



Leaving a Legacy

STARTING TODAY

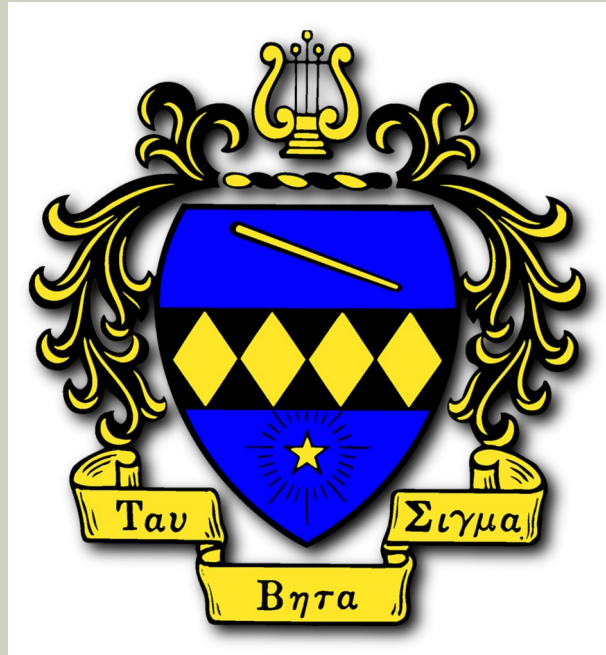


New Alto
Spring 2015 Edition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

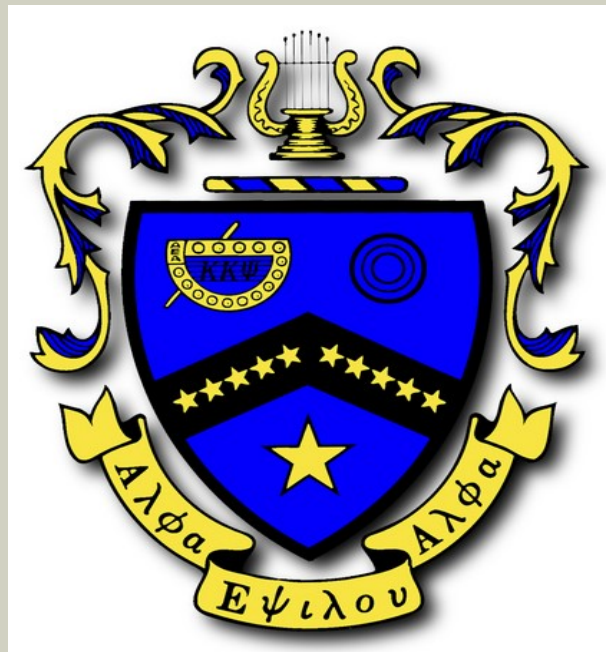
Tau Beta Sigma

Erika Pope, SWD Counselor...	3
Kerstin Minton...	4
Stephanie Keebaugh...	5
Kelsey Branson...	6
Lauren Chapin...	7
Emily Gulick...	7
Madelin Laney...	8
Ashley Turner...	9
Christy McKinney, SWD President...	10
Sami Belford, SWD VP of Special Projects...	11
Makaya Buckner...	12
Ashley Kubacak, SWD VP of Membership...	13
Sara Remoy...	14
Hannah Wells...	14
Sarah Yanniello...	15
Vivian Kirk...	15
Stephen Lusk...	16
Hannah Talton...	17
Samantha Toback...	18
Keith Williams...	19
Courtney Jameson...	20
Micaela Lumpkins...	20
Tyler Gorshing, SWD Secretary/Treasurer...	21
Nichele Rios...	22
Emily Morris...	23
Emily Paxton...	23



Kappa Kappa Psi

Ryan Bayless...	24
Graham Delafield, SWD Vice President...	25
Jake Hille...	26
Ryan Maxey...	27
Matthew Patrick...	27
Andrew Ross...	28
Danielle Sullivan...	29
Eric Barnett, SWD Co-Member at Large...	29
Katt Huckaby...	30
Austin Bordelon, SWD Co-Member at Large...	31
Shaqkeen Williams...	31
Dylan Charrin, SWD Secretary/Treasurer...	32
Andy the Armadillo...	32
Brandon Fisher, SWD President...	33
Aaron Sanchez, Copy Editor...	34
Cynthia Solis, sponsor...	35





