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Jim Ferlino '83

Ken Weaver '76

Scott Bleggi '78

Gregg Turner '76

Jeff ucchi '96



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Read the latest news from fellow alumni and the undergrads, submit an update, or look through our photo albums!

STATE COLLEGE, PA. — MARCH 2022



The Zeta Zephyr

ZETA ZETA OF LAMBDA CHI ALPHA AT PENN STATE

HIGH RHO CONNECTS ALUMNI TO UNDERGRADS

by Dan Hipschman

As High Rho, connecting undergrads to alumni has been one of my main goals. To achieve that goal, I created Alumni Networking Sessions. In these sessions, a couple of alumni who have some experience within a certain field serve as a panel on a Zoom call with a group of undergrads looking to pursue a career in that field. These sessions allow the undergrads to ask questions about specific careers, internships, or other opportunities.

Another way I have facilitated that connection is by creating a LinkedIn group for the alumni and undergrad members to join. If anyone has any interest in participating on a panel or has trouble joining the LinkedIn group, please feel free to contact me at danny.hip4@gmail.com.
LinkedIn section to Join: *"Make the most of your professional life"* – <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9153364/>

SCOTT E. BLEGGI '78

Lambda Chi brotherhood – there when I need them the most

Scott E. Bleggi '78 (sepb56@gmail.com) says that he decided to join Lambda Chi Alpha because of the brotherhood. "It was similarly priced to apartments, and there were a few Elk County guys already there."

It was a place set apart by "Location, location, location," he says. "It was a great group from all over the state (and elsewhere), with a wide variety of majors."

He says that his best memories are of "pickup basketball at Sunset Park, and of course "jammies" with live music in the house."

Bleggi says that Lambda Chi impacted his life long after graduation. "It taught me about leadership and getting along with others who come from different backgrounds with opinions different from mine."

He says that giving back is critical for him. "Every undergrad needs to realize that they are making life-long friendships. Decades can pass when you're busy with career and family and out of touch, but when the going gets tough, brothers drop back into your life when you need their support most. This is the "bond" of brotherhood."

He knows the value of that lifelong bond of brotherhood first-hand. "My involvement with the chapter expanded at a low point in my life when I lost both a daughter and a mate of nearly 40 years. During my grieving, a handful of what I call "lifelines" -- mostly from Lambda Chi brothers -- dropped out of nowhere when I needed them most. They pulled me back from what Thomas Merton calls the 'abyss of despair.' I can only hope that someday I can reciprocate, in some way, the love that was shown to me."

Without Lambda Chi Alpha, I would not have so many life-long friendships, a constant connection to campus, and a little piece of Penn State to call my own.

photo courtesy LaVie
author Scott Bleggi, Row 2, far right.



THON 2022

Zeta Supports THON

Our undergrads teamed up with Alpha Zeta Delta sorority to raise \$145,000 to fight childhood cancer. That's a new record for the chapter! Check out some pictures of our dancers and supporters.

THON was first organized in 1973 by a group of students seeking an opportunity to give back to their community. This idea has since grown into the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. This year, THON raised \$13.7 million – an all-time high! WE ARE!



EDWARD SPRINGMAN '60

I learned infinitely more by being part of Lambda Chi Alpha than I did from my classes

C. Edward Springman '60

(ed@cespropertiesinc.com) says that he joined Lambda Chi Alpha because he thought he needed more of a social life. Little did he know the impact that the chapter would have on the direction of his life. "I think I would have eventually ended up where I am today without Lambda Chi Alpha, but it certainly helped me. I learned so much about associating with people, and how to lead."



Ed grew up in a rowhouse in Lancaster, a self-described 'terrible student' who would much rather work than study. He says that he doesn't know what Penn State was thinking, admitting a student with a 2.1 GPA, but they did. Since so much of his time in high school had been spent working, he set out to find some friends and a social life — and he found them at Lambda Chi Alpha.

He says that the learning curve was steep and laughable. "I remember our first social event when they served shrimp cocktail... I had no idea that I was supposed to peel that shrimp," he says with a laugh. "And the next one they had artichokes, and I thought I was supposed to chew the whole leaf!

I never knew about a lot of that stuff. Boy, was I a klutz."

He caught on fast and before long he was the rush chairman, telling freshmen why they should join the brotherhood. As much as his etiquette and social acumen changed, he found that one thing definitely hadn't: he was much more interested in making money than sitting in class. He became concessionaire for the chapter, worked for the State College Recreation Department, and sold pennants and buttons at football games. He bought and rented out mobile homes, owning a total of

four by the time he was a senior.

