



ouRPI

Pi Chapter of Zeta Psi

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

FALL

TROY, NEW YORK

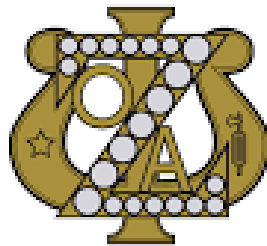
2022

Save the Date! ***Alumni Weekend—April 28-30, 2023***

Historic 2023 Alumni Weekend is Confirmed for April 28-30, 2023

*Not to be missed, get your hotel
reservation done ASAP!*

Mike Gagas '75



Travel thru time from the founding of Rensselaer (1824), to the founding of The Zeta Psi Fraternity (1847), to the “Guilded Age” (1870 - 1900), to the present day RPI campus in 2023.

HOW will we do this? We will meet at a local establishment on Friday evening, take care of Pi Chapter business on Saturday by noon, and take a historic walking tour through Troy, guided by the Rensselaer County Historical Society. We will then beam up (possibly a shuttle bus) to Rensselaer for a campus tour hosted by the Red and White Student Organization.

We will celebrate our glorious history (US, RPI, Zeta Psi) at a gala in the Great Room of the Heffner Alumni House on Saturday evening and hear from an

RPI speaker at a Sunday brunch in the Heffner Dining Room.

If you plan on attending, make your hotel reservation at the Courtyard by Marriott Albany Troy/Waterfront, 515 River Street, Troy, NY 12181 now! URL for reservations is:

<https://tinyurl.com/zp2023>

Post COVID, hotel rates have gone up. Reserve now at the \$239 / night rate for Friday, April 28th and Saturday, April 29th. You will pay more at this and most other hotels in Troy if you delay. If you have not met the challenge of using a computer to make a hotel reservation, you can use a telephone (invented in 1876, by A. Bell, NOT A ZETE and NOT an RPI ALUM, BTW), you can call Marriott Reservations at 888-236-2427 and ask for the Zeta Psi Alumni Reunion room block rate.

Hope to see you all there. It will be a historic event. Pun intended!



Report from the Elder Phi

Tom Moberg '71

The 175th anniversary convention of Zeta Psi was held in August in Brooklyn NY. The location commemorated our founding at NYU in 1847. The Pi chapter was proudly represented by 10 brothers. This is the largest contingent to attend a convention in recent history. Elder attendees included myself, Josh McWilliam, John Spohn, Rick Case, former Phi Alphas, Jim Ljunglin and Lauck Walton, John D'Addieco and Mike Gagas. Joining us were two actives, Evan Mahns and Sam Stone, and 3 wives/partners.

It was great to see so many Zetes, rekindling old friendships and making new ones. All seven countries were represented. Yes, besides the U.S. and Canada, we now have chapters in Ireland, England, Scotland and France and a colony in Greece. Brooklyn was a great location despite the drive to get there. While I grew up in downstate NY, I don't recall ever having spent time in Brooklyn. It is unlike Manhattan or the Bronx and not what you may think of when picturing NYC. The streets were clean and many were tree lined. The people were friendly and the air was clear. The local food was good and we found Brooklyn to be a conclave of little neighborhoods.

On Thursday evening we attended a minor league baseball game watching the NY Mets farm team, the Brooklyn Cyclones, who play in a stadium at Coney

Island. It was a fun time with close to 200 Zetes in attendance. The Grand Chapter meeting was held on Friday afternoon and Saturday evening was the banquet. In our spare time between events, we teamed up in smaller groups, some heading to Manhattan, walking across the Brooklyn Bridge or along the beautiful river walk admiring the architecture of old New York. For those of you who couldn't make the convention because you are located on the west coast, plan on next year when the 176th will be held in Seattle in July. And don't forget our Pi chapter Alumni Weekend in April 2023.

The house on Belle Avenue is in great shape and has been well maintained (probably nicer than when you were an active). This is due to a few dedicated elders who I can't thank enough and the work of some contractors for larger jobs. The actives are doing well with 20 brothers, fourteen of whom are living in the house. Rush and recruitment are underway, and we are hoping for a large new member class after suffering losses while unable to recruit during the COVID pandemic. As you may be aware, we were forced by RPI to close the house during the pandemic. With a new RPI president in place, we are already seeing some improvements in the attitude toward the Greek organizations.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the dedicated Board of Directors who keep the Pi chapter one of the best that Zeta Psi has. If you are interested in being on the board, contact me or another board member. My email is tmoberg@frontiernet.net.