If any of you have ever received an email from my personal TBSIGMA account, you may have seen my pre-populated signature at the bottom with my contact information and the final tagline that says “The Best Come From the Southwest!” This is a sentiment that I stand by wholeheartedly, not only because the roots of our organization are here in the SWD, but because I’m just crazy enough to believe that we are capable of being one of, if not the best, at what we do in Tau Beta Sigma. But it should come as no surprise that in order to achieve our best, everyone must give their best. While this model of perfection should be relatively easy to comprehend, there are still those elements that we battle here in the Southwest that could prohibit us from working towards being the best...or at the very least, making it into the ballpark of the best.

This past July marked a very big life change for me, in that not only did I start a new job working for the Girl Scouts, but those Girl Scouts that I work for are located in Central Texas, which meant that I was required to uproot my Arkansan life and move back to the state of my birth to set up shop in College Station, Texas (No...I’m not an Aggie fan, nor will I EVER be!). As I’ve been getting more acquainted with the duties of my new position, the transition required me to do a little bit of “light” reading and so that’s how the book *Good To Great and the Social Sectors* came into my life. The book ultimately breaks down the journey from being just good to being great into categories that touch base on topics such as choosing the right people to help make things happen, pinpointing the differences between big business and non-profit management, to knowing what motion and method to use in order to build and move an organization, particularly a non-profit, towards its goals. It’s been a very good read and as a staff, we’ve embraced it together to develop a sense of cohesion amongst the 76 employees of GSCTX stretched across the 46 counties that we serve.

As much as I’ve enjoyed reading through probably one of the shortest books I’ve ever been required to read (It’s only 35 pages long...), I strongly feel that many of the concepts presented can be applied to our work in Tau Beta Sigma. I think it is possible to sum it all up in just one page and maybe even in one concept: Good is not great and we should accept nothing less than great. It’s a lofty spiritual ideal, but even our motto calls for that. As the title of this piece points out, “Tau Beta Sigma, for Good Bands,” does not roll off the tongue so well. Greatness is plainly stated in our motto as an expectation, yet sometimes it would seem that good is just good enough for a lot of our chapters. Take a moment and think about various avenues of professions where if the person in those fields just settled for good enough, where we would be. The surgeon who’s great at cutting you open, but doesn’t know how to stitch you up; the repairman who owns all the right tools, but has no idea how to use them or to take it a little closer to home, the band director who knows how to direct but is terrible at reading the score to the music they are trying to conduct. These are things people get paid to do and we expect them to know and perform the duties of their craft satisfactorily. Of course, no one is perfect and there will be missed steps at times, but overall those individuals are relied upon to accomplish the basic, big important things, to where the small things that might get missed become minute points. Here in the Southwest, we are good at a lot of things, but sometimes we miss the bus going from good to great, simply because we don’t try. In the same hand, we don’t pay attention and sadly sometimes, we don’t care about our basic, big important things.

But fret not! Because more busses will come along each year and it’s up to all of us to make sure we get onboard. As this school year winds down, I encourage you all within your chapters to look at what you’re doing good and how it can be made into great. Whether it be improving your paperwork, working to build relationships with other chapters outside of your campus (attending SWD Convention and National Convention), fixing your chapter’s image to the rest of the band program and your campus, working on fixing joint relations with your brothers or other departmental organizations, improving your Membership Education Program to ensure true education, or just making sure that all members of your chapter are simply on the same page about the aspirations of the whole chapter. We can all fit on the bus and we can all arrive together to at the final destination of greatness. “Tau Beta Sigma, For Greater Bands!” That has a better ring to it, don’t you think?



“Tau Beta Sigma, For Good Bands” ...Does Not Roll Off the Tongue So Well...