His last year of school — 1960 — he earned \$10,000. Upon graduation, he was offered a job ... for a \$2,500 annual salary. "Man, something's not right," he remembers thinking at the time. "I messed something up."



He decided to go back for his MBA, but soon found that equally frustrating — "I could have been teaching most of those classes!" he said. But starting his masters helped him in job interviews, landing him a position first at Alcoa Aluminum, and then IBM.

(continued on next page)

By the end of the decade, he'd started his own real estate business, CES Properties, Inc., a company with 140 employees in Washington, Texas, Colorado, Missouri, Oregon, New Mexico, and California.

He says that Lambda Chi Alpha impacted a lot of his success. "I gained a lot of skills by being in the house," he says. "And I've always felt indebted to the fraternity for letting me learn stuff that I never would have learned in class. We all gained skills doing different things. We learned leadership skills, practical skills. We were basically learning how to run a small business. So much of what they

teach you in college doesn't amount to much — the real way to learn is just by doing it, and Lambda Chi Alpha gave that to me."

He says that giving back to Lambda Chi Alpha — which included a recent \$25,000 matching gift to repair the roof — has been critical for him. "I've always felt that the fraternity helped me and I wanted to give others that same opportunity. I give money because I feel like now is my time to help others. And I

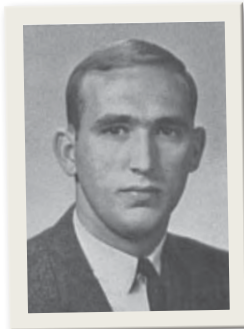


was always so proud to be a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. I firmly believe that if we are in a position to help others, that is what we should be doing."

"I think that if the house is in good repair and well maintained, you are going to attract a good quality of individuals, and be able to create learning opportunities for people," he added. "I learned more from doing stuff at the house and different jobs at the house taught me infinitely more than I learned in class."

JOHN RIENER '63

Lambda Chi Alpha has given me lifelong friends



John Riener '63 (Jcriener@gmail.com) says that he knew he was supposed to join Lambda Chi Alpha. "Two of my closest dorm friends also pledged to Lambda Chi, so it was an easy decision."

"If I remember correctly, there were over 50 fraternities on campus," he said. "What set Lambda Chi was the members -- we were all just regular guys."

He says that some of his best memories were of the house. "The house had only one four-man room, and it was probably the nicest room on the second floor," he remembers. "I think that the rooms were aligned by some sort of rank, and officers got their choice first. My buddy **Austin Taggart** was the current president, so he got first choice. He, of course, picked the four-man room, as it was known, and he asked me and my best buddies, **Bob Woelfling '65** and **Bob Tussey '65** to join him. I loved it."

"The night before graduation, when only seniors were still on campus, all three of us sat up late talking. Austin said he had

something important to tell us. "I'm a queer," he told us -- we didn't say 'gay' in 1963. We, of course, couldn't believe it. He had dated all through school and partied like everyone else. He then said, 'Do you want me to prove it?' Then we knew. It took courage for Austin to admit it even to his close friends, and I admired him for it."

Reiner says that Lambda Chi Alpha gave him some lifelong friends. "It made college life at a big remote university much more intimate and friendly," he added. "Plus, it gave me confidence. I became more of a gentleman with better manners. It helped that we had dinner every night in a coat and tie in our formal dining room overseen by our house mother, Mother G. She made sure that there was no rowdiness allowed or tolerated."

Reiner says that for him, giving back to the chapter is critical. "I loved my time living in the house and made great friends there. I want the house and the life to continue for future Lambda Chis to enjoy."

"If more brothers gave, the house could continue to give joy to other students, not fall apart."

Without Lambda Chi Alpha, I wouldn't be who I am today. And I wouldn't enjoy emailing so many of my close fraternity friends.

SAVE THE (PENN STATE) DATE!

You Don't Want to Miss These
Big Happy Valley Weekends



Blue White Game



**6th Annual Charlie Zendt
Memorial Golf Outing**

CLIFF PINE '88 AND SCOTT MACK '90



Brother Cliff Pine '88 and his wife, Robin, met with **Brother Scott Mack '90** and his wife, Annette, in Key West, Florida. They all had a great time during their 'Spring Break' trip!

Both Scott and Cliff would love to reconnect with anyone from their era.

JOINING FORCES

Throwback to 1990 • Alpha Omicron Pi & Lambda Chi Alpha Bring a September Summer to a Rainy College Town

The following story is by Jodi Vender, reprinted from LaVie, 1990

Despite the "variable" State College weather, over 300 people gathered on the HUB lawn to celebrate the final days of the vernal season. For the third consecutive year, Lambda Chi Alpha sponsored "September Summer," a day of music and games benefitting the Leukemia Society.