Yours in TKPhi, Tom



Donations Help the Pi Survive

Frank Harrington, '91

In the last edition of the ouRPI, Jim Ljunglin outlined our financial position and demonstrated how critical our Elder Support was to allow us to bridge the gap while students weren't allowed to reside in Greek housing during the pandemic. Many fraternity chapters across the country were not so fortunate.

Now that there are so many avenues through which to donate, we are working on a more robust consolidation of reporting across donation channels so we can properly recognize donors. QuickBooks online has been re-worked to more closely align our accounting with our reporting requirements and we should be able to publish proper recognition soon. We appreciate your patience during this process and a big THANK YOU again for your continued support of the Pi Chapter!

AW 2022 Recap

Mike Gagas '75

We're back! After 2 years of hiatus due to the Pandemic, a small group of dedicated Alumni began meeting back in November 2021 to plan for the re-start of this long-standing annual event.

On Friday, April 29, we had a golf outing (including wives) at Freer Park. Everyone who played golf that day is in favor of any other course other than this one, except for Tom Moberg '71, who had the lowest score by far. Talk about hills and wind and crappy lies, oy vey. Tom's wife Kathleen played in the foursome that included Mike Gagas '75 and his wife, Gail. Our other foursome included Chris LaMonica '97 and Josh McWilliam '02, Danny Holman '73 and Keith E. Warner '74. Having the women around kept the swearing down a little. Jim Peta '64 bailed at last minute because he had open heart surgery. I know, a pretty lame excuse, but I am going to use it next year.

Friday evening we gathered in the upstairs private room at Brown's Brewing Company on River Street in beautiful downtown Troy, NY. The food and drink were fantastic. Justus Wunderle '73 and his partner Sue Cooper got the farthest away award as they trekked across the country in a Travato camper van. Many of us had not seen Justi and Sue for years, so it was great to catch up and renew our friendships. The real stab from the past that appeared was Randy Burns '73 and his wife Lynda. Randy still looks stylish in those untucked flannel shirts and jeans. I told Randy that he (and possibly Iceman) were the only Pi Zetes I met as an active that scared me. When I called

him Pandy Burns at Browns, I still bolted, just in case. The Alumni made it a point of mingling with the actives, telling them the stories of their esteemed Elders. To their credit, the actives spent time with each Alum and shared their experiences with us for the entire weekend. Really proud of these guys.

Of course, on Saturday, we had the highest technology Elder Chapter Annual Meeting with two brothers attending via the Zoom. Those Nerd houses better watch out. The highlights of the meeting were all G's. Great House, Great Finances, Great Actives living in the house next year, we are really in good shape thanks to the hard work and diligence of a few good men. The meeting was followed by a wicked fast (still have that MA accent) Board meeting.

We tried something new this year, a picnic at Prospect Park. Since alcohol was NOT permitted, we only had beer and wine. It was a beautiful spring afternoon and again, the actives were mingling. To see eye to eye with the actives, I asked that they stand downhill from me. Tilo Samter '57 and his wife Janice showed up in their Porche convertible. Yeah, we got class. Frank Lucchesi '67 and Jim Peta '64 shared some pretty incredible stories. I should have mentioned that we searched the park to find the other 5 Dwarfs that did not attend with bearded Bill Grossman '70 (Doc). We know where Dopey was. Actually, Ron Dolfi '75 was sick and could not attend from Houston. We got regular updates during the event and a month ago, he called me and is doing well with the rehab, thank God.

Saturday evening, we had a reception with hors d'oeuvres. We Googled it and found out it meant appetizers. We believe the mingling and hopping from table to table and hanging out (there was a door to the outside garden- hence the name Troy Hilton Garden Hotel) which allowed folks to gather and enjoy being with each other inside, outside, and all around. We were NOT set up in the Ferris' Grand Ballroom. Nor were we in the Roebling Library, we were in the secluded, secret downstairs meeting space, below the restaurant. Brother Keith Warner remarked that it was "hidden, clandestine, and spacious".

There was one bar tender who kept up and she was assisted by her manager. A few times, if the drink was not PERFECT, she would go upstairs, get additional ingredients and remix. We tipped her well. In 4 hours on the clock, she made a million dollars, all nite long, from midnite on....