Erika Pope

SWD Consoler



Growing up as a happy-go-lucky child in small-town Oklahoma, I always thought that everyone loved everyone and no one would ever make someone else feel hurt. As I grew up, the world around me seemed to change with each new day, and I wasn't so sure I liked these changes. I started to encounter different ways people unintentionally, and sometimes intentionally, hurt others. I started to see how certain actions affected people, and how those actions affected me. I went through a series of unfortunate events that led me to moving three times in four years, and at the end my parents were divorced and I was all alone. It was during this time of loneliness that I began to discover who I am.

In high school, I was very active in the many band programs my school had to offer. I immersed myself in marching band, wind ensemble, jazz band, full orchestra, and pit orchestra. I acquired a deep love and passion for making music, and I loved every second of doing so. But life still wasn't hunky-dory and I couldn't exactly figure out why. There was still a feeling of emptiness inside me – a feeling of being lost and not quite knowing how to be found. In my sophomore year of high school, my half-time show spot was next to a shy girl who played tenor saxophone. I hadn't met her before, but we had marching rehearsal roughly 20 hours a week, so it wasn't long before we got to talking and found many similarities between us. I really enjoyed getting to know this tenor player, and eventually we started sharing more personal stories with each other. One day, near the end of that marching season, she told me she was gay and that many people in our high school were tormenting her because of that fact. I told her it didn't matter to me what sexual orientation she is, because we were friends and that's all that mattered. That's when I realized what music had been missing – true friendship. I never knew having someone to bond with over all things music would make such a difference in my life. I felt like I had spent my entire freshman year capsized on an island, but that someone had finally discovered my existence and came to rescue me. My love for music grew exponentially over the next two and a half years as my best friend and I played, wrote, and discovered music together. It was such an incredible experience that was over much too quickly when we parted ways to go to separate colleges.

As I entered my freshman year of college marching band, I found myself feeling alone again. It was hard for me to make friends past the surface level and therefore music lost some of its sparkle to me. College life is so fast paced and everyone in the music department is constantly busy. Between rehearsals, lessons, classes, and concerts, no one really has time to sit down and get to know someone like I had gotten to know my best friend. All I wanted was to find someone who I could bond with and hang out with, but finding someone who actually wanted to invest in a friendship with me was hard. Most people in college already belong to some sort of friend group and penetrating those friend groups by yourself is incredibly intimidating, especially for girls. As women, we tend to judge others quicker by how they look or act, and then we try to belong to a group of friends that acts like we do and we don't let "weird" outsiders in very easily. I couldn't live like this forever so I started asking around, trying to find some sort of organization or club I could join, hoping that that would lead me in the right direction. One day, on a whim, I asked a mellophone player if she knew of any band related clubs I could join. She perked up and told me about the sorority she was in – Tau Beta Sigma. She told me about all the fun they have, how they serve the band, and how awesome it is to be apart of the bond of sisterhood. This sounded exactly like what I was looking for, but the fact that it was a sorority made me hesitant to ask her more. Noticing my hesitation, she then told me that TBΣ was having a dinner and game night at a sister's house, as a way to meet new band members and introduce them to the sisters of the chapter. I figured I didn't have anything to lose, and I really did need a friend, or many, so I decided I would come. That night changed my life forever. As I sat in the living room playing games, it occurred to me that the sisters of Tau Beta Sigma came in all shapes and sizes, from multiple different majors, all with vastly different childhoods. None of them looked exactly the same, or acted the same way, or wore the same type of clothes. Each one was unique; each one was accepted into the bond. This was the group I had been longing for. It was as if I was back in high school, exploring the unknown world of band friends. I had a great time getting to know the sisters of TBΣ and learning about what the chapter does for the band. I couldn't believe there was so many people who actually took interest in me and made me feel needed and known. I left that game night 100% sure I wanted to be a sister of Tau Beta Sigma. I wanted the chance to be a member and make other new band kids feel wanted, like they had made me feel wanted.



Impacting the Lost and Lonely

Kerstin Minton

Tau Beta Sigma– Delta

Impacting the Lost and the Lonely Cont'd...

