

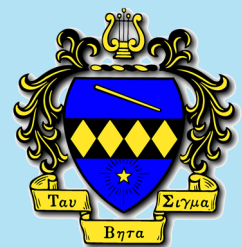


the
New Alto
Leaving a Legacy

Southwest District Fall 2014 Edition

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Love in the bond

OUR LEGACIES

KKΨ-Zeta Beta & TΒΣ-Delta Upsilon, Howard Payne Univ.

Each band has its own story, its own traditions, its own legacy. The Howard Payne University Yellow Jacket Band has been impacted by every individual that takes part in it, but two stand out among the rest. Jeremy Lewis and Chris “Hollywood” Jones were two men who are remembered for their spirit and zest for life.

Jeremy and Chris’ legacies are passed down to each incoming HPU YJB class. In the late 1990s, a young man named Jeremy Lewis came to Howard Payne. He was a piano major, played euphonium in band, and loved philosophical discussions. Jeremy had a lively spirit, was well known to all of the HPU campus, and was constantly traveling home to work with his church youth group. On July 21, 2000, while Jeremy was home in Mineral Wells, TX, his mother asked him why he went to church so much. He replied saying, “I’ll stop going to church when Jesus calls me home.” On the way to church that night, Jeremy was struck and killed instantly by an 18-wheeler while pulling out on a blind curve. He was 20 years old. Over the years there have been many dedications to Jeremy including a memorial band tower on the YJB’s practice field. More recently, Kappa Kappa Psi-Zeta Beta, in which Jeremy was a brother, purchased a band trailer and later dedicated in memory of him. Additionally, Dr. Robert Tucker, band director at the time of Jeremy’s death, composed “Lifeforce Overture” in Jeremy’s memory. The piece included references to Jeremy’s favorite marching band stand tune, “Come Out and Play.” Jeremy is still missed and is an important part of the Howard Payne University band.



On November 11, 2011, Howard Payne’s band was tragically informed of the death of one of its friends. Christopher Michael Jones was riding his motorcycle when he lost control right across the street from the HPU campus. Chris was killed instantly upon impact. Chris was known for his unwavering loyalty to his friends and the Howard Payne band. Chris embodied the joy of music and being around those he loved. While being outgoing and at times goofy, Chris knew when to be serious. As soon as Mr. Ash, Director of Bands, gave a downbeat, Chris flipped a switch and was ready to perform. He loved playing his snare drum with the band, but he especially loved leading the chorus of “Lil’ Liza Jane” as the band accompanied him. For most that knew Chris, that song will never be played without hearing Chris singing along. Above all, Chris enjoyed spending time with his friends and family. He left behind a wife and two young daughters with a third on the way. Christopher “Hollywood” Jones brought something special into every person’s life that he encountered. He truly brought out the best in everyone.

Recently, the Zeta Beta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi and the Delta Upsilon chapter of Tau Beta Sigma worked jointly to raise funds to complete a project to wrap the Yellow Jacket Band trailer. The trailer is dedicated in memory of both Jeremy Lewis and Chris “Hollywood” Jones, and their lives are commemorated on the back door of the trailer. Although most current Yellow Jacket Band members did not personally know either Jeremy or Chris, their love and dedication towards this program will leave a lasting legacy for years to



honoring a
Legacy

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE LADIES OF BETA NU

Dusty Furr, TBΣ-Beta Nu, AR Tech Univ.



“This interview article will have interviewer/interviewee, but it will also have my personal commentary on how the past Beta Nu members’ legacies have flourished in my chapter and how we are making our own legacy within our current chapter. Julie Morgan is the interviewee for the article. Mrs. Morgan was a TBΣ member of the Beta Nu chapter from the spring of ’69- spring of ’72 and now she is currently the assistant to the President of Arkansas Tech University, Dr. Bowen and she is also an honorary member of our chapter. I, Dusty Furr, currently hold the office of Public Relations Coordinator for the Beta Nu chapter at Arkansas Tech University. So let’s begin the adventure on the legacy left on Beta Nu by the Tau Betas before us and the new legacies that our current chapter will forever leave on the Beta Nu chapter.

1) **Question:** *I always found it fascinating that we were the first Greeks on Tech campus. What are your thoughts about TBΣ and KKΨ being the first Greeks on campus and the reason why we were founded on this campus?*

Mrs. Julie Morgan: Well when I was finishing up my college years in the school years of ’70-’71 and ’71-’72 I was on a committee of the Student Senate , now called Student Government Association (SGA). We gave elections on Tech campus to the students to see if Tech wanted to go Greek. Both times it was soundly defeated that Arkansas Tech did not want to go Greek. But I think part of the reason why we were the first Greeks on campus and why we were founded was because we were not “Greek”. The other part was Gene “Chief” Witherspoon probably had a good understanding of what you needed to do to become TBΣ and KKΨ chapters. Their service to the university and the community is invaluable.

Commentary: When I found out that our chapter was the first Greeks on campus, I began to understand the expectations that Tech campus had for our students. The expectation was that they wanted their students to be selfless, to serve, and to know the meaning of hard work. To know that our chapters encompassed all these qualities makes us proud to be the first Greeks on campus and that we fit Tech’s criteria of what students should be. Still to this day we pride ourselves on these qualities and every year we find new ways to serve our campus plus the communities around us by the art of music.

2) **Question:** *I remember during my MC process when we came to speak to you about your time as a Beta Nu, you brought up an invitation that Chief had received during your time at Arkansas Tech and if I am not mistaken it was to perform at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI? This seemed like the big event that was happening at Tech when you went to college. Would you mind telling me your experience with that?*

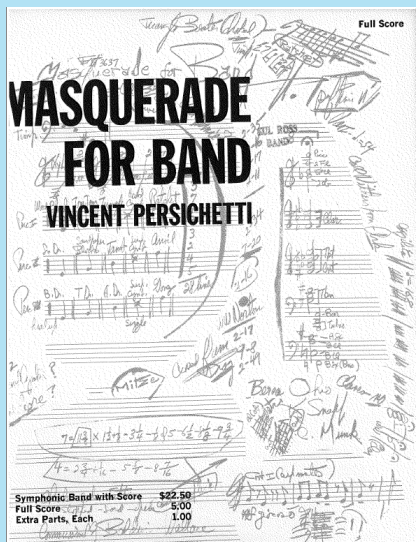
Mrs. Julie Morgan: Ann Arbor was actually one year before I arrived at Tech, they performed in 1967, and I have the picture of it right behind my desk. But if you would like I will tell you the story behind that picture before I reach the big event that happened during my time at Tech. Rumor had it that during the concert at the University of Michigan, the directors were not allowed to speak during the concert, but Chief did and the words he said were truly profound. He began with thanking everyone that came and then he said these words. He said, “When I got the letter that we were accepted, I was nervous to point that I didn’t tell my wife for a week. I couldn’t tell you how intimidating it was for this small band to come up here and be at the University of Michigan and play on this stage with all of these nationally renowned directors. I only hope we have come and we in some way can change the perception of the Arts in Arkansas.”



Gene Witherspoon
Director

Dusty Furr

Mrs. Julie Morgan: Ann Arbor was actually one year before I arrived at Tech, they performed in 1967, and I have the picture of it right behind my desk. But if you would like I will tell you the story behind that picture before I reach the big event that happened during my time at Tech. Rumor had it that during the concert at the University of Michigan, the directors were not allowed to speak during the concert, but Chief did and the words he said were truly profound. He began with thanking everyone that came and then he said these words. He said, "When I got the letter that we were accepted, I was nervous to point that I didn't tell my wife for a week. I couldn't tell you how intimidating it was for this small band to come up here and be at the University of Michigan and play on this stage with all of these nationally renowned directors. I only hope we have come and we in some way can change the perception of the Arts in Arkansas." At that concert, Chief did change the perception of what it was concerning the arts of Arkansas and we have never looked back concerning the musical arts at Arkansas Tech. Now my story in the progression of ATU Band was the spring of 1969 when I was a freshman in college. Chief happened to be the president of the MENC, Music Educators National Conference, that year. We performed at the conference that year in St. Louis, MO. In the days leading up to the conference, Chief came down with shingles so he had the brass professor, Professor Robert Bright, conduct all of the rehearsals. When we came to the MENC conference, Martin Mailman conducted his piece called "From the Leaves of Grass", which was the second piece in the program,



using the Arkansas Tech College Symphonic Band. Our last piece we performed was "Masquerade for Band", which has an interesting story that ties our band to the famous composer behind this piece. When Persichetti's publisher was debating on the cover of Persichetti's score of "Masquerade for Band", Persichetti told him to just take a picture of his personal desk pad. Persichetti used his desk pad to jot any musical inspirations that he had for a piece concerning rhythm, any notes to call anyone about his music or what band he wanted to use to read his original manuscript, or the style of what some of his musical compositions would be. If you will notice on the top right corner going down vertically on the cover of the score, you will notice "Call Wither from Ark", which is translated into "Call Witherspoon from Arkansas". This is exactly the legacy that Witherspoon would leave on the ATU Band of Distinction. It was very common for our school at the time to have composers coming to our schools, asking us to read their original manuscripts and they would host clinicals at our school regularly. So having original conductors direct our band at the conference was a common occurrence

in our time at Tech. We know how special it was for our school to have this honor and we are thankful for the opportunity that Witherspoon gave us as a band.

Commentary: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step"- Lao-Tzu. Chief began the legacy of putting Arkansas Tech Band on the map and the directors after him lived up to that name in their own personal way. The one man that Julie Morgan said reminded her of Chief the most was Dr. Christopher Anderson by his "go-getting" and magnetic type personality. At the 2013 ATU Band Camp that personality of Dr. Anderson shined through by inviting the world renowned composer and native Arkansan, Steven Bryant. Steven Bryant conducted his musical compositions Ecstatic Waters, The Marbled Midnight Mile, and Meta March using the Arkansas Tech University Band Camp Honor Band. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the high school students and it brought back the legacy of Witherspoon in yet another decade of ATU band's history. Hopefully this legacy of giving students in all walks of education a once in a lifetime opportunity to perform under the direction of a well-known composer or reading an original manuscript of that composer, is something that our band will forever work towards keeping.

Dusty Furr

3) **Questions:** *What do you think makes our chapter special compared to other chapters?*

Mrs. Julie Morgan: I can't speak to how we are different compared to other Tau Beta chapters on what they do concerning their campus, but I do see a huge quality that our chapters have. I think with the Tech Band we have close relationships that continues to cross over generations. The Tech's band alumni are so closely tied together and towards the institution itself that creates the relationships to cross over the generations. Under the Band umbrella is of course TBΣ and KKΨ, I think the relationship regardless of when you were in school, regardless of what was going on in the college of Arkansas Tech, the relationships have been so close because of those alumni and the feeling of "family" they have instilled in us to continue. Since the Tech Band was always on the smaller side, it allowed the increase of opportunity for the band to grow close as well as to build those closer bonds within the TBΣ and KKΨ chapters.

Commentary: "Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order and lends to all that is good and just and beautiful." -Plato. Since our chapters are extremely close, we hold a joint event together called Kid's Concert for the surrounding schools. Kid's Concert is where we bring students from 4th-5th grade, to our Witherspoon Auditorium for a great experience that they will never forget. The meaning of Kid's Concert is to get students interested in pursuing band in their school when they are able to do so by introducing different instruments, playing shout excerpts of songs that are themed. For example this year it will be Disney themed. We will have different students from the ATU Music Department arrange pieces from Disney movies for different ensembles to play. Also the Kid's Concert is used to get students to see music the way we see it: as an outlet where we can put our emotions into every note we play. That is why a single note played by two people will sound similar, but never hold the equal timbre. This concert is not only a memorable experience for the students, but it for the TBΣ and KKΨ as well because we get to do our first love, which is perform different pieces of music, and we get to put smiles on students' faces that we honestly wouldn't trade for the world itself. This is the Beta Nu chapter of TBΣ and the Delta Delta chapter of KKΨ leaving our mark on the students of surrounding schools to walk done our legacy of creating greater bands not only in their schools, but also when the attend college in the near future.

