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Zeta Zeta has 228 alumni brothers with no mailing address on record who are not receiving our copies of *The Zeta Zephyr*. Please visit www.ixapsualums.com and check our list of lost brothers on the home page. If you find a brother you know, email his contact information to us at oneill@elevateims.com. Help us stay connected.

STATE COLLEGE, PA. — NOVEMBER 2024



The Zeta Zephyr

ZETA ZETA OF LAMBDA CHI ALPHA AT PENN STATE

STEPHEN AHRENS '84

Miracle of friendship

Don't you hate taking a detour? Sometimes, though, we have to take a detour to arrive where we should be in life. **Stephen Ahrens '84** knows this fact well as a result of his journey to Penn State.

"I was raised in Yardley, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia in Bucks County," he said, "the youngest of four kids. Yardley is on the Delaware River, three miles south of Washington Crossing, which has been a spot on most maps since Christmas, 1776." Stephen graduated high school in 1980.

"My college career began at Kutztown State College," Stephen recalled. "I wasn't academically a strong student and Penn State referred me to a branch campus for my freshman year. This had no appeal to me, so I enrolled at KSC and transferred to Penn State for my junior and senior years. I was initiated in my sophomore year, Spring of 1982, at Kutztown.

"I joined Lambda Chi because the resident assistant on my freshmen floor at Kutztown was the rush chairman. He got me interested and I was initiated in Spring of my sophomore year in May, 1982."

After transferring to Penn State, a trip to the library led Stephen to join the chapter. "During my junior year, I had on a Lambda Chi sweatshirt. **Scott Alderfer '86** saw me in the library and invited me out to the house," he said. "**Mugsy** was the President. I became active, paid my dues, and the rest is history."

Stephen lived in East Halls during his junior year and in the fraternity house for his senior year. "I only lived in the house for one year but was the house manager during that time. I wanted to contribute and nobody wanted the position, so it became mine," he recalled. "I have an older brother who was a Phi Kappa Psi at Indiana University and he, too, was the house manager. He encouraged me that it was a good way to be very involved with everyday life of the fraternity and he was right."

Remember the RA from earlier in the story? "He was a couple years ahead of me and, ironically, he enrolled at PSU in a graduate program," Stephen explained, "and he would stop into the house every so often during my senior year, so it was a small world."

Stephen graduated from Penn State in 1984 with a degree in finance. He married his wife, Nancy, in 1989. The two live in Richmond, Virginia. "Nancy and I have three kids: Elizabeth 29, Ben 27, and Daniel 24. Everyone is out of the house and on their own, doing well, and paying taxes."

Stephen got right to work upon graduation and built a successful career. "I owned a small trucking company with 50 trucks and 100 employees that was part of the transportation network for the United States Postal Service," he said. "Most people don't know it, but that is how mail moves across the country - through independent contractors.

"I sold my ownership to my partner in 2016 and have been retired since then. I never rejoined the workforce after the sale and have some regrets about that since I felt like I had some 'gas left in the tank.'"

Stephen reflected on the way the fraternity helped him form relationships since college. "Lambda Chi has been good for me," he said. "After graduation, I ended up renting a house in Yardley with **Kevin Murphy '82** and **Tom Gasbarre '82**. We rented for several years and, through them and our annual pig roast, I met a whole new group of fraternity brothers.

"Now that I'm retired and have more free time," he continued, "I've reconnected with

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Stephen Ahrens '84, Miracle of friendship

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the chapter and work with **Ed Beard '75** helping with the house. Without the Lambda Chi connection, I would never have crossed paths with him."

Stephen encourages fellow alumni to re-engage: "The annual Charlie Zendt

Golf Tournament is a terrific event that I try to attend that further reconnects me to fraternity brothers, new and older. I would like to see more brothers who have graduated get current with their alumni dues. It's not hard. Pay it back and you will get it back in spades. It'll be money well-spent."

He also had advice for the undergraduate members of the chapter. "I'd like to see the undergrads reinstitute sit-

down dinners," he suggested. "Dinner was more than just a meal; a lot of camaraderie occurred during that 30 minutes."

Indeed, camaraderie looms large in Stephen's thoughts about the fraternity experience. "I believe the overall biggest benefit of Lambda Chi Alpha is friendship," he said. "Lambda Chi provides the framework for the miracle of friendship to happen and the benefits can last a lifetime."

JEFF CUCCHI '94

"The core values that Lambda Chi taught me are ingrained in my everyday life."

Jeff Cucchi '94 followed in his brother's footsteps into Lambda Chi Alpha, a bigger brotherhood that had a lasting impact.