Rick Case '70 gave a moving, heartfelt, and self-effacing tribute to Brother Rick Kasold '70 (see Tricky Rick Article for the text of the tribute). The Grand Chapter has a Rick Kasold '70 fund and many of us decided to fund

this endowment that will defray or pay for the cost for an Alumni to attend the International Zeta Psi Convention each year.

Tom Moberg '71, Elder Chapter President was the MC for the evening. Jim Ljunglin '57 presented the Ljunglin medal to two distinguished Elders who have served the Pi Chapter and the International for so many years. This year's winners were Jim Peta '67 (who, when accepting the award, asked for money, of course) and Jay Webb '61 who has provided inspired leadership of the Elder chapter for only 60 years or so.

The winner of the Ivor L. Priess '55 Achievement Award as the active with an "exemplary demonstration of Scholarship and Fraternal Living" went to Patrick Mahoney '21. This is great honor because it comes from his peers. And we have a lot of smart guys in the Pi Chapter. Our overall GPA was 3.99 for the spring semester 2022. (the GPA might be a slight exaggeration)

Speaking of smart guys, Lauck Walton '84 scarfed up a suite and invited everyone up for the Hollywood, Broadwaysque after party. Again, a panoramic view of downtown Troy. The glamor, the stars, the night. Jim Peta '64 earned the Endurance Award. He was still telling stories at 2:30 AM when I went to bed. We ordered Pizza and devoured it in like a nanosecond. (I learned that at RPI, you know). John Spohn and I looked over to the living room where Jim Ljunglin, Jay Webb, Tony Bourassa, Tilo Samter, and Bill Grossman were seated and holding court. I mentioned that they were espousing pearls of wisdom that were good as gold. John Spohn said "being that wise that just doesn't happen by accident". So true.

Several of us met for a breakfast buffet before taking off for home. Everyone that I spoke with mentioned many times over that this was amongst the most enjoyable of all of the reunions we've had. It was intimate, and everyone found themselves reminiscing about the good old days in a lively and spirited way. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!

Editor's Note: several photos were submitted but limited space doesn't allow publication here. Check out our website at <http://www.pizetes.org/> under "Latest News" for photos!

The Life and Travels of Claudio Caballero '87

We asked Claudio to share his interesting experiences since leaving Troy, and here's what he had to say! Note that he's recently returned to the US

I was supposed to graduate in Spring 1987, but having proven better at learning and working in engineering than formally studying it (not to mention brutal exams), including spending all of 1986 on co-op with a robotics company in RPI's tech park (which allowed me to splurge, while living at the Pi house, for us to get one keg of Molson Golden each month), I instead D-graded out in December, beginning my career in 1988.

After helping that same robotics company win an SBIR grant with NASA where I designed the electronics for a special robot hand to operate the Space Shuttle fuel valves (so had to be low-power "intrinsically safe"), then working for a similar small automation systems integrator in Albany, I went to work in the Center for Manufacturing Productivity and Technology Transfer at the George Low CII (where one of my tech park colleagues was now working and teaching). As our beloved brother and faculty advisor Ivor quipped: RPI couldn't figure out how to help me graduate (and in fairness, I didn't figure out my learning disability until much later), but at least they were smart enough to hire me (which Ivor had kindly done previously, where I had a work-study helping with the electronics in his nuclear chemistry lab).

While working at the CII, I met a grad student who was friends with a couple of other grad students that wanted to start an automation company in Singapore (where the MBA student was from) and invited me to join them. I needed a steady salary, so instead when the contract that paid my salary got canceled, I went to work in '92 at an auto-parts "twin plant" (pre-NAFTA way to avoid tariffs) on the Mexico border in Brownsville, Texas. Someday, over a drink, ask me about the time my car got stolen by known drug smugglers and was recovered minus my US passport. It was fascinating to move from working at an automation vendor to a factory, not least because of the production pressures. If we stopped a Detroit line, the fine was \$100k an hour. Living on South Padre Island, I was graced with Pi Zetes at my beachside

place Spring Break of 1993, experiencing beer soaked carpeting again for the first time since Belle Ave.

In 1993 that Singapore crew contacted me again, having gotten the firm off the ground, and asked me to reconsider. After a one week visit in July '93, I decided to make the leap, mainly on the basis of avoiding future regrets at not having taken the chance. It was an amazing experience, learning tons delivering cool systems to blue-chip MNCs like HP, Philips & Nestle, but we arrogantly turned down a buyout offer and then lost huge bank on one bad project and closed the firm in late '96. We could have recapitalized, but it would have been contentious. We're all happier that we remained friends instead. In addition to the friends made via work, I also fell into an amazing group of friends that resulted from my inviting a Gipsy Kings cover band to a Spanish networking lunch. One of the friends from that group had a famous friend as best man at his wedding some years later, and I can now say I've stood on the same platform (in front of the chapel altar) as a reigning King.