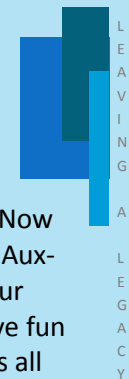
4) **Question:** *Was there any chapter traditions during your time in the chapter that makes us unique compared to the other chapters?*

Mrs. Julie Morgan: "We really didn't have what you would say would be a chapter tradition, except for maybe one thing. Every year around Christmas time, our chapter of TBΣ and KKΨ would come together for one night to put up a Christmas tree in Williamson hall, then the new music building called Witherspoon hall. This time between us was where we would join together to refocus on our goal to create greater bands and of course we got to enjoy our time as a sisterhood and brotherhood on creating the bonds to reach that goal.



Preserve
Your Legacy for the
GENERATIONS
to come

Dusty Furr



Commentary: The legacy of allowing our chapters of TBΣ and KKΨ to come together for maybe just one day or for than that has continued on to this very day. These days allow our chapters to bond together; refocus on what our main goal is as a unit, and how we can make greater bands during our college years. Now in place of building a Christmas tree and decorating the tree together, we have an event called the Junior Auxiliary Charity Ball that we work as servers. Now you people might think how in the world does this bring our two chapters together? Well it allows us to focus on what we are: service as a unit. It also allows us to have fun as a sisterhood and brotherhood. During this time, each chapter is going through MC process and it allows all the MCs to bond with people from their chapter and the other chapter. The interesting fact I found out about our tradition was revealed to me by Mrs. Julie Morgan herself. When Julie Morgan was Financial Chair on the JA Charity Ball Board, she gave our TBΣ and KKΨ chapter the honor of being servers for the charity ball and we have worked there every year since. So we would like to give Julie Morgan a special thank you in this article for her trust and loyalty in us and for her PASSION to help us create our own legacy in this community. Serving our community opens doors for us to receive a good name for our chapter, possibly landing a job in the future after we graduate, and most importantly seeing the smiles that the community has on their faces when they see all our hard work and have a sneaking suspicion of our hard work behind the scenes is the thing we live for.

Final Thoughts: Mrs. Julie Morgan’s class along with the classes before and after her class have left so many legacies that Beta Nu has cherished beyond the years along with the legacies of what the directors of ATU band have given us. Now it is our turn to leave our legacy on our chapter and I could think of no one better to guide us down the legacy path than our sisters before us. The quote written at the beginning of this article embellishes this statement. Our legacy will always have the 8 and 5 to guide us along with being embedded in the legacy as well. I will end this article with words from the famous Eleanor Roosevelt of how our current Beta Nu chapter views on how we plan for our future sisters to view our legacies and the meaning of legacy itself, “The purpose of life, after all, is to love it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”

LEAVING A LEGACY

Emily Rich, TBΣ-Beta, Texas Tech University



When I came to Texas Tech University, I had no idea what Tau Beta Sigma was or what it was about. All I knew is that I wanted to be apart of the Goin’ Band from Raiderland. I ended up making the band but still felt lost in a sea of unfamiliar faces. My life raft approached when a TBΣ sister started taking me to rush events, where I began making more friends. I still wasn’t really sure on the whole concept of “TBΣ” but I was interested in making new friends and fitting in. It wasn’t until our sisterhood weekend, after I had received my bid, that I realized what I was getting myself into. I started to fall in love with all my Tau Beta Sigma sisters and the values of Tau Beta Sigma. Furthermore, I learned that the chapter at my college is the founding chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. To this day I am overwhelmed to think about how I ended up being a part of the founding chapter. Being a Beta feels stressful sometimes because I feel as we are held to a higher standard; however I wouldn’t have it any other way. Not only is our chapter the founding chapter, we are the only chapter to have our own chapter song that is a unique and special tradition and piece of our history. This song is just one of the many special things that the Beta chapter at Texas Tech University gets to do.

Recently, we had our Alumni weekend and we got to visit with many alumni, as well as TBΣ National President Dr. Nicole Sanchez. It was amazing to be able to connect with so many alumni through our love for band and Tau Beta Sigma. We were also very grateful that the national president came by to support us at our alumni brunch.

All in all, I do not know where I would be without the support of my TBΣ sisters and I am so thankful to be apart of such a wonderful organization.

OUR LEGACY

KKΨ-Iota Sigma, Blinn College



Brenham, Texas is the home of bluebonnets, Blue Bell, and the historic Blinn College. Blinn College is a junior college and is the number one transfer school in Texas. Our band consists of almost 140 members and within that, 44% are pursuing a career in music. The Blinn Buccaneer Band is well known in the Texas music community. One reason for this success is our respectable, loyal, and trustworthy Iota Sigma chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi. The Iota Sigma chapter works as effectively and efficiently as a university chapter, just with much fewer brothers in number. Though we have a small chapter, our goals and achievements are still ambitious.

We highly value our candidacy process in Iota Sigma. Our candidates are initiated in the first semester, so they can become brothers the following semester. However, after their first year at Blinn College, a majority of the second year students in the Iota Sigma chapter transfer to other schools. Therefore, the new brothers have to hold officer positions their second year here.



Brotherhood

Is not
measured in
SIZE

Throughout our history, there have been several times that the chapter ends up with only 3 or 4 active members and that's when we begin recruiting a lot more people to keep the chapter strong. Our goal is to keep Kappa Kappa Psi growing, but sometimes we are at a disadvantage due to the time we have. An advantage we do have is new voices and ideas constantly being introduced, forming our chapter into one with fewer traditions but more originality.

When the Alpha Alpha candidates became Brothers in the fall of 2012, they had seven people in their candidate class and seven older brothers. That next year, they only had three active brothers because the former brothers transferred elsewhere. Fortunately, the brothers all knew what their responsibilities were and dedicated their time to create the best environment to make the staff and band happy. Due to their limited numbers, the brothers worked tirelessly to recruit candidates with the qualities of great leaders. Every year, we continue to attract amazing candidates and future brothers with so many different opinions and ideas to make the chapter better.

This just comes to show that even at our weakest and most difficult moments, we still stand strong and united. Our chapter's history as a whole has gone through a lot, but we continue the legacy by quickly learning to trust our fellow brothers. We grow that unique brotherhood bond and a love for each other that lasts even after we move to a different chapter. Though we may struggle at times due to a small chapter, we continue to take challenges head on and strive for the highest as band members, as a chapter, and as a family.

LIVING THE LEGACY

Lauren West, TBΣ-Beta, TX Tech Univ.



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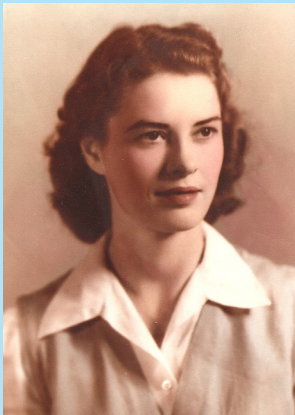
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Finding your place in the world is not easy. It's something we search for our entire lives, but when we do find that place, it's like magic. That is what Tau Beta Sigma has brought to me in my four years at Texas Tech University. A place to learn, a place to grow, and above all, a place to belong.

We've all heard this story before, but it is one I am proud to recount again. However, this is far from just the story of how TBΣ was founded. No, this is the story of how women just like you and I can change a nation. It's a tale of fortitude, and one of courage.



In 1939 three young women unknowingly did something that would continue to change the lives of young women musicians nearly 75 years later. As the world began to change, the time for women to shine had arrived. Wava Banes, Emily SoRelle, and Rose La Nell Williams brought a radical idea to Texas Tech Director of Bands, D.O. "Prof" Wiley. A marching band service sorority for women! Modeled after Kappa Kappa Psi and with the Director of Bands behind them, the Tech Band sorority began their quest for sisterhood.



Yet like all great stories, our sisters faced many obstacles along the way. Shortly after its creation many of the founding members graduated and band enrollment plummeted due to the country's involvement in World War II. On top of that, the budding organization faced difficulties with Texas state corporation laws-preventing them from securing a charter. Yet, who knows better than us how to display cheerfulness even in the face of great trials and that is exactly what our sisters did.

Finally in 1945 with the help of the National Executive Secretary of Kappa Kappa Psi, Frank Martin, our heroines worked a plan. They became a sister organization to Kappa Kappa Psi while they petitioned for a charter through the more lenient laws of Oklahoma, leading to the creation of the Alpha chapter.

Today Tau Beta Sigma's legacy has grown and now extends to over 230 universities across the country. Our history might be just a story today, but as a sister in the bond, there are few things more inspiring than the perseverance and determination of the women who came before me. Texas Tech has opened more doors for me than I could have ever dreamed, but the day I became an active member of Tau Beta Sigma was the day I realized I could change the world.

So the next time you think about why you are in Tau Beta Sigma, remember why we were created. We were created by and for women just like us looking to make a difference. We all come to college, terrified to find a place where we can truly fit in. In the same respects we all know what it's like not to have a place to fit. Fortunately though, anyone reading this knows what it is like to have found a home with Tau Beta Sigma.

Life moves pretty fast, but college is the perfect place to find yourself. For those of us who find ourselves lucky enough to fit into the bonds of Tau Beta Sigma, we are given a family. All thanks to my Beta founding sisters who saw an ideal, seized it, and led us to Tau Beta Sigma.



ALL TOGETHER AND AT ONCE

Kayla McCaleb, KKΨ-ΛΞ, Southeastern Louisiana University



LEAVING
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As each man strolls along his chosen path, he is bound to encounter the inevitable influence of his fellow man and, once in a while, experience the synchronized heartbeat of a select few who share his unique ideals and inspire him to push towards manifesting his goals into a sustainable reality that can be shared by the rest of the world. As members of a distinctive family of brothers and sisters striving towards greatness, we share the distinction of having found peers to work alongside of us and contribute to the advancement of the state of humanity.

Having only been founded in 2006, The Lambda Xi chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at Southeastern Louisiana University is relatively new to the nearly 96 year history of the Brotherhood. We are slowly but surely working our way out of our toddler years and have experienced only a few minor injuries along the way. Although at times our approaches may differ, we remain steadfast as we strive together towards one goal: service. We constantly work towards maintaining relationships and overcoming unavoidable obstacles that are bound to present themselves whenever such a diverse gang of voyagers converge into one Brotherhood. Throughout the past few years, our journey has not always been free of obstruction, but we are in constant pursuit to push down the barriers that may have served as previous limitations to ensure the future of the Lambda Xi chapter. We are nurturing the seeds that have been carefully planted by the founders of both this Fraternity and our chapter, and we are hopeful to see a future in which our roots



blossom into something bigger than we could have ever imagined. We are sounding our voices, all together and at once, weaving together each of our distinctive strands to create one blanket of service. The following abstraction was created by asking Brothers from the Lambda Xi chapter to contribute one word that came to their mind whenever they thought of "Brotherhood."