"I was initially attracted to Lambda Chi because of my older brother, **Vinny Citarelli '91**, who joined Lambda Chi during his sophomore year. He introduced me to many of the brothers while I was attending another university. The brothers were so welcoming and open to me, even though I was not a PSU student. After I had transferred and attended University Park, it was a no-brainer for me to rush and become a part of the brotherhood."

Jeff joined the chapter at a time when significant changes were occurring in the fraternity and across campus. "At the time, Lambda Chi was going through a transition and we were the leaders in changing the 'pledge' process. We were also making the hard decision to become more responsible with alcohol during social events," Jeff explained.

"The national office made the decision to outlaw kegs in all of the houses. This was a big challenge for our house during this time, as other fraternities were not changing with the times. We successfully navigated these challenges and grew our membership over the two years I was a brother."

Jeff believes this is due to the lessons passed on by the fraternity. "The core values that Lambda Chi taught me are ingrained in my everyday life," he said. "Loyalty, duty, respect, service and stewardship, honor, integrity, and personal courage are all traits that I continue to pursue in my life today. When life starts to get hard, I focus and embrace those words and they help in the roller coaster that is life."

"Fraternities today are very different than they were 30 years ago," Jeff said. "The world changes around us and we



Vinny Citarelli '91 and Jeff Cucchi '94

need to adapt to those changes. During my time at the house, we faced a challenge of maintaining recruitment when mostly all other houses could do social events very differently.

"Today, liability issues, social media, and university scrutiny are all major concerns for active members. The house can no longer be just a social place. The members need to be focused on creating bonds and relationships beyond the parties and football games," he said.

"They need to know why the relationships they establish are important to their future as leaders in this world. They must trust that the brothers with whom they share the chapter room today will be the men sitting next to them through all their life's challenges," Jeff explained, emphasizing the effect Lambda Chi had on him as a person.

"Lambda Chi impacted my life immensely," he said, "as the relationships I built during my time in the house have continued to this very day. I am still in communication with many of my brothers.

They were there for my wedding, my son's birth, and for the loss of a few of our brothers over the years."

Jeff recalled some other life lessons he learned through the fraternity: "Without Lambda Chi Alpha, I would not have been as successful as a husband, father, community, and business leader. Everything I learned during my time at Lambda Chi has shaped me to be who I am at this moment in my life."

In addition to the more weighty life lessons, Jeff also reflected back on festive occasions. "One of my most fond memories at the house was Homecoming 1992," Jeff explained. "I had never seen a group of men work so hard for one goal as much as I saw that year. It was such a pleasure to see brothers working with associate members as well as the sorority to put together a great float and, I believe at the time, earned a third place finish! There was such a sense of brotherhood during that week, where all the members helped and supported each other."

Jeff works at Transtreme as the chief financial officer. "Transtreme partners with physicians, medical networks, and payors to deliver the high-quality healthcare services that patients demand and deserve," he explained. "Transtreme partners with physicians, medical networks, and payors to deliver the high-quality healthcare services that patients demand and deserve."

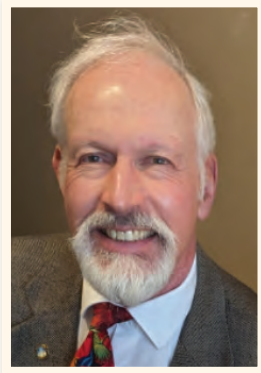
Jeff has been married for 28 years and has a son, Jeffrey, who is a junior at Penn State.

"Without Lambda Chi Alpha, I would not have been as successful as a husband, father, community, and business leader. Everything I learned during my time at Lambda Chi has shaped me to be who I am at this moment in my life."

A sad goodbye to Brother Robert Capkovic '78

We are saddened to announce that passing of our Brother Robert Capkovic '78. We express our deepest sympathies to Cappy's family, friends and loved ones. Read on below to view his obituary.

Source Courtesy of *The Morning Call*



Robert Capkovic '78

Robert "Bob" Joseph Capkovic, Jr. (68) entered eternal life on June 17, 2024. As a life-long practicing Catholic, Bob attended St. Ann's Catholic School (K-8), Emmaus, PA, and graduated from Allentown Central Catholic High School in 1973. Heading to the Pennsylvania State University, he completed a civil engineering degree and was first in his pledge class as Zeta number Z905 with the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

Bob began his work career at PA Power & Light Company before going

to Saudi Arabia with Chicago Bridge & Iron. He then moved to Albuquerque working for Public Service of NM and marrying the love of his life, Diane (1983). Attaining his Professional Engineering License, he traveled extensively for Lamson & Sessions (Vylon Pipe) living in Ft. Worth, Cleveland and Phoenix before settling in Germantown with the Choctaw Co. He transitioned to regional sales

manager for several large diameter pipe companies: Contect, Amitech, Future Pipe, USCPS, and the Thompson Pipe Group.