Joining Tau Beta Sigma has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. Not only do I get to serve a great band program, but also I've gained many sisters and lifelong best friends, including my big. One of the greatest parts of this organization is the big/little system. Your big is the person who takes you under their wing, stands up for you, helps you figure out life's hardest questions, gives you guy advice, and then takes you out for midnight shakes when that guy advice ends up going badly. She is there for you whenever you need her; she is your biggest supporter. She is your best friend. I love my big, and I know she loves me too. I can't wait until I can be that person for someone else. I can't wait until I can help a lonely freshman know there's someone out there that cares about them and wants to invest in them, even if they've been told differently their whole lives. I'm beyond excited about being a part of the reason someone finds his or her love of music.

This is who we impact. Me, you, girls, boys, freshmen, and seniors. We impact those who have all the friends and those who had none. We impact those we serve, the directors, our local community, and the band itself. We impact people who have been left out and those who have been bullied their whole lives for being "different." We give everyone a place to belong and a place to feel loved. We find the lost and give them a home. I'm sure we even impact people without even knowing it. This is why Tau Beta Sigma was created, and this is why I am proud to call myself a Sister in the Bond.



"TBS is where you will find your bridesmaids". This was one of the first things I heard when rushing TBS. I thought this was just a way that they get girls to join – a clever saying to get more members in the chapter. I soon realized the truth in this.

I have been in TBS for four years and I have created so many incredible memories and met so many incredible people. My older sibling was in the Beta chapter, so when I came to Texas Tech, I followed in her shadow mainly so I could make some friends. I'm a very shy girl and live over ten hours away, so I didn't know anyone in college. To my utter surprise, I realized I had made the best decision in my college career by joining Tau Beta Sigma.

One of my favorite stories to tell people is the story of how I met my big sister. My (real) older sister was showing me around Lubbock. At the time, she worked at Victoria's Secret and decided to buy me something since she could get the employee's discount. While we were shopping around, this extremely tall and beautiful girl in a Victoria's Secret uniform came up to us and greeted us. Angela then introduced me to Lauren, who was also in the same candidate class with her in TBS. So Lauren started talking to me and asked me if I was planning on rushing. She was telling me how great TBS was and how she thinks I would have a lot of fun being in TBS. We figured while we were there, she would give me a bra fitting. I figured what the heck, I've never had a bra fitting so might as well. I had no idea that this would be how I met my big sister in TBS. Lauren and I share a very special bond because of this very strange first encounter.

During candidacy, we were told about a formal meeting we would be having later in the month (we later found out that this was our initiation). Another candidate, Kristen, and I decided we should go shopping together to buy a really cute outfit for the meeting. We ended up at Forever 21, which as everyone knows, is a huge store! Kristen and I ended up splitting up because of all the options we had. I finally picked out a really cute dress I wanted to wear so I went to go find Kristen. When I met up with her, I showed her the beautiful green dress I was going to wear; she looked at the dress, looked at me, slowly looked in to her bag, and grabbed the exact same dress I bought. I couldn't believe we bought the same dress! Out of all the options we had, we ended up with the same dress. Kristen and I hadn't been the best of friends that day, but that very embarrassing but funny coincidence made us so much closer. We are even roommates together along with two other sisters.

The Beta and Alpha Omicron chapters go on an annual Ski Retreat at the beginning of spring semester. I had never done anything involving skis or snowboards, but I decided to give it a try. I started off with a group of experienced skiers but I soon got lost. To some people, skiing is a blast – I absolutely hated it. No matter what I did, I couldn't get the hang of it. I was thinking, 'oh great, this trip is going to be horrible. This isn't fun whatsoever.' I had been on a slope for about an hour and I wasn't even half way down yet because I kept falling. I was feeling the start



Memories I Will
Never Forget in TBS

Stephanie Keebaugh


Tau Beta Sigma– Beta

Memories I Will Never Forget in TBS Cont'd...

of bruises all along my body and I was ready to give up. In the midst of my anger, I looked over and saw another sister, Jennifer, struggling just like I was. I shouted, "Hey Jennifer! How're you doing?" She gave me the most frustrated look and said "I'm so over this. I can't ski." So Jennifer and I proceeded to take off our skis and walk down the rest of the slope. If you haven't tried walking in ski boots, it is one of the most difficult things to do. The fact that Jennifer and I hiked downhill in our ski boots looking absolutely ridiculous created a great friendship. This happened two years ago and we still crack up about it to this day.