We are co-authors in this story and have composed the following:

We are

- Love
- Unity
- Driven
- Service
- Quality
- Family
- Fulfilling
- Ambitious
- Supportive
- Invincible
- Committed
- Brotherhood
- Camaraderie
- Hardworking
- Unconditional
- Unconquerable

Kappa Kappa Psi

UP TIL DAWN

Courtney Jameson, TBΣ-Beta Delta, TX Christian University

At TCU, the Beta Delta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma is a part of something more. Not only do we provide service to our band, but we also partner with other sororities and fraternities on our campus to provide service to our surrounding community. We are involved in our school's Independent Greek Council, or IGC, which is unique to TCU. Within our school's Greek life, there are multiple councils: Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, Panhellenic Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Faith Based Organizations, and IGC. The other fraternities in IGC with us are Beta Upsilon Chi, Kappa Kappa Psi, Eta Iota Sigma, and Phi Mu Alpha. We are all organizations that hold service with great regard in our hearts.



Within IGC, we do various socials and service events. We have had tailgates with other organizations within IGC which helps build relationships with people outside of TBΣ. Each organization has an IGC representative that has certain obligations—they must attend meetings with the other IGC representatives and they also serve at our Fraternity and Sorority Life information desk each week.

Last year, we were a part of a program called "Up 'til Dawn". For this, we had some of our members, along with other members of IGC organizations, participate in an all-nighter that raised money and awareness for St. Jude's Children Hospital. The participants did fundraising before the event where they educated their friends on St. Jude's and what they do to provide for children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. Our members that participated sacrificed a night of sleep in honor of the parents that sacrifice many nights of sleep at the hospital with their sick children.

Being a part of something greater than just ourselves helps us as a chapter see how much we can accomplish when we join forces. IGC provides many opportunities for fellowship with other chapters that otherwise may have nothing in common. We are privileged to be on a campus that has organizations that all care about helping our community, and to be on a campus that has a council to make sure that our organizations are able to communicate with each other and plan events.

*Service
after
DARK*



MAKING THE CHAPTER BETTER FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FUTURE

Madelin Laney, TBE-Delta, University of Oklahoma



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I think everyone can agree that in everything we do there is always room for improvement. This is true for the Delta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. Our sisters strive to improve our chapter and make it better than when they found it. Our chapter success has come from the hard work of our active sisters, and the dedication of the sisters who came before us. We have had some devoted members come through our chapter, and thanks to them we have that foundation to build upon year after year. There are a few practices that ensure the chapter will be improved upon, and Delta strives to accomplish these in order to keep our chapter lively and ever-growing. It is important to create a caring environment so that sisters feel comfortable to share their ideas. Some of our greatest accomplishments and acts of service would not have happened if the idea was not brought to the chapter's attention.

Our chapter has an online comment box, so that members can be honest about issues occurring in chapter. We have found as an exec that when we go over the comments and provide a solution to the problem in chapter, the problem dissipates and comments become fewer and fewer. The chapter needs to know that their input is taken seriously. When presenting a new solution in chapter we say that it has come to our attention that some sisters feel that blank is an issue. To solve this we are going to do blank, and if it does not work we are open to suggestions and will try something else. In the past few years this situation has only occurred a few times and each time goes relatively smoothly and the problem is solved. The issues are farther apart than they have ever been, and I believe that is due to the care and work put in by our chapter. We all have the same goal, to leave the chapter better than we left it so that the next sisters have more to work off of.

Another way we aim to make the chapter better is by valuing each sister and taking the time to let them know they are appreciated. If members do not feel valued then they will not want to be as involved and the sisterhood as a whole would crumble. Tau Beta Sigma is a sisterhood, it is important to emphasize this bond and show that you care about each other. Delta attempts to do this through birthday cards, snaps, and sisterhood retreat. We make birthday cards that are from the whole chapter to each member in the month of their birthday. This seems like a small action, and it is, but it is a way to remind our sisters that they are important. Who doesn't like a card on their birthday? The second way we promote active sisterhood is through "snaps." Snaps are uplifting comments, encouraging notes, or silly jokes written on slips of paper from one sister to another. We pass around the snap cup during chapter and sisters write snaps to each other and put them back in the cup. One of our committees then passes out the snaps after chapter. It is a great way to lift spirits! Our chapter has really taken to this activity; the snap cup is always full by the end of the night. It's such a simple activity, but it makes a difference. Lastly, sisterhood retreat is a great way to promote a loving sisterhood. Our past sergeant at arms planned a sisterhood retreat to give sisters the opportunity to bond and make memories with each other. She set up bonding and team building activities that were a lot of fun and also taught us more about each other and how to effectively work together. This year our current sergeant at arms is planning a retreat, and we are all confident that it will be great!

By creating a caring environment where sisters feel comfortable to be themselves, and promoting and encouraging sisterhood by taking the time to show each other how valued they are, the sisters of the Delta chapter are actively working to make our chapter better than when we found it. There is always room for improvement, and we must constantly work to do our best and improve what we can. This is important not just for the now and for our sakes, but for future sisters and their success. The more we invest in the sisterhood while we are here, the more the next group will be able to accomplish.

JUST A LITTLE LIGHT POLLUTION

Samantha Brandeberry, TBΣ-Psi, University of Arkansas



It is no lie that showers are where I have my best thoughts. Great ideas and solemn reflection are the result of many a relaxing shower. These revelations can happen so suddenly. One evening after chapter meeting, I had a thought I had to share with my brothers and sisters.

Recently, I was sitting in the band hall with a sister and a brother when we spontaneously decided to watch a scary movie together. Of course, a band hall is not the most convenient place to watch a movie that might produce screams of terror. Another band friend offered to let us use his apartment as a cinema. So we got in the car and drove to his apartment. Upon arriving, my sister, brother and I were walking to the apartment and my brother pointed at the sky. "Light pollution," he stated with disgust. We both come from rural areas, so I understood what he meant. The stars cannot be seen. Growing up, the night sky and constellations fascinated me and to this day I am in awe of their beauty.

My sister pulled out her phone to reveal an app that allows the user to see what the night sky looks like beyond the light and air pollution of the city. We watched the screen light up with constellations and sparkling space dust. The app showed us what we could not see with our own eyes and enhanced the night sky view.

It sounds silly, but tonight, I'm viewing sisterhood and brotherhood a lot like that app. As college students, we get bogged down in the struggles of daily life: homework, work, family issues and at the University of Arkansas, parking issues. As sisters and brothers, we get in the routine of service and obligations to our organizations. Often times, we become so used to going through the motions that we forget why it is that we do what we do. Today, looking back on that ordinary evening with members of my TBΣ and KKΨ family, I realized that I personally had let my stress become "light pollution". It was blocking me from seeing the beauty that is being involved



in band and the wonderful service organizations. I am thankful to have wonderful brothers and sisters who take the time to be my star gazing application and remind me what it truly means to be a sister in the bond.

mlitb

FOREVER

Sam Moix, KKΨ-EB, University of Central Arkansas



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When tasked with writing an article for The New ALTO, we found it easiest to convey how we want to improve our chapter, so in the midst of writing paragraphs for a letter that will go out to the fellow brothers of the Southwest District, I asked the active members a question: As a brother, what things would you like to see get done in our chapter and on a District/National level? Of course, each brother had a different answer, and our brothers would like to see different things changed within our chapter.

For myself personally, I feel that our chapter hasn't been recognized on a National or even District level, and as secretary I would love to see that happen. Under previous leadership, we kind of shied away from doing things with other chapters or even our sister chapter of Tau Beta Sigma (but, that was for other reasons). Now, I would like to see that changed, and I would really love to get Epsilon Beta's name out there and get UCA put on a map for doing something really cool. Something like an article in The New ALTO, perhaps. It would be really awesome for us to get out of our shell and have more relations with other chapters and music organizations. Anyway....on with the rest of the brothers and their viewpoints on how we can always strive for the highest and improve our fine chapter. What do you improve and exactly how do you go about doing that? I've organized areas of improvement into groups based on which brothers want to see certain things done.

Interaction and Communication with other Chapters and Music Organizations

Zach Weaver, our Alumni Relations officer, like myself, would like to become "more recognized on a district level." He says he's "very excited that we are sending out this letter to let other chapters get to know us, and I hope it leads to us getting to know all of you better in the near future!" For Chris Adams, our Brotherhood Coordinator, his "biggest thing" is to "make closer bonds not just with our resident sisters but also with every music Greek organization." As far as District is concerned, Chris is "behind all of our president's attempts to get as many district awards as possible." Audrey Baumer, Membership Educator, thinks that "we're moving on a great track so far" and would love to see even more "interaction between the chapters" of our district. Becca Shaw, our Treasurer and only other girl, focuses in on our own relations within the chapter, saying she hopes to "see our chapter grow both in size and in positive relations with ourselves and other chapters." So, a definite key to success for the well-being and strive of Epsilon Beta is to stay in good contact and keep up relations with other music organizations on campus as well as our own chapter and our fellow chapters across the District.

More, More, More!!!

Blake Hanson, our Historian, believes that the most important thing to focus on improving is our size, and getting more members. But for him, it's not just anyone that should be allowed membership, Blake wants "our chapter to welcome more music majors into its ranks." As Membership Educator you would expect that Audrey is also focused on improving our size, and you're correct. She says "I would love to see a large class of perspectives this year in our chapter." I completely agree with her on that one. It would be awesome to see our Ed class go from 6 Prospective Brothers (which it was last spring) to somewhere around 20 or more! When it comes to improvement, having more members would definitely be a lot easier. Right now, we have 10 active brothers and out of those brothers, 9 hold an office. It gets a little overbearing for each of us sometimes when there's so much to do, and so little of us to do it. So membership size is a definite improvement to focus on.

Doing More and Being Happy About it

Many of our brothers believe that we should be doing more as a "National Honorary Band Fraternity." Sean Rast, our eldest member, wants to see more members "attend functions on the district and national level." He says "we always go to District Convention and Area Workshop, but have not had anyone go to National Convention. So I would like more of us [to] attend CLC, National Convention, and other workshops so that our chapter may grow." As a band fraternity, we, the brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi, are tasked with servicing the band program and aiding it in anyway possible, but that shouldn't stop us from doing more and helping the entire music program, and that's what Jake Gatlin, our Sergeant at Arms, would like to see us do. He says "I'd like to see more involvement in our department, not just the band." But how do you do so much stuff with so little time, especially when you are involved in school and other activities as well? Just ask Yessy Lemus, our former Vice President. He wants to see "EB become the type of chapter that everyone in the BMB wants to be a part of; a chapter of proud brothers who are always willing to serve." I think that says a lot about what it means to be a Brother of Kappa Kappa Psi. As we take on more jobs, and as things get harder, be positive about it; make our organization be one that everyone wants to be a member of. But how is the Epsilon Beta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi comparing when it comes to its expectations of improvement? Jared Holt, our president, has the final verdict on that. "As our numbers are finally starting to climb back up, we're at the perfect point to make heavy modifications and make major improvements to our chapter and the way things have been done, and we're already making enormous progress." So, as a message from Epsilon Beta to you, never stop improving and keep striving. As my Big Bro, Jordan Catlett, would always say "Keep on truckin', Lil' Bro."

