

Class President John Kraft (AA) had this to say: “The members of the Eta Mu Chapter align with my values more than I ever thought was possible, and this has made my experience in ZBT great so far. I have never felt fully accepted into one group; in high school I always floated between multiple social circles because I had multiple interests. High school never allowed me to be two people in the same group and I struggled with this. Somehow the Eta Mu chapter has all the smaller groups and personalities, and I am celebrated for being a complex person. I have never felt such an overwhelming feeling of support and love than in ZBT. Despite massive diversity in members, we are all bonded because we are all Zeebs, and this comes with a strong set of shared values. This sense of community and brotherhood is what I love so much about being part of ZBT.”

When asked about his class in general, Kraft said, “The Alpha Alpha class is a group of people I am tremendously proud to be a part of, and I never thought I could get so close to a group of guys so quickly. I have already formed friendships that I know will last a lifetime and I look forward to building stronger connections with my class. The Alpha Alphas, as we are so aptly named, are some of the most excellent and interesting people I have ever known. Every AA is a gentleman, and we have personalities ranging from a classically trained opera singer to a brilliant mechanical engineer living out of his self-built sprinter van. I cannot wait to see what these guys do with their time in the chapter.”

Congratulations to the AA Class!



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Alumni support is important to the success of the Chapter, thanks to the following donors there has been \$12,539.09 donated to the Chapter so far this Academic Year!

## Diamond (\$1000+)

Jason Colombini (Delta)      Anthony Haddad (Kappa)

## Platinum (\$500-\$1000)

Cody Strange (FF)      Ryan Dotson (Eta)

## Gold (\$250-\$499)

Brad Cooke (Epsilon)	Danny Samson (FF)
Grant Frick (FF)	Isaac Gutman (Iota)
Jack Hoffmann (Theta)	Jacob Winter (Nu)
Kyle Cherry (Omicron)	Peter Pratt (Mu)
Carlos Espinoza (Omicron)	Alek Squires (Epsilon)
Brian Freitag (FF)	Byron Hoefer (Delta)
Dylan Halland (Nu)	Riley Barrett (Nu)
Alex London (Eta)	

## Silver (\$100-\$249)

Andre Alves (FF)	Blake Lowrie (Zeta)
Devin Lilles (Theta)	Ray Go (Beta)
Zach Wortiska (FF)	Jeremy Moyers (Alpha)
Addison Narter (Iota)	Noah Gosselin (Nu)
Sebastian Rowell (Kappa)	Karl Kohlsaas (Mu)
Austin Leeds (Lambda)	Nick Runyan (Lambda)
Ryan Brown (Iota)	

## Bronze (\$15-\$99)

Aaron Shi (Iota)	Algernon Quach (Zeta)
Brian Kawamoto (Theta)	Jimmy Kang (Xi)
Mitchell Parks (Theta)	Spencer Takata (Beta)
Pedro Toledo (Iota)	Grant Mitchell (Omicron)
Cristiano Alves (Lambda)	Duncan Lord (Iota)
Harrison Tucker (Nu)	Henry Albert (Rho)
Ian Sun (Nu)	Jasen Journeycake (Nu)
John Herrero (Theta)	Matt Ducasse (Lambda)
Mitchell Williams (Omicron)	Morgan Buss (Pi)
Shane Wilsey (Omicron)	Tyler Momberger (Theta)
Vatsal Bhatt (Sigma)	Zach Antoyan (Nu)
Noah Gosselin (Nu)	

Donor Levels are for reported contributions and commitments for Academic Year 21-22. If you feel something is unreported, please email [jason.colombini@gmail.com](mailto:jason.colombini@gmail.com).

## Chapter Initiation is January 21!

All alumni are invited to participate in Initiation activities if you will be in San Luis Obispo! For more information or to RSVP, please email Brotherhood Development Director Martin Surillo at [Martinsurillo@gmail.com](mailto:Martinsurillo@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE!