Ever since I joined TBS, I have only lived with my sisters. I doubt I could have created such great friendships with anyone else. There have been days where I am overly stressed and my roommate will bring me food without me asking – that is what sisterhood is. We have stayed up late looking up tutorials on 'how to twerk' and record it on video so we can laugh about it later. We watch Game Show Network and snack all night long. It's really awesome that we all have very different majors and backgrounds, yet TBS brings us together. I would have never had these roommates if it weren't for TBS.

My four years in TBS are absolutely unforgettable. When I get married someday, I bet the majority of my guests will be my brothers and sisters. I don't even want to think about how my college career would have been had it not been for TBS. I hope my sisters in Beta and in other chapters can relate to the love I have for TBS because it is truly a great experience.



We can easily pinpoint how we impact others through service events. Whether it's directly or indirectly, these experiences can have a significant influence on people's lives. However, we sometimes forget about the people we impact on a weekly or even daily basis; the ones who serve with us, the ones who sit beside us in our chapters, the ones whom we call sisters and brothers.

"For there is no friend like a sister in calm or stormy weather; to cheer one on the tedious way, to fetch one if one goes astray, to lift one if one totters down, to strengthen whilst one stands." This quote by Christina Rossetti summarizes how sisters and brothers can truly impact each other. Sisterhood and brotherhood can bring a great deal to those in it. We have the ability to influence and help others in many ways: by giving a hug to a fellow sister or brother on an awful day, by listening to others vent about life, by helping each other with classes, by offering words of encouragement and advice during a tough time, by doing selfless acts for each other and even by doing something as small as showing a friendly smile.

I challenge everyone reading this to think about how much being a sister or brother has impacted you. How you've changed, grown and matured; how your memories with your sisters and brothers in the bond have affected your life; and how much those memories and growth have depended on those around you. "With my sisters I am best," a quote from Tau Beta Sigma's Affirmation Hymn, is a fantastic way to summarize how my sisters have impacted me. They have done so in ways they will never know. They continually help and push me to strive to become the best version of myself and I hope to do the same for them. My sisters are filled with elegance, professionalism, musicianship, intelligence, love, encouragement, passion and so much more. These factors influence and impact me on a daily basis. The selflessness of the sisters in Tau Beta Sigma and brothers in Kappa Kappa Psi will never cease to inspire me.


We learn lessons about leadership, life, service, relationships and music from our organizations. So when you're thinking about skipping out on a chapter, sister/brother bonding time, just keep this in your mind. The people who you truly impact and help (and the ones who do the same for you) could be the people who constantly surround you.



Who Do We Impact
the Most?

Kelsey Branson

Tau Beta Sigma– Delta




We all know that one of the main purposes of our organizations is service. We, as members of Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi, aim to serve not only our college bands but also surrounding bands and musical organizations. Service simply becomes second nature. It is a part of who we are. And yet, this is also where we falter. We don't realize how much of a difference a simple service event can make.

Earlier this semester, the Delta chapters of TBS and KKY at the University of Oklahoma saw this first-hand. Our chapters hold a four-way service event with Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha every year that we call Catlett Community Initiative (or Catt Comm). We had planned to visit several middle and elementary schools to help them with their music rooms. However, life happens and people cancel, and we had nowhere to go. Our lovely Vice Presidents of Service, scrambled to contact several schools in order to fill our last minute service. We ended up finding two schools to serve!

After dividing into two groups, we set off for our destinations. My group specifically went to a Middle School in Midwest City, Oklahoma. When we walked in, the band director told us what she needed us to do. The tasks were pretty simple. We were to organize her uniforms, do maintenance on several instruments, tighten her stands, and to organize the music in filing cabinets. As a group of about 25 people, this seemed too simple. Surely, there is more for us to do! But there wasn't. We finished the job in about an hour and a half, which needless to say, was much less time than we had planned. Great! We finished early! That clearly means we rock, right?