A DIAMOND IN OUR EYES

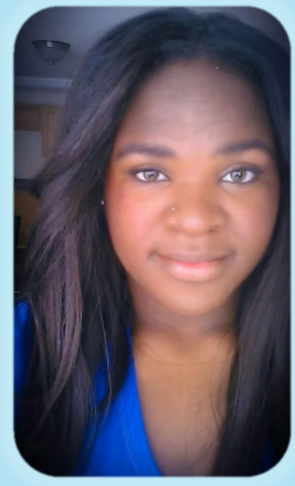
Ashtyn Brooks, TBΣ-Eta Nu, Tarleton State University



Saying goodbye is never easy, especially when it involves losing someone with whom you have an unbreakable bond. Losing a sister was an unimaginable circumstance that the Eta Nu chapter of Tau Beta Sigma experienced on September 1st. On that day, Sade Lowery was killed in a tragic car accident on her way back to Tarleton after spending the weekend with her family. Sade was the embodiment of sisterhood and was a friend to all. She had an incredible passion for music and was a music major at Tarleton. She made everyone she came into contact with feel like they were instant best friends; her very presence lit up a room. Sade was constantly trying to help everyone she could, whether it be with personal issues or just homework. Her legacy was one of kindness and compassion.



The Eta Nu chapter is fairly small, and because of this, we are all extremely close. Losing one of our beloved sisters was a difficult trial for all of us, but we are overcoming it with the support of our band family. In Sade's memory, we are continuing her legacy by establishing a scholarship to help someone else like she did in her life. Sade's nickname in Tau Beta Sigma was Black Diamond, and she definitely sparkled like one. As we go on about our lives, we feel her physical absence, but we know she will always "shine on" in our hearts.



YOUR TIME IS NOW

Brielle Johnson, TBΣ-Psi, Univ. of Ark., New Alto Graphic Designer

This is a tale about two chapters going through a difficult transition: old versus new. The battle seemed ever present when I first entered the Psi chapter on November 11, 2012, and a little before during my process. As a membership candidate, I was required to go on 'trips' with the members of the Lambda Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi and members of the Psi Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma in order to complete a paddle. On these trips, members would get to know us and tell us about their experiences in their respective organization. The enormous difference in opinion between the older members and the newer members of both chapters caught my attention. What some of the older members experienced during their process was quite different than us membership candidates, and therefore their perspective was plenty different, especially regarding traditions that had been the same for years before them. The different perspectives caused many disagreements that were more visible once I was a member. My first semester as a member I spent trying to satisfy the older members with my opinions while still trying to form my own. It was a tough place to be.



My sophomore year I saw a turn for the better. Ashlyn, our current District VPME, was elected to be the VPME for Psi where she brought an idea that changed a mindset of our chapter. I was so honored when she chose me as her assistant because I was ready to help her with the change she wanted to see in our chapter. Psi and Lambda had executed a fall process for several years and it seemed to be tradition. However, Ashlyn and one of the past District VPME's Katie Langley decided to introduce a change that they strongly believed would benefit our chapter. When summer meeting came and it was time to put the process change to a vote, I was just as nervous as Ashlyn. We hoped the chapter would see the reasons behind the proposed change to a spring process. Tension was high during the discussion but after the vote was tallied up, the spring process had been chosen. If the discussion would have happened a year prior, it most likely would have not passed. However, since the younger class believed the change would benefit our chapter, they spoke up and ultimately decided to make their difference. And once that Spring Process had 20 membership candidates with a 100% retention rate, it would seem that it was the best thing to do for the Psi chapter.

In regards to our brother chapter of Lambda, the same change didn't come as easily. Several of them had their opinions about Psi changing to a spring process and they spoke up about their concerns before the results of our process came out as successful. But once again, the happened with the arrival of a new class of brothers. Some of the brothers decided this past year that they wanted to try out a spring process and with the help of their VPME, Hogan Heathington, the Lambda chapter voted to have a spring process. It has been yet to be determined how it will work, as the 2014-2015 school year is the first year of a Spring process for Lambda in several years, but we are all excited to see how it will pan out for them, and hopeful the change will be as successful for them as it was for us sisters.

The moral of this little tale is never to think that your opinion is not as valuable as someone else's. Older members might be wiser but they also do not share the same experiences as you. Older members may have more experience, but newer members have a fresh set of ideas. Newer members might not know the system and the process of how things work, but older members have the wisdom to help guide new members through tough waters. Everyone has an equally valued opinion and deserves to be heard. As seasons change, our chapters need to change with them. If you never attempt to change anything how can you improve your chapter for the better? The tradition of the Fall process was hard to let go of, and along with it came a lot of uncertainty, but new traditions can be created that can benefit your chapter as this one did.

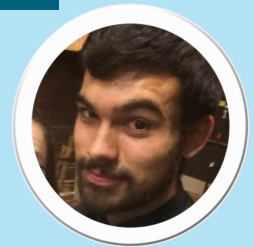


BAND OF BROTHERS

Samuel Almanza, KKΨ-Zeta Gamma, TX Lutheran University



As a chapter of 21 brothers from a band of about 100, which is part of a school of approximately 1300 students, the Zeta Gamma chapter is quite unique among chapters of Kappa Kappa Psi. To our benefit, our University has gone through a tremendous amount of growth in the past few years: inducting a new president in the fall of 2011, establishing itself on top college and best-value lists in the United States, and building our school's own football stadium which held its first on-campus game (after 123 years) in September 2014. What has the Zeta Gamma chapter been doing while our university has seen continued progress and success?



In spring 2012, our chapter introduced five new members into the brotherhood which was approximately one-third of our sister chapter's initiation number. At the time, I was reluctant to be a brother. I didn't quite know what I was getting myself into and my idea of the fraternal life and commitment seemed daunting to me as a young college student. I was close with my initiate class and intimidated by the more experienced brothers, but circumstances presented me an officer position my first year in the chapter. I enjoyed the experience and I quickly became aware of what all went into being a brother of my fraternity and I fit in well. Before we started participating on a district and national level, I never knew there was more beyond what my own chapter was accomplishing.

I would soon attend district convention at Sam Houston State University, participate in the National Intercollegiate Band and attend the National Convention in Springfield, Massachusetts. By these events, I had become incredibly inspired by the grand scope of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma beyond my own chapter. I craved to broaden my chapter's perspective and bring our brotherhood closer to the essence of our fraternity and service to the bands. Leading into my second year as a brother, we introduced an excellent class into our chapter. Many of these new brothers took officer positions, and I was to be their president. Two members of my initiate class filled both vice-president positions and a third filling another officer position. As a reserved and introspective guy, I had never led a thing in my life... and yet I possessed a strong motivation and an equally strong sense of fear.

I quickly realized that the chapter I led would become a reflection of myself. I struggled with our first meetings and became overwhelmed with pressure. There was deadlines I had to meet, meetings I had to run, and if anything didn't come through it was likely because I wasn't organized or present enough to ensure success. The brothers were incredibly supportive throughout the year, but I was still ignorant of all of the success and progress that the chapter enjoyed. We held consistent fundraisers, were active among the community and campus, and even made a strong impression on our young band members. Our initiated class almost doubled the chapter, and yet again, every member was of great quality.

As I realized at the beginning of this semester, marking my second year as president, the previous year laid the groundwork and created a strong foundation for the chapter. As every semester passes, the Zeta Gamma chapter continues to blossom. Throughout my years as a brother I have been constantly growing to become more accountable, an effective communicator, a dedicated worker, and an individual who can commit to a decision and take initiative. This progress is mirrored in the brothers and the chapter that I lead. Each brother is consistently growing, and I consider each moment I spend with them a gift and a significant moment in the legacy of our chapter. I have experienced that, just like in the bands we serve, everyone is integral and each component is equally important. Our sponsor and Director of Bands, Beth Bronk, has conceived a mantra for the semester so far that is representative of our university and band experience: "Everyone matters, or nothing matters."

The Zeta Gamma chapter, in our 43rd year of existence, is soaring with our university's momentum. We have participated in at least one endeavor every week since our semester started. Our collective efforts to learn and excel has increased our presence within our band as well as on our campus and community in Seguin. We are also now zealously pursuing presence at the district and national level. I am confident and proud to claim that we are on our way to striving for the highest! Texas Lutheran University help our chapter instill motivation, accountability, and brotherhood and now we are well-equipped to continue our journey and achieve excellence for all bands and their members.



OUR LEGACY

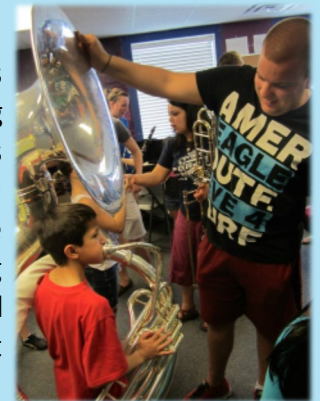
Tyler Bussell, KKΨ-Lambda, University of Arkansas



In the opening scene of Iron Man 2 Tony Stark kicks off the Stark Expo with the phrase: “ Its not about us but what we leave behind.” It's all about leaving behind a legacy. Earlier in the semester, parts of the Lambda chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi and the Psi chapter of Tau Beta Sigma got to participate in Adopt-a- Band. This is a program where we load up in our cars and go play our instruments with a high school band program in need at their football game. Typically the schools are small and do not have a very large band program. The most recent one we all participated in was at Decatur High School. Decatur is an hour away from Fayetteville. Its band members consist of not only high school students but beginning sixth graders as well. Their stadium was not very big and still had wooden bleachers. The field was not astro turf but grass with hand painted yard lines and numbers. This was definitely one of the poorer school districts in North-west Arkansas.



When we arrived we sorted through their files of music, playing various songs like “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”, “Party Rock Anthem”, and their fight song “Victors”. We sight read as we could and ended up being able to play the songs fairly well thanks to years of experience. However it was not until we played some of the traditional songs that the Razorback Marching Band plays that the night came alive. It was amazing to watch not only the students we were playing with, but the crowd and football team faces light up to the sound “Fanfare” and “Swing March”. That night with our cheers, songs, and our love of music we left a legacy with not only the band members but the entire Decatur School District.



The power of music not only infects those who play it but those who listen. That was proven tonight with all the compliments and thank you's we received. The band director was ecstatic and we even had some higher ups of the school district come to thank us for coming. We all walked away from that experience feeling the impact of such a simple night of service that not many of us had considered that big of a deal

It is at these kind of small moments that we impact an entire community and because of that, we have the highest opportunity to leave a legacy. To remember the past and represent the future. That is what Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma are here to do and that is what we do to strive for the highest.

MAKE

YOUR

DIFFERENCE



ADJUSTING TO CHANGE

Danielle Sullivan, KKΨ-Delta, University of Oklahoma



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Discovering ourselves tends to happen to most young adults and collegiate students. That process began when I started my collegiate career at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. After just being initiated into the Gamma Zeta class of the Gamma Phi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi in the spring of 2013, I was ready to serve the college bands. Fall of 2013 (aka this past academic school year) the semester was off to a great start, and I was continuing my Music Education degree.



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Before the fall of 2013, I was diagnosed with Anxiety Disorder, and in the middle of the fall semester, I was diagnosed with Depression Disorder. With these diagnoses beginning to affect my academic success, I began using the Disability Center to help me with my classes.

Marching band was something that really helped me stay physically active, helped me get out of a nap and to support the college bands. Unfortunately, I had a history of miniature heat strokes and dehydration. No matter how much water, Gatorade or even healthy eating I consumed, I still wound up going to the Emergency Room once, or even more than once every season ever since freshman year in High School. After continuing marching band for my sixth season (even with the health conditions at the time), I fought on.

Two emergency room visits within two weeks of each other in mid-September, I consulted a local Doctor, family members, and various SFASU faculty who suggested withdrawing from the University to figure out my health issues so it won't affect my academic success.

On a lovely Thursday afternoon, I attended one of our Brotherhood activities at one of our Brother's apartment complex. While everyone was swimming, I pulled my Big Brother aside to inform her, and thus inform the brothers of Gamma Phi that I have withdrawn from the University, and will be moving to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for further assistance with my medical problems and that I hoped to return to the chapter and the University soon.