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni-Active Hiking Trip

## Mt. San Jacinto July 29-31, 2022

Please contact Jason Colombini if you are interested to be added to the GroupMe. A \$25 non-refundable deposit is due by May 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a 10.5-mile hike to the summit at 10,834 ft and is one of the most prominent peaks in the contiguous US. We will be staying in either condos or hotels in the Palm Springs area.



## ZBT Convention is July 14-17, 2022

This year's Convention will be in Vegas! If you are interested in attending, please contact Brother Jason Colombini (Delta) at [jason.colombini@gmail.com](mailto:jason.colombini@gmail.com)



## Current Chapter Stats

Active Members: 119  
Spring 2021 GPA: 3.353 (Ranked 7 of 16)

## Alumni Spotlight

Where are they now?

# Dave Valenzuela (Alpha)

**Current City:** Oakdale, CA

### What have you been up to since graduation?

After graduating in June 2013, I began working as a Chemical & Microbiology consultant, for Ecolab Inc, in the food & beverage sector. This gave me the opportunity to travel all over the US and some international trips for work. Over the next 3 years, I worked with a variety of the world's biggest food processors (Pepsi, Coca Cola, Nestle, etc.) to improve their current food quality/food safety processes. In June 2016, I was burnt out from working so I moved up to Cottonwood, CA to be with my girlfriend (at the time) Jackie and help out at her family business; much slower pace of life and also found a job with Driscoll's Nursery. After two years of that, and feeling recharged, I landed a job and moved to the Central Valley. Currently, I live in Oakdale, CA and work for Blue Diamond Growers; the world's biggest almond processor. Working for Blue Diamond Growers over the last 3.5 years has definitely been challenging and has kept me pretty busy.

Through these years there has also been plenty of Vegas trips with the boys, traveling the US & international trips, weekend trips to visit good ole' Bakersfield and much more. I definitely agree with all the others about traveling; do it as often as you can.

### Describe a typical day for Dave Valenzuela

The typical day starts by waking up at 4am, drink a cup of coffee, perform the 3 S's (Sh\*t, shower, shave) and I am at my cubicle by 5:30am. I usually begin by checking in with our department leads of how production ran for a passdown, follow up on any issues, check-in with other employees. Then I usually sit down to go through emails, production reports, timecards, micro reports by 7am then there are various meetings that go from 8am - 3:30pm (I hate meetings about meetings...) and I will scarf-down lunch in between and work on some process improvement projects. Work usually finishes at about 3:30 - 4pm, then it is a variety of things (sometimes gym, relieve wife of baby duties, yard work, groceries, etc.). Dinner by 6, family time and kid to bed by 7:30pm pass out by 9pm.

Weekends are usually filled with hanging out with neighbors, golfing, weekend trips, and/or home projects.

### Any big things happening in your life?

Great things have happened in my life! My wife (Jackie) and I got married in August 2019 in Belize (you better Belize it!). Bought our new house here in Oakdale back in February 2021. Our daughter Everleigh was born in April 2021. Life has been going pretty well.

### What are a couple favorite memories from ZBT?

There are so many awesome memories throughout the years with the Zeebs. From taking one for the team in the dorms while Cody Strange hid in my pantry eating chips, to the first couple of retreats, first few exchanges, and it has all been memorable & always will be every time we get together. Definitely the Alpha Class initiation night, I kept thinking "WTF am I doing in the rain? Am I joining a cult?" But it has been one of the best decisions of my life, and I do not regret a second of it.

### Any other comments or quotes for your fellow alumni?

Favorite quotes: "What's your cream to sack ratio?" and "Everybody has a story...except Hanson" to say a couple, but there are many more.

Life is going to get busy and stay busy. Always make/take the time to hang out & make memories with brothers; No matter if it means driving hours on end or flying to meet with them. Because of ZBT I have brothers for life. Cody Strange said it best "They will be there the day of my wedding and the day I am laid to rest."

It's great to be a Zeeb! Cheers boys!