"We were really psyched to have such a high level of involvement from independents, fraternities and sororities," declared junior Mike Park, Lambda Chi's vice president.

"The day went really well in spite of the weather," added senior Christy Sample, president of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, which co-sponsored the event.

The Zeta Zeta chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha, founded at Penn State in 1912, was the longest continually running chapter at the University. Brothers looked forward to intramural sports, as well as their annual Beach Weekend and White Rose Formal in the spring.

"Our brotherhood is strong because we have guys from different backgrounds who form a united group," concluded senior Rod Lowe.

Alpha Omicron Pi was originally founded at the University in 1929 and recolonized in 1982. The sorority clenched the



—Greg Dunkle

Doug Hauck, a senior with a major in finance, prepares to bump the ball. Hauck was one of 300 people who gathered on the HUB lawn to take part in "September Summer."



—Amy Caldwell

Jill Swensen, senior graphics major, and Kim Davis, senior exercise science major, two Alpha Omicron Pi sisters, relax after the annual AOII Football Challenge.

Juniors Jolene Martz, human development and family studies major, and Debbie Schwarz, art major, show their spirit by supporting their team. The Alpha Xi Delta sisterhood was among the many greek participants in Lambda Chi Alpha's "September Summer."



—Greg Dunkle

Panhellenic Chapter cup six of the past seven years and continued its winning tradition by placing fourth overall in Dance Marathon, first in Kappa Sigma Spike Diabetes and second in the Delta Tau Delta Bedroll.

The chapter's own philanthropy was the Football Challenge, raising over \$5,000 for arthritis research. "We are very goal-oriented. We set high aspirations for ourselves," summarized Chapter Relations Director Amy Nadley, a junior.



—Varden Studios

Alpha Omicron Pi

Front row: J. Adkins, K. Herrity, B. McConnell, Vice President K. Dyson, President C. Sample, H. Dimedio, Secretary J. Weisberg, Treasurer L. Gold, N. Surgeoner, V. Patterson, K. Vukmanic. **Second row:** K. Porter, E. Kantor, M. Klein, L. Israel, H. Triscik, D. DeCarlo, M. Kana, L. Rutt, D. SanPedro, M. Reichard, A. Nadley. **Third row:** H. Ellencrib, S. Noble, C. Yeakel, R. Arndt, J. Kemper, D. Chase, M. Persaud, K. Clay, A. DeLong, E. Katz, L. Santella, B. Lytle, D. Gardiner, H. Amendola. **Fourth row:** A. Menges, K. Seltzer, K. Harty, S. Thumma, E. Nelson, T. Lucyk, C. Tentilucci, B. Gilbert, B. Schuler, J. Vernekoff, T. DeLuca, R. Weiner, M. Phillips, S. Forte. **Fifth row:** T. Brown, N. Patterson, J. Harty, D. Brennan, M. Blazofsky, A. LaGreca, G. Scarduzio, T. Kubovsak, J. Broderick, G. Johns, A. Stasko, M. Shaver, T. Brewer, A. Capetola, J. Swensen. **Back row:** A. Taylor, M. Litwin, T. Wassel, K. Smith, K. Bradshaw, J. Kiriloff, V. Koch, A. Frankhouser, J. Witmyer, S. Dugan, J. Bender, D. Sauder, J. Klopp, H. Gabaldon, A. Schlegel, K. Jarvis.



—Varden Studios

Lambda Chi Alpha

Front Row: Robert P. Carachilo, Timothy S. Ackerman, Erik J. Wall, Keith E. Chait, John C. Bobber, Brandon J. Gallagher, Derek A. Fitchett, Chris S. Beamesderfer, William M. Slibby Jr. **Second Row:** Treasurer Kenneth M. Weaver, Vice President Michael L. Park, President Edwin R. Miller, Robert L. Goglia. **Third Row:** Anthony Postiglione, Douglas Minnix, Matt Owens, Bob Kaszuba, Matt Barrett, Scott Bidle, Steven Chung, Bill Smith, Thomas Helock, James Ade, Chris Bellanca, James Brennan, Elias Anthan, Michael Imburgia. **Back Row:** Ricky Sharp, Alton A. Wright Jr., Bill Virbitsky, Tim Dickson, John A. Novak, Gregory M. Erdman, Tom P. Garvin, Michael J. Kelly, Rod P. Lowe, Mike Prybcien, Pete Mutulo, Michael Gambol, Samuel Varano, Christopher T. Hardy, Michael P. Carachilo.