Since the past has been given, I can now talk about current developments. In the spring of 2014, I applied and was accepted into the University of Oklahoma, and auditioned for the School of Music, and was accepted. Enrolled in my classes, I was excited to be continuing my journey with Kappa Kappa Psi, except with the Delta chapter here in Norman, Oklahoma. Every thing seemed normal, and then I had to make one more slight change.

After having left the Lumberjack Marching Band in mid-stride, I was preparing for auditioning for the Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band. In the middle of a practice session, I received a phone call from my primary Doctor that due to inconclusive data after multiple doctor visits, examinations, etc. that basically, marching band has put a toll on me, and that parts of my body begin to "shut down" after increased physical activity and heat exposure like Marching Band. I felt my heart break, if that's even possible. The one thing that helps me control my disorders, and getting hyped for College Football was now no longer a coping skill. One week before school, I had to re-evaluate the situation.

What doesn't kill you
makes you stronger

ADJUSTING TO CHANGE

Danielle Sullivan

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While re-evaluating, I was humming parts of Kappa Kappa Psi's Fraternity Hymn. Subconsciously, the lines "I do not know how long 'twill be or what the future holds for me (holds for me)...that I am a Brother of K-K-Psi" was repeated over and over again and that's when I found a temporary solution. I may not be playing with the marching band, but I can still go out and support it.

Being an active brother has become something that pushes me towards accomplishing goals with Brothers, and even with the sisters of Tau Beta Sigma. Ever since my candidate process and even now, every day I begin to understand the impact that the National Honorary Band Fraternity and Sorority has on me, and that I have slowly become a better Brother, musician, and over-all a better person because of the love, learning, and gratitude I have received.

Gamma Phi is still my home chapter, but now Delta is my current chapter. Gamma Phi was supportive with me during some of what I call my "darkest days"; even when I didn't say anything, or even ask. And the same thing goes with the exciting Delta chapter. If you notice in the pictures, that Gamma Phi has about thirty Brothers and that Delta has about sixty. What's it like to go from a medium sized chapter to one of the largest in the South-west?



You might be surprised, but there's actually not much of a difference. When you look at the numbers, (whether its number of actives or money), that yes, there is a difference. Each chapter has its traditions, their meetings, and even their own personalities. But what each individual person brings to the chapter is what really matters most.

If you ever see a Brother, Sister, or even potential candidate going through a rough day, help them out in which ever way you can. They may shrug you off and say things like "I'm okay," "I'm alright," or even my most



popular line, "I can handle this on my own." While some will actually complete what they say they will and come out on top, while others (like me, for example) will survive much better with the warmth and encouragement of a Brother and or a Sister, consider helping fellow students catch up on late work, graduate college with a degree, and being a stress reliever. In truth, everyone needs to support each other with friendship, and even devoting time to listen.

WORKING TOWARDS GROWTH

David Lutz, TBΣ-Alpha, Oklahoma State University



Being a senior this year, I have caught myself reflecting on an old Greek proverb. It states that a society grows when old men plant trees whose shade they will never sit in. In my reflections, I think back to the classes that preceded mine and alumnus whom have since moved on with their lives. These members planted many things in their time and our chapter is regularly finding itself enjoying the trees planted from the past. However, we have isolated three areas in which our chapter needs to make a concerted effort to improve, including communication, membership education, and service. With this article, I hope to share what I have drawn from my experiences planting trees with my brothers and sisters with the hope that someday your chapter may find itself in the shade.

To begin, communication has been the foundation upon which much of our growth has been built. Whether it is fostering an open platform for discussion or sharing vital information about upcoming events, communication impacts everything we do. By improving our means of communication, we hope to prevent conflict and ensure smooth execution of our projects. On the surface, those seem fairly abstract as far as goals go. However, by working as a chapter and as individuals with the goal of improving communication, a lot of the smaller conflicts that tend to slow us down seem to disappear. An example of this can be utilizing technology (Facebook, GroupMe, and my personal favorite: Doodle) to relay details about a service project or to promote an event, but it does not end there. When there is an open discussion, it is important not only that people participate, but also that they are encouraged to participate openly and without reservations. Dissent, contrary to popular opinion, is a good thing and has helped us find better ways of working together.

Aside from communication, our membership education program has seen huge changes since I was a freshman. The first, and probably most influential, change has been the development of our MEP and our renewed enthusiasm for the whole process. Every year, we begin with a retreat to hash out all of the details of the process and explain how it works for the new members. This retreat also serves as a workshop where we address having a good attitude, participate in team building activities, and review the alcohol and hazing policies. This may seem tedious (and it can be) but the fruits of our labors have been evident. Of my original candidate class, only two out of six members were retained. The next year, with a new MEP, we retained six members of nine. Last year, I was granted the honor of being our chapter's Membership Educator and we revised it further. When everything was said and done, we had retained eight out of ten membership candidates! This year we have a new membership educator who is doing a fantastic job of maintaining the enthusiasm and I am excited to see what she can do with the program this year. Beyond just the numbers, we have found these to be high quality members. They all maintain a very active role in chapter activities and it has led us to have a very involved group of young officers. It is exciting to see what these members are contributing now and it blows my mind to think of what they will accomplish later.

The final way in which we have been working to improve is service. It is easy for a chapter to make itself about fundraising, recruiting, and going to conventions while participating in nominal amounts of service. Our solution to this has been all about ditching complacent attitudes about service and taking a proactive approach. Last year, this started with national programs. These programs are fantastic and easy ways to get your chapter to work. This year, we have made it our goal to participate in as many as possible and get our chapter on course to set a standard to which future years may look.

To conclude, over the past few years, our chapter has been planting seeds that we are just now starting to benefit from. I hope to continue this tradition of planting seeds for future generations and I hope that you and your chapter can experience growth as well.



DEALING WITH DIFFICULT DAYS

Sarah Bogue, TBE-Psi, University of Arkansas, New Alto Lead Writer

Recently, I have noticed an ongoing struggle. I have noticed that it has become difficult to show love towards our brothers and sisters on a daily basis. I have a favorite quote that says, "service is love made visible". Since we are all participants and members of organizations centered on service, how can we consistently show our love towards one another through our actions?



Last year at the Oklahoma Area Workshop, we did an exercise in which we posted anonymously and spoke to our group about things that made us feel valued or devalued. It struck me that brothers and sisters were still (even after the wonderful workshop) avoiding confronting those who would tease them in a way that affected their self-esteem. All it takes is voicing that something bothers me. Why shouldn't I tell those I love when something gets under my skin? Devaluing others is most likely accidental in most social situations I've seen lately. A silly nickname takes a wrong turn or a misunderstood side comment can cause a rift. These things should never be allowed to cause irritation to escalate to real problems within friendships and chapters.

There are the typical reasons such as "I'm in a bad mood", "I had a bad day", "I'm having a bad semester", "They're just so easy to pick on", "They never tell me I need to stop teasing them because it's not funny" and the list goes on. These are excuses. Each one includes the word "I" or some sort of blame on others. It's time to take responsibility. I will not treat my brothers and sisters (blood or chosen) with disrespect. I refuse from now on to cause someone to feel devalued.



Watching what we say, treating others as we want to be treated, and generally attempting to notice when others need assistance or a smile are all things we were taught from kindergarten all throughout school. Those kindergarten teachers knew what they were talking about and the best people I know are the ones who have all these qualities.

My day is bad? So what! Never an excuse to hurt others. I can attempt to be cheered when my cheerful sisters lovingly make a joke to make my day better. My effort and my choice make others' actions effective. I can choose since I have the power over my thoughts, words, and actions. I have the power to affect how I feel and react towards others. I have the power to change my attitude and the way I love others.

A cheerfulness
and at ALL times
under circumstances



LEADERSHIP AFTER MARCHING SEASON

Ben Underbrink, KKΨ-Zeta Kappa, TX A&M Commerce



Leadership After Marching Season

Many leadership concepts from marching season can be applied to concert season to facilitate more productive and enjoyable rehearsals. Concert season has its own unique opportunities and challenges to grow as both a musician and as a leader, and the growth during the spring will certainly inspire new ideas and improvements in the marching band setting. By working to become more efficient in rehearsal and taking personal responsibility for our music, we create a stronger culture and better express the details of our music to audiences.

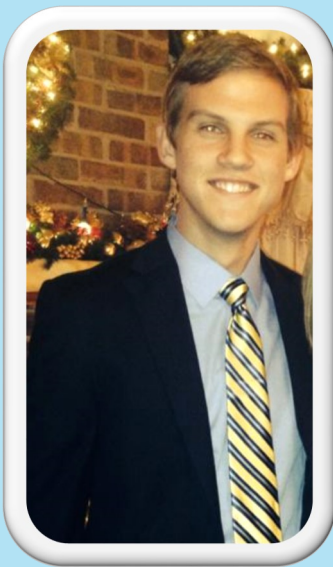
PRE-REHEARSAL

Teacher/Student Relationship

Keep an open relationship with your director so that you can exchange ideas about rehearsal priorities. Ask your conductor what they plan to work on in the next rehearsal and prepare accordingly. Identify principal players and work together to make decisions about the music in advance so a defining style is heard consistently. Support other leaders and even collaborate beforehand in dedicated meetings to facilitate successful rehearsals.

Taking the Initiative

Rehearsal time is used for learning your role within the ensemble. Listen to recordings and determine the phrasing and interpretation you wish to incorporate. Know the meanings of musical terms and be prepared to identify them for others. Be an example of musical excellence by consistently preparing for rehearsal and contributing to the work ethic that will define the group's success.



Stay organized by sending out a message an hour before rehearsals or sectionals to all members of your section. If they don't respond within 30 minutes, give them a call. Bring additional reeds, valve oil, pencils, and other supplies to cover your section. This gives you credibility as someone who is eager to get the most out of rehearsal.

Make yourself available to collaborate with other players on their music and share ideas. Help others with their music and arrive to rehearsal prepared on the material. Prac-



Be the **example**

LEADERSHIP AFTER MARCHING SEASON

Sam Park, Ben Underbrink



DURING REHEARSAL

Leading Your Section

Principal players are responsible for modeling rehearsal procedures and providing an example of how the music should be approached. Be consistent with your routine and bridge the gap between the director and your section.

Section members should emulate the principal player's interpretations of the articulation, dynamics and phrasing. When unsure about stylistic markings or anything unfamiliar, rather than asking a question, make a decision with the section and exemplify the change. Then let your decision be heard through the group consensus. The director will take notice and voice any necessary comments.

Active Listening

3 Levels of Listening

1. Yourself
2. Your section
3. The band



Lead
your
section

Know the inherent difficulties of each level and work to minimize discrepancies between what you audiate (hear in your head) and what everyone else hears.

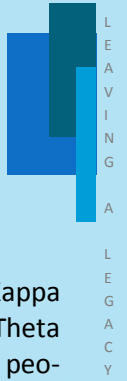
Listen across the band for similar material in other sections. Stay mentally engaged when a director is working with another section by fingering along and audiating your part to eliminate the need to re-teach. Use this time productively by addressing a different spot quietly with your section or sharing a comment while being respectful of the director's current obligation. There's no need for an educator to correct a problem that was already addressed. It is the student's responsibility to uphold proper rehearsal etiquette and go beyond what is presented.

Model active engagement by sitting forward in your chair and asking thought provoking questions. If you know the answer when your director questions the group, raise your hand. Model enthusiasm for having answers. Constantly look for more than is given and anticipate what is coming next. Ask yourself where the educator is going and work to get there first.