I planned to stay in Singapore, but moved home to NYC in 1998 for family reasons. I joined Lante, a small dot-com consultancy. Worked on some terrific projects with great young engineers, and one of them, a B2B marketplace, wound up being key to the strategy for our successful IPO after investment from Michael Dell and other big names in tech. In 2000, after the IPO, I spent most of the year in Singapore opening our office as part of our international expansion. But when the dot-com bubble burst, Lante slowly imploded, and I wound up starting my own consulting LLC to be part-time CIO/CTO for some small firms (law, private equity, etc.) and managing projects for large firms. The flexibility as an early remote-worker allowed me to pick up my nephews from grade school on many afternoons, among other benefits.

After ten years of that work, a conversation with our brother Suchin from Thailand during his family visit to NYC led me to moving there in 2011 to work with him on a mobile app he had invested in. Another great experience, helping the staff adopt new technologies (cloud) and methods (Agile), but we kept to our agreement of two years max. As a result of my having given a talk on cloud use at Bangkok

meetup, I was recruited to join a team at Chevron creating global software products for their drilling function.

I then took a break to get an Executive MBA from INSEAD, flying from Bangkok mainly to their campus in Singapore. It was a transformative experience and has a terrific leadership development program. That same year (2015), I met my Thai wife (Tak) via a dating website (eHarmony, in case you're curious), and we got married the following year, with weddings in Bangkok and NYC. The reception in Bangkok was considered mid-sized, with less than 900(!) guests, and Suchin the only Zete. Many more Zetes made the one in Brooklyn.

After INSEAD, my next gig was technical director of a Singapore innovation lab for an Australian multinational insurer. The job came to me via introduction from a friend I had stayed in occasional touch with after meeting in Singapore in the 90s. He is a product design guru, and we enjoyed exchanging ideas from our respective fields. Once he made the introduction, the "halo effect" essentially made the position mine to lose. The company decided to exit the insurance business in Asia, so I've since moved on, and I'm excited to see where serendipity takes me for the rest of my career.

Clearly, my professional journey has been the opposite of a "well designed career". I've followed the opportunities, largely coming from people I've worked with before or from other personal connections. If there's any lesson I'd like younger Zete brothers to take from my experience, it's to act so as to give "luck"/serendipity a nudge. Stay in touch, even if loosely, with good people you meet along the way, and also make sure you get out of your comfort zone in terms of the people you meet. Some of the best folks I've met that I've become closest to personally and professionally were folks that I wouldn't have normally sought out. Just like I didn't arrive at RPI seeking to join a fraternity.

Tak lived in the US for over 6 years, getting her PhD, and we're anxious to try and live there again before we eventually retire, so hopefully we will make at least one Alumni Weekend before settling more permanently in our home in Bangkok. Please track me down if you ever visit Thailand, Singapore or nearby countries.

A Tribute to Rick Kasold

Rick Case '70

I first met Rick in the fall of 1966 when we pledged the Zeta Psi Fraternity chapter at RPI. That was back in the day when “boys will be boys” pretty much prevailed. The movie “Animal House” wasn’t actually filmed at our house, but it certainly feels familiar in many ways. Rick was much more of a fun loving and “adventurous” guy than I was in those days and coined the acronym for his faction as the LIA’s to designate “loud irresponsible a**holes.” As one of the more somber and reserved brothers (less fun) I was cast into the QRD faction – “quiet responsible dou**es.” Between the two factions we had a vibrant yet sustainable organization, and Rick served in numerous house leadership positions throughout college. Perhaps most memorably as Bar Chairman.

Fast forward and we are now older and wiser and serving for decades on the House Corporation of the chapter. Our goal had become to maintain our facility and also try to guide the current student members to keep their actions and behaviors within the much different current expectations for college students in general, and particularly fraternity brothers, in the era of increased scrutiny and lower tolerance for bad behavior. Our acronyms changed. Rick had evolved and now was an LRA (loud *Responsible* a**hole) and I had loosened up and become an LRD (*loud* responsible dou**e.) Occasionally being on opposite sides of certain discussions never put a dent in our love or respect for each other. Sharing the fraternal bond and getting to exercise it while working to keep our legacy alive brought me as close to Rick as I have been to anyone in my life.