But when we do this, we miss the point of service. When we have this mindset of "Oh, this is too easy," we don't realize the impact that we can make. To us, this was just basic organization. But to that band director, we just saved her what could have taken one-person months to complete. Maybe this was an easy service event. Sometimes they are! But let's not forget even the small ones. Even the smallest act can change someone's life. These students will have working instruments, stands that don't break, organized uniforms, and music that is easy to find. And even that can make a huge difference in the experiences of these students. Service is more than what we see on the surface. It is impactful and it always makes a difference. So I challenge you, next time your chapter has a service event, think about the difference you can make. Even in the simple things, you might just be amazed how much of an impact you actually make.



To be successful as an exec member, it requires a few components during your time as an officer. Apart from determination, you have to have organization, ability to work with people, and an open mind. All of these are important to remember when working in your chapter.

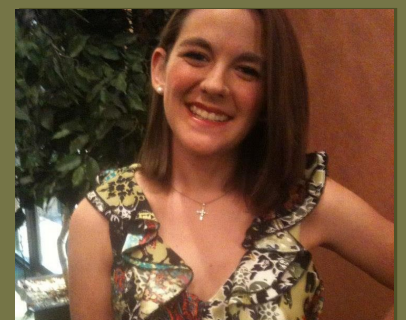
Being a great exec member means it is essential to be organized. The best thing I have found to keeping organized is my handy-dandy planner. For just \$1 at Target, my planner has a two page layout of each month, which is great to be able to look ahead throughout the month. Color coding has also been a key component to any organization that I've had while in college. By assigning TBΣ a specific colored pen in my planner, it is easily noticeable when looking to keep track of events and schedule upcoming ones. I always make sure to note the time and place of each event as well so that I can give quick details when needed. Keeping an organized planner is truly necessary for success while serving your chapter.



A Little Thought Does a Lot

Lauren Chapin

Tau Beta Sigma– Delta



Executive Success

Emily Gulick

Tau Beta Sigma– Delta

Executive Success Cont'd...

A great exec team to support you is a fantastic component at being a great exec member. During my time in office, I've had my share of mistakes and trip-ups, believe me. No matter how I mess up, I know that I have an exec team that supports me and will help me to get back on track, especially when that means being honest about what I messed up and how to fix it next time. The bond with the sisters I serve with is maintained with open communication and making sure to always share a laugh. They make being an officer that much easier by their support, knowing that I can rely on them when needed!

The final component to being a great exec member is to keep an open mind. Things don't always go the way you planned. There will undoubtedly be something that goes wrong, so staying open-minded to potential changes is essential. Keeping an open mind also applies to ideas that you bring to the table. Others might not see the ideas the same way you do or the ideas may need some tweaking before implementing. When you keep an open mind, it makes those suggestions and critiques easier to handle.

To be a great exec member, you have to be organized and open minded. Relying on your exec team for support is also crucial to your success. Above all though, enjoy yourself and the time you get with your sisters and brothers as you serve on exec, because it is a one of a kind opportunity!



When talking about leaving a mark, we tend to think of how we will leave a legacy behind and how our actions affect those who are younger than us. While I think this important, I also think we forget that there is a whole other group of people that we need to consider when deciding how we are going to "leave our mark." This group is our alumni. At the University of Oklahoma, the Delta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma is shaking up our alumni interaction. While we have always welcomed our alumni to rituals and events, it seemed like there should be more. These sisters are the ones who laid the foundation so that we could do the work and things that we do now. Without them, our chapter would not be what it is today, and this is something I have taken to heart this year. To be honest, it is easy to get caught up in the business of service events, chapter, and social events, and forget about these important members. However, though it seems years away to some people, we will soon be an alumni member and be a part of that sometimes forgotten group. That got me thinking, if we integrate the alumni more and work harder to encourage their presence in our chapter, then maybe when we are alumni, the sisters after us will see how we treated the alumni and in turn treat us with the same love and care. So what does involving the alumni look like? While I do not have a firm answer, I know what we are currently trying seems to be working well so far.