ALUMNI LIFE

Kat Howell, TBΣ-Life Member, KKΨ-Honorary



The Alumni life can be frustrating and difficult to navigate for members of Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi. I speak as an Alumni who was extremely active during my time with my home chapter, the Theta Theta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. The transition to having no official obligations, no vote, and none of the people who have been with you every step of the way for the past 2-4 years can be frustrating. Yet, there are still so many ways to stay involved and continue serving the bands (and give you an excuse to keep wearing your letters!).



After my graduation from Henderson State University, I found full-time employment with Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX (we just call it Nac). At this time, Nac has been my “home” for just under two years, and I have been SO thankful for my new family members. The Beta Zeta Chapter of TBΣ and the Gamma Phi Chapter of KKΨ have taken me in as their own, despite my self-proclaimed “creeper status.” The individuals in these Chapters work extremely hard, care for each other and their band immensely, and strive to be the very best that they can on a daily basis, and for that, they deserve a shoutout!



BZ quickly welcomed me in and invited me to numerous events, rituals, and fundraisers. I was happy to attend, because I didn’t want to fall out of the band and TBΣ world. I may not have been an active member in this chapter, but now as a participant and front-row viewer of their activities and as an Honorary member of their wonderful chapter, I am pleased to call SFA and BZ my second-home. I have seen the ladies and gentlemen in this group perform highway cleanups every semester, serve the band in literally any way that they could, and approach situations in a respectful and service-mindedness that makes any outsider want to be the best that they possibly can.

I would be remiss if I did not also talk about their KKΨ counterpart, the Gamma Phi Chapter, and their acceptance of my creeper-status. This chapter has fun, no matter what they are doing or who they are with – they will always bring a smile to my face. Their service to the band, campus, and community combined with their phenomenal sense of brotherhood is unparalleled. Because I am also an Honorary member of the Southwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi, I have the distinct pleasure to attend rituals and meetings with this hardworking and dedicated group.



Where I could have easily retreated into myself and been a lonely alumni, these chapters have welcomed me warmly and provided a safe environment which allows me to continue meeting new Sisters and Brothers and to serve the bands. For all these reasons and many more, I say “Axe ‘em, Jacks!” to the Beta Zeta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma and the Gamma Phi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi – “Y’all are the REAL MVPs!”

Other opportunities for Alumni to stay involved in the organizations on the district level include attending SWD AA meet ups across the district, attending Area Workshops in the spring, and attending SWD Convention! As an extroverted travel-enthusiast, I try to attend these opportunities to meet up with old friends and create new friendships In The Bond

Keep the internal fire going strong

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Ashlyn Kubacak, TBE-Psi, University of Arkansas, SWD VPME

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As a college student, it is extremely difficult to balance our responsibilities. You are expected to take a certain number of classes and do well in all of these classes. If you are in band, there are football games and other musical events to attend. Short on money? Include a part-time job and make enough to pay for those living expenses. Oh wait! Do not forget, you need to build your résumé! The best way to do that is to volunteer and be involved in different organizations on campus and in the community. Remember that it is also recommended to get at least eight hours of sleep.



How in the world can we do all of this?! Is it even possible? On top of all of these expectations, we personally want to make a difference and leave a legacy on our campuses. I struggled with the idea of "Leaving a Legacy" until recently. How could I make a difference in someone else's life when I am already struggling to balance my own life? This past summer, I learned how you could easily make a difference in your community and on campus.

The secret is to make a difference in at least one person's life every single day. It may not seem like much, but it could be very impacting for that person. During finals week, buy a friend their favorite drink from a local coffee shop. During a stressful day, pick them up some dinner. Maybe you can't afford to buy a meal or coffee? A simple smile or friendly conversation can mean the world to somebody. Ask that friend about their day and focus on what they have to say. If



you can make at least one person feel valued each day, you are already making an impact. Give your band director or sponsor a thank you letter expressing your appreciation for all of their hard work. Bring cupcakes or other baked goods to share with your sisters or brothers during chapter. These random acts of kindness make the difference in monotonous daily life.



Yes, it is difficult to balance the responsibilities of college life. You are expected to do so much, and the to-do lists continually lengthen. Yet, by doing one simple act of kindness every day, you can cross out one thing on the to-do list. The kindness shared impacts the world around you and marks your legacy as a student.



MAKE YOUR MARK

JOINT RELATIONS, FUNDRAISING & TRADITIONS

Dylan Charrin, KKΨ-Beta Sigma, University of Houston

Each school year brings a list of new challenges and goals for each chapter to accomplish. We often, as brothers and sisters, look at these goals and see a long list of goals not necessarily related to each other. However, many of the goals that we have for our chapter can be achieved at the same time and we don't realize it. Two goals that seem very different and are typically at the top of the list is improving joint relations and fundraising. What happens too often though is that we fail to realize these two goals can be completed at the same time!



Fundraisers can be turned into a enjoyable event that can incorporate both brothers and sisters. But how do we accomplish this? You have to begin by thinking of fundraisers that can engage both brothers and sisters. This can include spirit days/nights at local restaurants, where you can bond with brothers and sisters over a meal and also receive a percentage of the profits for both chapters. This type of event is even more successful if you invite your friends at the university, including those outside of the music community! Don't limit your fundraisers to your music friends; make sure to advertise to everyone you know. The more people know about your event, the more likely you are to raise more money. Working with your brother or sister chapter outside of the daily service to the band program allows you to see how that chapter works toward their goals. A lot of the time we can learn new and better ideas from observing our brother/sister chapters.

As with the theme of this edition of the New ALTO, joint fundraisers can lead to joint traditions. At the University of Houston, we have a great tradition called "Red & Blue Week" that is held in the final weeks of the school year. Throughout this week, we have different events such as kickball, singing, and a BBQ. This year, the combined music fraternities and sororities decided to add a joint fundraiser where we raised funds to purchase new music stands for our music school (I think we can all agree that there can never be enough music stands). Remember not all fundraisers have to benefit our own organization; we can do fundraisers for our band programs or music programs in the community. All the organizations participating donated baked goods, a snow cone machine, and cooked hot dogs out in the courtyard. With the funds raised, we were able to purchase music stands for our school that were desperately needed.

When trying to organize joint events, remember that communication is key to making it happen. It is best to have a selected officer of each organization work together to coordinate all the details. We found this was the best way to communicate, as it is nearly impossible to gather all everybody in each organization to meet together at the same time. Then have all the officers report back to their respective organizations so that the details of the event can be communicated to the entire chapter.

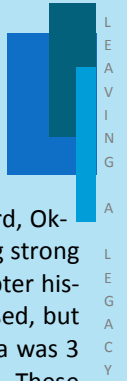
Remember the goal of joint relations is to improve the relations. Whatever you decide for your organization, work hard and do your best and the results will be positive!



*Funding for
your* **FUTURE**

MY-NOT-SO UNIQUE CHAPTER

Tyler Gorshing, TBΣ-Gamma Phi, SWOSU, SWD Sec/Treas



I come from a chapter that you may have heard of. We are at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma. We are involved at the district level. Have grown to a pretty good size. We are Gamma Phi. We might be going strong now, but we haven't always been this great. When I rushed, we were emerging from a kind of dark period in our chapter history, and only recently has it ended. A few years before I rushed, Gamma Phi was small and weak. We almost collapsed, but we made a comeback, and this is the story I want to share. In fall of 2009, the Gamma Phi chapter of Tau Beta Sigma was 3 people with almost no money in the bank. This was just after a scandal with a former treasurer and other such drama. These issues are completely avoidable with the proper procedures. This was not a good time for Gamma Phi, and the membership had a very tough decision to make. The director of bands pulled all three members into his office one day. He laid out things very clearly for the chapter, and said he expressed that he thought it was best if they let the chapter fold and joined Kappa Kappa Psi as associate members. He didn't see anyway that the chapter could recover from such trauma. This is when the chapter decided that they couldn't give up. There was no way.



They loved Tau Beta Sigma, and they loved Gamma Phi. They couldn't give up on what they loved. They worked hard the remainder of the semester on fundraising and recruitment. They were able to hold some successful fundraisers, and in the spring of 2010, the chapter of three had a class of four! This was very exciting for the chapter. Not only had they raised funds, but they also increased membership by more than a factor of two! This proved that Gamma Phi was not going to end, but there was still more work to do. For the spring and fall of 2010, the chapter needed to work on increasing their service output. Now that they had more members and money, it was time to focus on the purposes of the organization, but the recruitment and fundraising couldn't end. There was a lot the chapter had to do, and with their membership of six, they were well on their way up in the world.

They continued to show improvement as time went by. In spring of 2011, my class of four had arrived! This was another big achievement for the chapter because my class had three boys. We were the first boys the chapter had seen in a very long time, but as we were continuing to grow in numbers and serve the band, we didn't feel special. We didn't feel like we were going to be a great chapter. We still felt like we were just trying to survive until we got some outside motivation.

At the very end of my rush process, we had some very important visitors from the Psi Chapter come visit our chapter. They were Brynn Jones who was the President of the Southwest District and Katie Langley who would go on to become the Vice-President of Member for the Southwest District. They had come for my class's third and final Degree, but just getting to know them would have a lasting effect on the Gamma Phi Chapter. We realized that we were special. We realized that even though we had, just a few years previous, been extremely close to folding, we could amount to something great. This gave everyone newer and stronger motivation.

We worked harder than we had ever worked. We took on projects we had previously thought were too big for us. We became incredibly ambitious, and it paid off. In the spring of 2012, our chapter of nine had a class of nine! This was the biggest class the chapter had seen in a very long time, and it showed us how great we had become. We recruited. We fundraised. We served. By this time, we weren't the only ones who saw our hard work either, and it was in this year of 2012 we won The Patsy Drury Heil Outstanding Chapter Award. We knew that our recovery had ended. We were once again a great chapter.

So, why am I calling this article "My Not-So-Unique Chapter"? This sounds like an incredible story, right? How can a chapter going from almost folding to winning such a prestigious award in only a matter of three years? We did it with hard work and dedication; we did it with perseverance and collaboration, but these aren't qualities that make us special. Every sister in Tau Beta Sigma has these qualities. We wouldn't have gotten a bid for membership if we didn't possess these traits. What we did as a chapter is entirely possible for any chapter or individual in this incredible organization.

I'm a district officer now, and I see chapters of all different sizes and backgrounds. I even see chapters that are struggling just as Gamma Phi was not too long ago, and when I look at those chapters, I see an incredible amount of potential. I know they can work hard to pull through. If your chapter is small and struggling, you can pull through too. It takes work and effort, but you can do it too.



FLOATING “PSI” HIGH

Austin Bordelon, KKΨ-Beta Gamma, LSU, SWD CoMAL



Putting that Post-Convention Determination to Use

If you are in Kappa Kappa Psi, imagine it is Sunday morning and convention has concluded; if you are in Tau Beta Sigma, imagine it is Sunday afternoon and convention has FINALLY concluded. You look around at your brothers and sisters, most of whom are probably asleep, and reflect on your amazing time at convention. However, you can't shake the feeling that something is missing, and you realize the empty feeling comes from the fact that your chapter did not receive recognition at convention. You're happy with your brotherhood or sisterhood, but you can't help but think that maybe your chapter could be doing more. The next day, you approach your chapter president or president-elect and say, "I have a ton of ideas for us to try next year so that we can win a district award!" Your president is excited, you are excited, and then the next school year arrives. All of your drive and momentum has evaporated, left behind at the beach or at your summer job. Then, by some strange miracle, the drive returns after winter break. You begin to look at applications for district and national awards, and you realize there are many applications that incorporate a lot of work and activities that your chapter did not accomplish. Now you are disappointed, and it's too late to do anything about it now.