Again, Rick served in a steady progression of leadership roles as Director, President, Chairman of the Board. Serving together on the board allowed us to keep in close touch even though separated by many miles. Rick never missed the opportunity to return to Troy for board meetings or Alumni Weekend celebrations.

Rick’s contribution to the Fraternity will always be gratefully remembered. Rick’s bond with his brothers in the fraternity shall be forever.

Edward Frederick Kasold, Jr. Tricky Rick. May you rest in peace eternal. In TKΦ



Note that Rick’s Elder Leadership fund is 75% funded – let’s see if we can meet the goal! URL for his fund is below:

<https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/zetes/kasold>



Rick Kasold Elder Leadership Fund

Share

Tweet

Share

Share

\$18,648.00

Raised so far of \$25,000.00 goal

Rick Kasold, Pi '70, passed away February 2020. Rick loved attending Conventions and we honor him by creating a named fund to support new Elders to come to Convention. Rick knew that Elders that come to Convention attend our LTI programs and learn how to better support our members in achieving their academic and social objectives. Please help us spread his legacy. The first recipient will be announced this year after two years. Our goal is to make this a permanent fund of the Zeta Psi Educational Foundation. All contributions to this fund qualify as a charitable donation in the United States for tax purposes.

Donors	Fundraiser
38	0
Funded	Goal
75%	\$25,000.00



Josh McWilliam and John Spohn plot strategy while Lauck Walton mixes it up with the actives, April 2022.



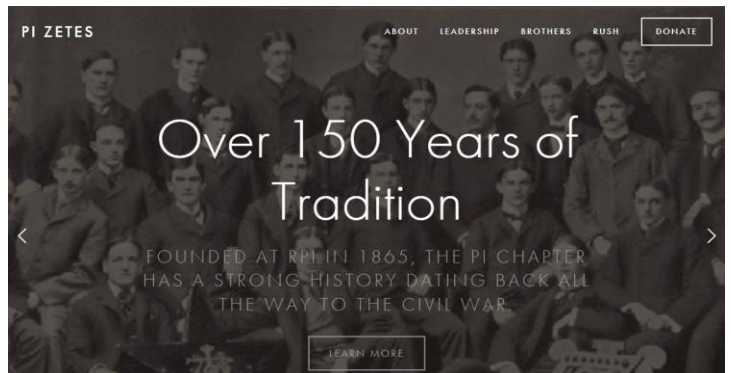
Garden Party Receptions with Randy and Lynda Burns, Tony Bourassa, Bill Grossman, Keith Warner and Danny Holman, April 2022.



Patrick Mahoney accepts the Ivor L. Preiss Award, April 2022.



Donna Webb and Jim Ljunglin



Check out <http://pizetes.org> for more photos and news!!!

The Heritage Society

Just a reminder that the Heritage Society of Zeta Psi was created several years ago to recognize those brothers who are providing for Zeta Psi in their wills. Membership is for those who remember us for at least \$5,000. All it takes to join is a bequest for \$5,000 or more and to send a copy of that page of your will to chair of the program. For now, it is Jim Peta who has been collecting our donations for many years. Jim's address is:

15 Blueberry La, New Hartford, CT, 06057

The bequest should be to the New York State Capital District Association of Zeta Psi, Inc. at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and currently located at 25 Belle Ave., Troy, NY 12180.

2022-2023 DUES AND CONTRIBUTION FORM

Please clip and mail, or include the info below with your check.

You may also donate on-line at <http://www.pizetes.org>

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

_____ Regular dues @ \$50 _____ Email my receipt!

_____ Other gift @ \$ _____

*Go Green! Please check above if you would like a Donation
Acknowledgement via Email instead of US Mail (provide email above)*

Please complete the above information and mail checks payable to the NYSCDA of Zeta Psi directly to:

Jim Peta, 15 Blueberry La, New Hartford, CT, 06057

Note that regular dues will be acknowledged only in the Fall Financial ouRPI. Any donations above the \$50 dues will be acknowledged with a Thank You card as well as listing in the ouRPI. Anyone who would still like an acknowledgement for regular dues may request it when sending in this form and Jim will be happy to send you an e-mail or regular mail "Thank You", whichever you prefer.

Thank you for supporting the Pi Chapter!

This contribution to the NYSCDA of Zeta Psi is not tax deductible under IRS regulations.