In the fall of 2014, we hosted our alumni reception and ritual during homecoming weekend. This is something that we do jointly with Kappa Kappa Psi every year, and it is a way to welcome the alumni back and give them the opportunity to socialize with other active and alumni members, check out some of the chapter scrapbooks and mementos, and overall just feel appreciated by the active members. This event is always a success and it is something we will continue to do in the future. However, that is usually where it stops. In the past we have hosted this event and then in the spring we invite the alumni to rituals and a few other events. This year is a little different. I have started three projects this semester that all include alumni and active member participation. Project one is the Delta Directory, which is essentially a roster of any and all active and alumni members that want to participate. This project was designed to be low maintenance so that even the busiest sisters could be involved, and so that the next secretary could just update it and let it keep growing. It is a way for alumni and actives to have direct contact with each other if they so choose. We all have different life experiences, and I thought it would be cool to take advantage of this and give us all the opportunity to be there for each other. For example, an active sister might be applying to medical school and have a ton of questions, she or he could check out the directory and see that we have many alumni sisters who are medical professionals and



Leaving a Mark on
Those Who Have
Left a Mark on Us

Madelin Laney

Tau Beta Sigma– Delta

Leaving a Mark on Those Who Have Left a Mark on Us Cont'd...

they could shoot them an email asking for advice. Another example might be that an alumni sister wants to get in touch with their new TBS family member and see how she or he is doing now that they are a full time member. The alumni member could look them up in the directory and shoot them an email. So far this project has been the most successful and I am very excited to see how it will grow.

The other two projects are similar to each other. With project two, I asked the alumni to write a letter to a membership candidate about their favorite memories in TBS, advice about being an active member, or what it really means to be a sister. In years past, we have tried to incorporate alumni in our MC process, and this project was a way to show the membership candidates that the alumni are an important part of our chapter. Lastly, project three is somewhat of a pen pal program. I am having the alumni send me their email addresses and asking interested actives to sign up on a Google form. From there I am going to pair each alumni member with an active member and they will be pen pals. The project is laid back, pen pals are free to communicate via email or regular mail, as little or as much as they want. This idea was just a way for alumni and actives to have more interaction with each other, besides one homecoming event and the occasional ritual. These projects have been successful so far, and it is going to be interesting to see how it all works out.



Last year I had the privilege of being the Sergeant at Arms/ Parliamentarian at the Delta chapter. With that privilege came the responsibility of planning two different sisterhood retreats. Our chapter plans a retreat in both the fall and spring that is a getaway from the stress of school and band to focus on bonding together as sisters. In the fall, I planned a retreat that took place in the Arbuckle Mountains in Oklahoma. We traveled about an hour to a cabin off the beaten path. With it being far from Norman, I only got to see the cabin once, and it was getting dark the first time I saw it. We packed up everyone that signed up and went on a memorable road trip. When we got there and unloaded, we decided to go out and look around. We found a canoe that was on the side of the house, and there was a small pond directly below. So, being the daredevils that we are, we decided to put it in the water and put our bonding to the test. We all took a turn riding in the canoe that required us to depend on each other. It is one of the memories that I will never forget, but most of my most memorable times come from the spring sisterhood retreat.

The spring retreat was a great learning experience for me, especially being a young exec member. I took a group of ladies to Stillwater, Oklahoma. We made a stop at National Headquarters, went to Eskimo Joes, and then headed to the place we were staying. We got lost, and no one in town knew where this cabin was. We drove in the dark and finally found one sign that pointed a certain direction. We finally pulled up to the cabin and some of us went inside as some of us unpacked the car. I was getting some things out of the car when I heard a blood curdling scream coming from inside the cabin and all the girls come running out. Once I found one of them that was not scared or laughing I just hear, "there is something in there." When we got the story, there was wildlife inside of the cabin, a rat in the trash, and large animals running outside. One of our sisters told the other girls that she would just take out the trash because that was where the rat was. She took one look inside the trashcan and couldn't move it because "it was looking at me." We had to take a vote and we decided at 12:30 at night to drive back to Norman. We stopped a couple of times to switch cars and keep people awake. It was super fun laughing and sharing in the failing trip. It was so fun to learn what people are terrified of, learn who is not afraid of nature, and who still loved hanging out even though it did not go as planned.