It's very easy to avoid this scenario. If you want to be successful at convention, it's important to realize that a successful convention is about more than winning awards. It's about building brotherhood and sisterhood and collaborative connections with the brotherhood sisterhood on a district-wide scale. It's about learning from other chapters, district officers, and national council members about how to be a better brother and how to build a better chapter. District convention should not be perceived as a receptacle for D. O. Wiley applications. Ironically, this mindset is what will continue to keep your chapter from winning said award. Attend convention with the fullest intention of learning how to improve your chapter, and the awards will come in due time.

In order to tackle the overwhelming mountain that is the district awards, it is important to look at the applications early! There are many district awards that require a lot of effort and planning—more than what your average chapter can accomplish in one semester. There are also national awards and programs that reflect only one semester of chapter activity. Applying for these awards are easy points for district awards. Now that we have evaluated this mountain, you need someone in your chapter to help you climb this mountain and eventually reach the top. They should be reviewing application requirements and planning when and how your chapter can complete said requirements. If this is the first time your chapter has ever endeavored to complete numerous award applications, do not expect a clean sweep. Apply for the awards you firmly believe your chapter is qualified to win, and even if your endeavor is not successful, do not be disheartened. A chapter's success is not measured by the amount of trophies sitting on a shelf. Applying for awards is an opportunity to evaluate your chapter's operations and activities. "Is what we are doing fulfilling our purposes? Could we be better?" Your answers to these questions determine whether you are ready to compete.



HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sami Belford, TBΣ-Psi, University of Arkansas, SWD VPSP



One of the great things I love about being a sister in Tau Beta Sigma is the opportunity and ability to make a massive difference in the lives of others. The smallest of actions can cause a huge ripple effect. One Friday morning, I walked into the band hall. The week had been rough, I'm not going to sugar coat it. I already had my fair share of break downs and frustrations and frankly, I was done with that week. My mood was foul, my spirits crushed, and I thought there was absolutely nothing that could lift my chin. "Sami, you have a note at the office," someone informed me. Great, I thought. I'm probably getting chewed out for something else. I walk over and see that there is a small, blue box and a bright card taped to the top with my name on it. Confused, I picked it up and looked at it. There was a bright blue turtle necklace in the box. Surely this can't be for me. I opened the card and read:

*Sami,
Hello and welcome to Turtle Trinkets. It is my anonymous way to tell my sisters how much I appreciate them and hopefully brighten your day. This turtle necklace was perfect (it's even your favorite color!) so I thought you should have it. Hopefully you will wear it as a symbol of sisterly love, and remember that even when it feels like the whole world is against you, someone, somewhere is cheering you on. Have a beautiful day.
MLITB + MOTS,
From a sister*



I was stunned. Someone in my chapter took the time to put this together for me. Someone who even knows my favorite color is blue! I teared up and smiled because this small act had made such a huge impact on me. So because of this sister, I wanted to write a small guide to how each of us can make a difference in other people's lives. Whether a grand gesture or something as simple as leaving a sister's favorite soda and candy near their instrument case after band rehearsal, don't be afraid to go a little out of your way to make a difference in the lives of others.

1. *Find a need. Find someone or something that you have the capability to help. Reach out to local high schools, ask your band director, keep your eyes open to sisters in your chapter who may need a friend. Look out for opportunities large and small and find a need that needs to be filled.*
2. *Make a plan. Whatever the need may be, start with a plan. Figure out what you can do to lessen the need by preparing some goals to accomplish. Keep a timeline to see the progress already made.*
3. *Recruit others to help. Find sisters who would be willing to help you out. Start working with other leaders to help start the service project (band directors, office staff, alumni). There are others in your chapter that would love to help make a difference and impact the lives of others. So include your chapter. Make the difference bigger than just yourself.*
4. *Carry out your plan. Go! Do what it is you said you would do. Bring others along, take pictures, and enjoy the memories. Play in at a high school football and have a blast showing younger students what band is really all about. Make a homemade dinner for a sister who is missing home and show them that they are cared for. Finish the path you have started strongly.*
5. *Follow up. Check on the need. Did you eliminate it? Did you alleviate it? Is there something more you can do to help tie up loose ends? Can you help create new connections? Try including this in your chapter's history, so future chapters can be involved too.*

MAKING THE TOUGH DECISIONS

Graham Delafield, KKΨ-Delta, Univ. of Oklahoma, SWD VP

The Southwest District is home to some of the oldest and most storied chapters of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. Every chapter, rich in tradition and personality, is made individual by the times when they are forced to overcome obstacles. These moments, weeks, semesters, or even years, when a chapter must repeatedly make tough decisions are the times that define a chapter and makes each one truly unique.

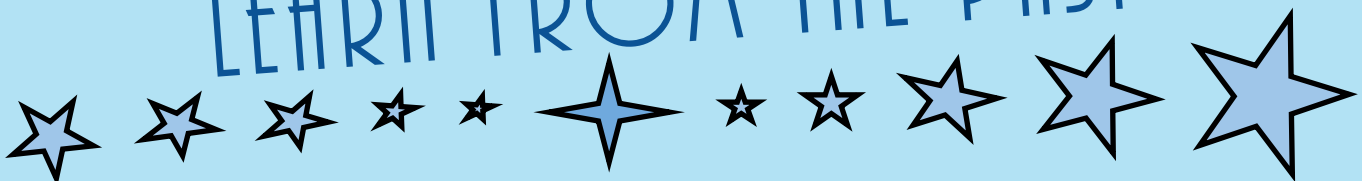
When I came into the fraternity in the spring of 2012, I was just young and naïve enough to think that the way the chapter was currently is the way the chapter had always been. We were blessed with outstanding sponsors, a supportive Director of Bands, unparalleled student leadership, and a sense of overall confidence in ourselves. Who wouldn't want to think that was the norm? Over time, I learned on my own the types of growing pains the Delta chapter had experienced; it certainly broadened my understanding and appreciation of this place that I now called home. At one chapter meeting during our homecoming week, several alumni from the 1980s and 1990s joined us. It was this night when my most eye opening experience came.



Now, if you ever have the chance to hear from former members of your chapter that are decades removed, I highly encourage it. Learning what being in the fraternity was like in the past is always...interesting, to say the least. During this night when I listened to a past chapter president from the early 1990s, he told us of a time when the Delta chapter was not in a good place. Membership had dwindled to about eight or nine guys whom all seemed to be in it for the social aspect, the chapter was not involved, they didn't like the direction of the Southwest District, and the likelihood of the chapter continuing on much longer seemed to be diminishing. This past president told us that it would have been so easy to just let the chapter drift into inactivity and discontinue their already minimal activities. So the chapter was faced with a tough decision: quit, or do a complete overhaul of the Delta chapter to make it better for the years to come. It may sound like an obvious decision, but understand the level of effort the members of the Delta chapter would have to put forth in order to change. Everything from the way they ran chapter meetings to the way they recruited to the way they carried themselves within the fraternity had to be redone. The decision of these men to turn their chapter around was a defining moment in our chapter history that laid the foundation for where the chapter is today.

At your home chapter, you may feel as if you will never be placed in a position where you are called to make a tough decision. Or, maybe you are going through some tough decisions right now. Whatever the case may be, it is imperative to realize that these times of unease and doubt are the times that define us as individual chapters. These are the moments that have made it possible to lay the groundwork for more stability as the chapter moves forward. We must not be afraid to make tough decisions and shying away from what is difficult. The efforts we make for our chapters and our sorority or fraternity during the tough times will result in a better, more successful tomorrow. Recognize and appreciate the times when your chapter decides to strive for the highest. In these decisions we display our endurance and commitment to better our chapters and organizations.

LEARN FROM THE PAST



A LETTER FROM ERIC

Eric Barnett, KKΨ-Lambda, University of Arkansas, SWD CoMAL

Brothers and Sisters of the Southwest District,

Focusing on your future ensures that the legacy you leave will not be forgotten. Speaking in a lecture, Eric Thomas said that “if you get to the point where you want to be successful as bad as you want to live, then you will be successful.” I challenge each of you to strive for your highest as you move through this academic year. I believe we are often caught looking at past achievements and failures looking to improve from the foundation we have set for ourselves. If you look to a flawed foundation, the structure you will build will likely reflect the lackadaisical effort evident in the foundation. However, sometimes we look at the strong foundation that has been built and forget that without a building, the foundation serves no purpose. Whether you must create a stronger foundation or begin building an ornate structure on an already stable foundation, we must look past the groundwork that has already been laid and pursue the creation of an impressive structure.



Building an ornate structure will take sacrifice. As Thomas says, “you must be able to at any moment sacrifice what you are for what you will become.” As a whole, we often look at the blueprints to build our ornate structures, but fail to consider the cost. We make plans to become the best we can be, but fail in making the sacrifices to achieve our goals. In pursuance of your goals, you must make daily sacrifices to accomplish the tasks at hand.

We all know sacrifices are not comfortable. Sacrifice requires a cost and sometimes that will include something a little painful. Remember however, that “pain is temporary; it may last for a minute, or an hour, or a day, or even a year, but eventually it will subside and something else will take its place. If I quit however, it will last forever” (Thomas). If you want build a phenomenal structure sacrificing your desires will be necessary, but the outcome will justify the pain it took to get you there.



Remember that a diligent effort and small sacrifices will ensure you can succeed at anything you set your heart and mind to. “Give it everything you’ve got...stop being afraid...because once you get there I guarantee you the world is yours” (Thomas). I implore you all to find worthwhile projects and constantly pursue them in a steadfast manner as laid out in our ideals and purposes. Thank you all for everything you do to further our organizations.

**STRIVE
FOR
THE
HIGHEST**

AND NOW, FOR A LESSON IN RHYTHM MANAGEMENT

Erika Pope, TBΣ SWD Counselor



Greetings from the back of the band room, the high rise pedestal in the middle of a concert stage (That sometimes exists only in a sense that is both imaginary and self imposed...), the part of the stage that's like a dead zone for the smart phone cameras of adoring fans, the rightful place for the guardians of time...hello from the drummer's throne!

As you can imagine, being a percussionist has meant experiencing life through beats and rhythms. You have a tendency to find the backbeat in all things whether it is the sound an old washing machine might make during the spin cycle or the steady "pitter patter"--the heartbeat of a loved one makes as you hold them close to you. Though music can be written out for you, there's something very liberating about knowing that you can change it just a bit. This concept is best demonstrated by a skillful improvisational drummer.



The improv drummer first and foremost knows how to keep time for the ensemble and knows how to both give and take when playing with other musicians. She or he knows that sometimes they will be the star and sometimes they'll play a part into making someone else famous. The mission is always to play good music and to cultivate a lasting relationship with the audience they are performing for. They are not afraid to take risks; they acknowledge that beats are not always **set in stone**, but they know when to take risks and when to play it safe. They have an innate ability to think ahead. "And Now, for a Lesson in Rhythm Management..." Some of you probably never imagined that you could add "time keeping" to your list of talents, but what it all



boils down to is that you are the time keeper for your life. Being a part of Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi, we are then the time keepers for our bands.

Like the improv drummer, sometimes we'll be the stars. But most of the time, our band service will be the backbeat that keeps our bands moving forward. Cultivating a healthy relationship with the bands that we serve is important for the life of the band and the life of our organizations. Without one, the other would be unnecessary. As organizations we should always be asking if we are in rhythm with the needs of the band and if we are not, how can we get back to proper time keeping? As in life, the rhythm of your decisions can affect many things along the way: "should I play the hi-hat such as going to a party or could I use more cowbell like studying for my core classes? Should I kick bass on an internship on beat one or should I rest on one and spend some time with my loved ones?" There will be times that the rhythm you choose will be a "fat beat," that really drives the song--your life's goals--and there will be other moments that may leave it lying flat--no real excitement. As the timekeepers, it is up to us to decide what the bands will need.