Retiring in 2017, Bob focused on faith, family and fun. Bob is a 4th-degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He made his Cursillo weekend (#127), was an Altar Server and devoted member of the OLPH Fisher's of Men. He hiked many of our state and national parks with Diane. Bob loved gardening but nothing was better than drowning a few worms and catching dinner.

He was a lifetime member of the TWRA (TN Wildlife Resources Agency).

Bob is survived by his wife Diane Dolores (Kent) and his mother Catherine Jean (Bohus), both of Collierville, TN. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Joseph Capkovic (1989). Bob leaves behind many loving family members and life-long friends who will miss him greatly.

A memorial Mass will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2024, 2 pm, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 8151 Poplar Ave., Germantown TN 38138. The family will receive visitors in the Narthex at 1 pm prior to a Rosary starting at 1:40 pm. A reception celebrating Bob's life will follow immediately after Mass.

Memorials, in lieu of flowers, can be made to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Project Outreach Inc., 9245 Poplar Ave., Germantown TN 38138 or the charity of your choice.

ON THE WEB

Find us on the web at www.lxapsualums.com.

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



CHAPTER ETERNAL

A sad goodbye to Brother William (Bill) Daniel Rutt, Jr. '60

We are saddened to announce that passing of our Brother William (Bill) Daniel Rutt, Jr. '60 We express our deepest sympathies to William's family, friends and loved ones.

Source Courtesy of
Barret Leber Funeral Home



William (Bill) Daniel Rutt, Jr. '60

William (Bill) Daniel Rutt, Jr., 84, of Tenafly, NJ, formerly of River Edge, NJ and Harrisburg, PA, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2022. Bill was born August 16, 1938 to Elsie Randall Rutt and William Daniel Rutt, Sr. in Harrisburg, PA. He was the devoted partner of Janet (Jan) Marion Carpenter for more than thirty years and husband to Marlene Neff Rutt for sixteen years. He was the father of Lori Marlene Rutt and Marcy Leigh Rutt, and older brother of Laurence (Larry) Randall Rutt.

Bill began his career working in sales merchandising at Heinz Foods. He then accepted an opportunity at Meg's Macaroni Company, where he was one of the first employees in their newly established sales forecasting department. He next worked for Innkeepers Supply Company, a division of Holiday Inn, where he earned several sales awards, and then ultimately went out on his own as a manufacturers' rep, selling all types of furnishings to various hotel and motel properties in the PA, NJ and NY area. Bill lived in Harrisburg, PA until the mid-1970s when he moved to NJ, where he lived primarily in River Edge.

Bill had several passions in life: golf, wine and classical music - and he was extremely knowledgeable about all three of them. In the 1960s and 1970s, he was a member of Colonial Country Club in Harrisburg and was very proud to have won a local golf

tournament with a friend one year. He and Jan very much enjoyed extended trips to Europe, particularly France, in the 1980s to enjoy the food, and especially the wine! The two of them were also avid classical music enthusiasts and attended concerts, particularly the Mostly Mozart series, at Lincoln Center on a regular basis for many years.

With an outgoing personality to match his sales career, Bill was fun-loving and enjoyed people. He always had an old joke, song lyrics, funny saying or twist on words up his sleeve to lighten the mood.

Bill is survived by his two daughters Lori Rutt (and husband Alvaro Serrano) and Marcy Rutt (and partner Travis Maynard), as well as his former spouse Marlene Rutt, his younger brother Laurence (Larry) Rutt (and wife Barbara) and his nephew Christopher Rutt (and wife Anne). Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Elsie and Bill Rutt, Sr., and his longtime partner, Janet (Jan) Carpenter.

Interment took place at Brookside Cemetery, Englewood, NJ on November 21, 2022. Donations in memory of Bill may be made to Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, Penn State University or Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Memories and condolences may be shared at <https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/obituaries/>.



Bill grew up in Harrisburg, PA and earned a degree in Business Administration from The Pennsylvania State University in 1960. At Penn State, he was a proud member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, where he enjoyed jitterbugging with Marlene and playing Wales Tails at social events, and was also first chair trombone in the Penn State Blue Band from his freshman year on. He did his Coast Guard Reserves training in Cape May, NJ just after college.



Stay in touch online at www.lxa-zetazeta.org.