



### **Cheerleading: Then and Now**

*Elizabeth Marsh*

After cheering for soccer in the early '80s—back when there were soccer cheerleaders—I never thought I would ever be cheering again, and it was discouraging! It was surprising that throughout the years, The University of Akron cheerleading coaches have invited the alumni back, and I have gone every year that I could. I feel like I am always welcome to keep coming back and join in the Homecoming festivities and remain a Zip forever. I couldn't be happier to get hugs and high fives from everyone and to be encouraged to stunt and take part just like I did when I was in college. It makes me feel young again and brings back so many fun memories of life at The University of

Akron! A few years ago, I had a treasured photo taken with former Homecoming King, Rick Bitzel, and we have remained lifelong friends since we were both involved in RHPB. In 2017, I was also joined by my good friend and former University of Akron cheerleader, Terry Luzader, and it was bittersweet to be together again after not seeing each other since graduation! Once a Zip, always a Zip! Thanks for all the crazy memories throughout the years!