Play to the Beat of your Band

THE RACE TO LEXINGTON

Brandon Fischer, KKΨ-ZK, TX A&M Commerce, SWD President

National Convention can be one of the most rewarding events that you can be a part of during your active time in Kappa Kappa Psi or Tau Beta Sigma. It is very important that the Southwest District sends a delegate for every Chapter, so that each vote is accounted for. It is also an opportunity for members to gain leadership skills that can be taken back and applied at their home Chapters. In order to have a safe, fun, and successful trip, it will take planning.



Now is the time to start planning for National Convention, because if you wait too long then it can come across as a daunting and overwhelming task. You should start with creating a plan that will show you how much money needs to be raised. While looking into expenses you should consider lodging, travel, the registration fee, and food.

Once you have come up with a National Convention cost breakdown, you need to be able to justify the trip to anyone. This can be done by relating it back to the four pillars of our organizations; leadership, musicianship, service, and Brotherhood/Sisterhood. Once you are able to justify the trip, you will be better able to have successful fundraisers. Every Chapter should also look for funding with their department, administration, and alumni. The more prepared you are in your presentation of the trip, and the better you can justify it, then the more likely you will be to receive assistance in funding.



If you are still having trouble acquiring the accurate amount of funds to attend National Convention, then you should reach out to your District. There are funds available to send delegates to National Convention, and the Chapters that have done the proper and necessary amount of work in preparation ahead of time are more likely to receive it. The time to start planning is now, and every Chapter should do their very best to make sure that ALL of the Southwest District is represented well at National Convention. See you in Lexington!

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2015



THE UNIQUE SWD TBSIGMA COUNCIL

Christy McKinney, TBE-Δ, OU, SWD President



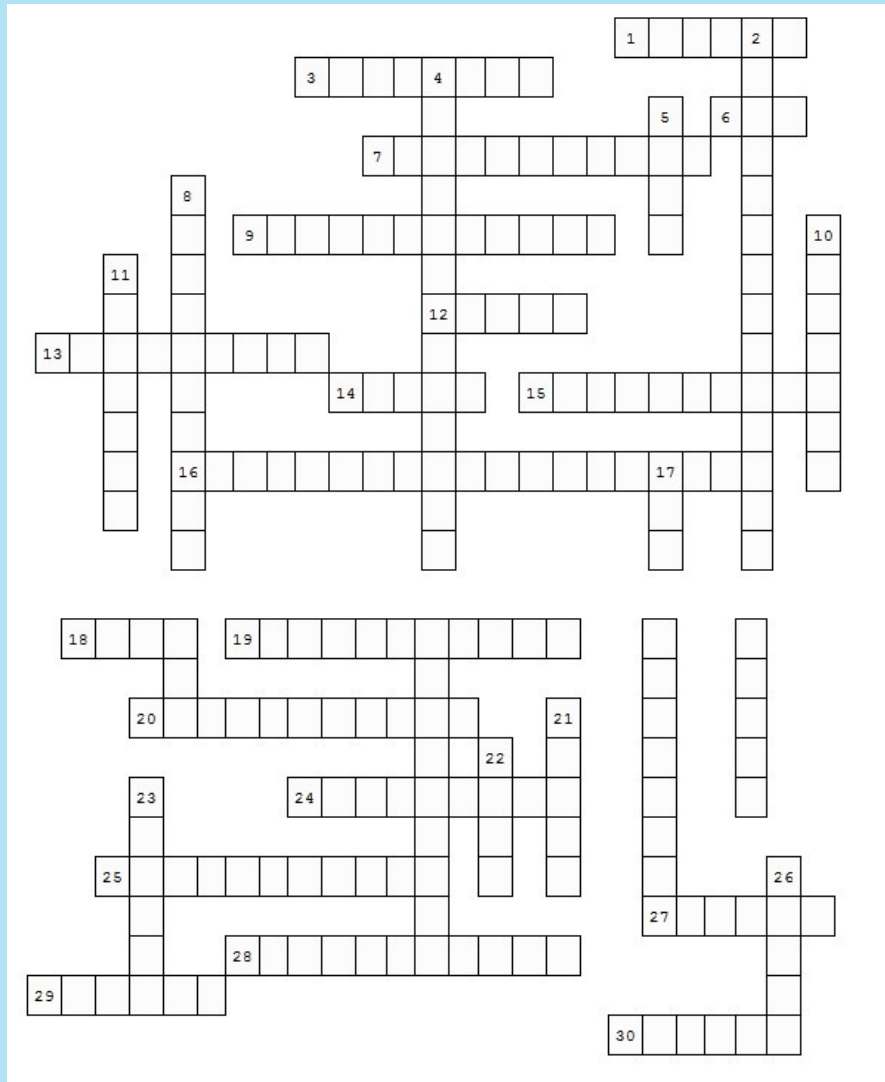
The SWD Council of Tau Beta Sigma is Leaving its Legacy through the unique members that make it up. See if you can guess which ways the 2014-2015 District Council stands out. First 4 people to email SWDPres@tbsigma.org with the completed puzzle will receive a special prize.

Down

2. Christy is planning this event that brings the entire district together once a year (2 words)
4. What school is the 2015 District Convention being held? (3 words)
5. Sami recreated this source for members to read articles written by the District Council
8. What National campaign for programs launched in September? (3 words)
10. Christy is has this job position where she makes endless mochas and pumpkin spice lattes
11. First name of the SWD President
17. What chapter is Erika from? (2 words)
21. First name of the SWD Counselor
22. Erika served at this position that has had a name change and that handles new additions to our organization while on the SWD Council in 2005-2005 (acronym)
23. What country off the coast of China did Tyler study abroad in?
26. First name of the SWD Sec/Treas

Across

1. Half of Sami's heritage comes from this country that borders us to the north
3. What state is 2015 National Convention being held in?
6. What chapter is Ashlyn and Sami from?
7. What is Erika's favorite music group that consists of 5 women that are less than bland? (2 words)
9. Sami was born, raised, and went to college in this town
12. Sami collects these things that warm your feet
13. Ashlyn is planning these events that happen on weekends in the Spring semester
14. What chapter is Christy from?
15. Tyler used to have this rasta-inspired hair style
16. Tyler is helping chapters learn how to raise funds for this big event that happens every 2 years (2 words)
18. First name of the SWD VPSP
19. Ashlyn works at this place where you can buy anything under the sun for a single bill
20. Tyler was born, raised, and went to college in this town
24. What chapter is Tyler from?
25. Erika works for this organization that is known for selling you cookies once a year (2 words)
27. First name of the SWD VPM
28. What deep Southern state with 4 vowels and 3 sets of double letters was Christy born in?
29. What European country did Ashlyn study abroad in? She is also fluent in their language!
30. This is Ashlyn's favorite genre of movies

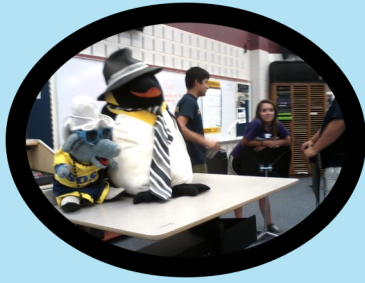


Unique 2014-15 Council

ADVENTURES WITH ANDY THE ARMADILLO

KKΨ-Zeta Beta, Howard Payne University

Life has been crazy for me ever since I left Southwest District Convention with the Zeta Beta chapter! There have been things happening non-stop. My first week at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX was awesome, as everyone got to meet me for the first time. I even sat in with the jazz band and act as guest conductor for the HPU Symphonic Band! Shortly after, I attended my first HPU Symphonic Band concert: the 19th annual American Music Spectacular. The band performed an amazing concert, and the audience was graced not only by my presence, but also by the presence of Ron Losby (President of Steinway & Sons Pianos-America). As the spring semester came to a



close, I watched the drum major auditions for the HPU Yellow Jacket Marching Band (the head drum major is a brother of KKΨ, and the assistant drum major is a sister of TBΣ!). I also experienced an initiation ceremony of the Nu Beta chapter at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, TX.

I definitely missed the Zeta Beta brothers during the summer, but once they came back, things got fun again really fast! First, I got to go to the Jacket Journey Street Party, where new HPU students can get information about different organizations on campus. It was awesome seeing so many new faces! Then, I went to the KKΨ-Zeta



Beta and TBΣ-Delta Upsilon joint bowling rush. It had a great turnout of almost the entire Yellow Jacket Band! A couple weeks later, I went to the first degree of the Mu Tau Chapter at the University of Texas at San Antonio. I was so excited to see nine prospective members start

their membership education process! Most recently, Zeta Beta held its first rush, which was a service rush. Brothers and prospective members did things around the music building to serve the band and all other people who inhabit the building. It was a lot of fun, and many games of Sardines and Murder in the Dark followed!

Well that's it for now! Like my page on Facebook to keep up with my activities! I hope to see a lot of your beautiful faces around the SWD!!



A NOTE FROM THE STAFF

Aaron Sanchez, Stephen Miller, Sarah Bogue, Brielle Johnson

Dearest Southwest District,

Well, we did it! This is the first edition of the New Alto done by the newly formed New Alto Staff. We have had one heck of a ride this semester collecting memories to share with not only our current brothers and sisters, but also our brothers and sisters to come. Thank you for joining us in Leaving Your Legacy, we have all enjoyed working on this wonderful project together. We all have a little bit to say but first a couple special shout-outs are due. Thank you to the Southwest District Councils of 2014-2015 for choosing us for our respective positions. Special recognition to Sami Belford, Eric Barnett and Austin Bordelon for being our patient and fabulous overseers on this edition. The District really choose an amazing council for the 2014-2015 school year, we look forward to working with y'all again next semester!

Thank you to the Southwest District for sending in so many articles! It was an inspiration to hear so many stories about dedication and love for our fraternity and sorority from across the district. A special thank you to the brothers of Mu Tau that helped prop me up in times of stress and our wonderful sponsor Cindy Solis for being a source of infinite wisdom. Until next edition, brothers and sisters!



-Aaron Sanchez



I've had an amazing time working with an amazing group of individuals on this year's New Alto! From collaboration with chapters to drawing on Google Hangout video screens this team had been a blast! I want to give a personal thanks to Aaron Sanchez for all his hard work and spirit on our team, you truly are my inspiration!

-Stephen Miller

Thanks to the Southwest District for allowing me this opportunity to be the Lead Writer of The New Alto! I love spending this time working with Aaron, Brielle, and Stephen and our Google Hangouts rock my Sunday afternoons! My thanks go out to Sami Belford for letting me know about the opportunity!



-Sarah Bogue



This has been one crazy semester! Special shout-out to Sami Belford for being a wonderful and patient support through this process, and for Sarah Bogue for being there to sit with me in the library for hours at a time just so I have someone with me and wouldn't go completely crazy. And for making multiple coffee runs when needed, which was always. I am especially grateful for the other staff members for making my otherwise dull Sunday afternoons much more entertaining. I mean, who wouldn't want to see college students making fools out of themselves on Google Hangout! It has also been super fun to hone in my creeping skills. Facebook creeping has kind of become a specialty of mine, especially when there was empty space to fill and I needed more pictures. All-in-all, it has been a fun learning experience and I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve the Southwest District on a bigger scale!

-Brielle Johnson

Leaving our Legacy, one person at a time