# Luke Rafla-yuan (Gamma)

**Current City:** San Diego, CA

## **What have you been up to since graduation?**

I went to Cornell for grad school for a year and following that I got a job in a rotational leadership position at Lockheed Martin. Through that job I completed rotations in upstate New York, Orlando FL, and Bristol UK. I finally decided I missed California and started a position as a Senior Software Engineer at Epsilon Systems in San Diego. I've been having a blast living in SD for the past four years and have run into Jeremy Moyers and Jake Steinorth here. I also have been hanging with Bodin Rojanachaichanin since he's moved to SD. Oh, and I started a travel backpack company right as Covid hit.

## **Describe a typical day for Luke Rafla-yuan**

I'll normally work 9-5, then following that I rotate between playing soccer, boxing, or e-foiling. I'll normally end the day doing some side hobby thing, like running my business, working on a video edit, or some code project.

## **Any big things happening in your life?**

I bought a condo in SD in May of 2020 (during peak lockdowns) and have moved into the new place with my girlfriend.

## **What are a couple favorite memories from ZBT?**

I remember Shane and Adam pulling me aside during one of the initiations and secretly taking pulls of Fireball from a flask. That and ZBTahiti.

Also talking with Matt Fuhrman about how much Man Shitty sucks.

## **Any other comments or quotes for your fellow alumni?**

It was amazing being part of the nascent stages of a powerhouse ZBT. I'm grateful for all the friendships I made and strengthened in ZBT, and if anybody rolls through San Diego HMU.



# Josh DiPiazza (Nu)

**Current City:** San Jose, CA

## **What have you been up to since graduation?**

It's been about 3 years since I graduated, and it's been one hell of a time. After graduating I worked as a substitute teacher while getting my EMT license. After that I worked as said EMT for two years all the while suffering under the yoke of a full-time job in close proximity with covid patients. This whole experience really soured me up and changed the trajectory of my life. After getting into a paramedic program, I realized that this was not the path I was meant to go down. So I quit. I have now been working as a substitute teacher since September 2021 and was applying to get into SJSU for their teacher credential program and master's in education. They didn't let me in the first time so, you know, fuck em. But second time they decided I was good enough! So, starting in late January I'll be taking classes at SJSU, don't worry I'm still a mustang at heart. Besides that, I am just living life, working out, doing nerdy things with friends, and trying to get my monkey brain to focus enough to read a book for fun.

## **Describe a typical day for Josh DiPiazza**

My typical day starts at 7 when I wake up and quickly get out bed. I then go to work and deal with the mostly lovely children of San Jose. After work I head to the gym and strive to get that Ronnie Coleman body all while natural. Is it a pipe dream? Entirely. After this I get home and jam out to some metal while I make dinner. Then it's time to relax. I either am getting destroyed in some multiplayer game or vegging out in some fantasy land. Or, I am working on some strange project that involves me reading books on plagues and spirits from different cultures around the world. Then I try to sleep, emphasis on try.

## **Any big things happening in your life?**

Something big in my life is that, as mentioned before, I am going to start school again in the Spring Semester for SJSU. I can't wait to get my life going in the right direction and take those first steps in doing what I really want to do.

## **What are a couple favorite memories from ZBT?**

Honestly, my brain is low-key mush so I don't have too many specific memories, but what I do remember is having a blast at Die Friday, even when I would play like butts. I just have a mostly fond memory overall of going to things like concerts and pint nights and such.

Oh man and LIB a few years ago was awesome, there were a ton of us and man was that a blast! So do as many things with brothers as possible.

## **Any other comments or quotes for your fellow alumni?**

I don't have any real quotes for you all, but something to think about I guess. Life's short, if you're unhappy just change it. There's not enough time to be unhappy. If you hate your job leave it. If you want to bleach your hair, go for it. If you want to pierce your ears, do it.

Besides that, I just hope you are all doing well, this has been a rough few years so I hope everyone is either thriving now or starting to thrive!