Sisterhood, Let's
Get Crazy!

Ashley Turner

Tau Beta Sigma– Delta

Sisterhood, Let's Get Crazy! Cont'd...

If you have ever been part of a large group, you know that things never go as planned. The best parts of retreats are that the plan is fluid and can be changed. Although the first retreat I had not planned the canoe ride or the impromptu star gazing, or the second retreat I did not expect the wildlife encounter, this is still the best memory I have from TBS. I enjoy the sisterhood moments that aren't planned and that are just allowed to happen. I think that being on exec, or just being a sister, we have to know that things that don't go as planned are not necessarily a bad thing. My favorite memories as a sister do not include a well planned chapter meeting, or a completely planned social event, but instead, they include wildlife you couldn't account for, and canoe rides that exhibit real sisterhood.



It has always been my assumption that the New ALTO is just a medium for transmitting educational ideas, but after reading the list of article suggestions, I realized that there is a place for personal, anecdotal articles in our District publication as well. Plus, you can learn a lot from others' experiences, so maybe I'm still falling within my assumption, just in a different way. I don't write much about my time in the organization, but I want to share with the District my experiences and why Tau Beta Sigma will stick with me throughout my lifetime.

I am a big fan of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and relate it to many things in my life and in things that I have studied. I think a comparison can be made with Maslow's Hierarchy to Tau Beta Sigma during my time in college.

My first year in college, and subsequently the year that I joined marching band, began my journey in Tau Beta Sigma and is similar to achieving Maslow's "Physiological Needs". He describes it as the physical requirements for human survival: food, water, clothing and shelter. In my case, I learned how to make decent ramen and coffee cup cake in the microwave. I learned the location of the ice machine to battle hot marching rehearsals. I learned how to do laundry to maintain my clothing and how important getting ALL the free t-shirts really was. And I learned how to survive in the Petri dishes that we call dorm rooms. Basically, I got my wits about me in the place I would call home for four and a half years. Each piece of the pyramid cannot be completed until the one underneath it is satisfied in order to support the next level of growth. My first year in college and in Tau Beta Sigma helped me form a solid foundation that allowed me to grow each following year.

My second year in college can be compared to Maslow's "Safety Needs" section of the pyramid. Some parts of this section include: personal, financial, health, and protection for the future. The need to feel safe in your environment can go beyond just the need for physical safety. Getting acclimated to a new place and organization can really be inhibited if one does not feel safe with their surroundings. I served as a committee head in my chapter during my second year. This position, even though small, allowed me the opportunity to feel "safe" in my organization. I received tremendous support from my peers and superiors that aided my mental safety. I felt as if I was contributing to something that had set up such a solid foundation for me and felt motivated to work hard. I worked with fundraising and that allowed me to feel like I was helping the organization be safe financially. And I learned new skill sets, such as organization, communication, and initiative that helped aid me in my future and protect me from falling back. Overall, I became acclimated to the University and Tau Beta Sigma, and began to feel safe with how I felt and what I did.

My third year was similar to Maslow's "Love and Belonging" section of the pyramid. This is described as the ability to form and maintain emotionally significant relationships in the case of friendship, intimacy, and family. For many people in joining our organizations, this is one of the first things that happens. I for one was very slow to open up to my Sisters and Brothers as I had never really had this ability or focused on these things before. I've always had friends, but it wasn't until my foundation of basic and safety needs were established that I was able to start to fulfill the need to belong and discover what friendship really was. I started to be able to get close with people on more of an intimate level that allowed me to not only maintain these relationships, but to really feel loved. It was an emotional year, but in a good way! A table was flipped for me and I really changed into a different person and was set up to continue growing.



McKinney's Hierarchy of Needs

Christy McKinney

Tau Beta Sigma— Delta,
SWD President

McKinney's Hierarchy of Needs Cont'd...

My fourth year at the University of Oklahoma was a year for Maslow's "Esteem". This is that human need to feel respected and as if they are valued and accepted by others as well as by themselves. I think that this level of the pyramid was the hardest to come by during my time in college. I was serving as the President of my chapter during this year and with that came a plethora of responsibilities that seemed so far out of my realm of experience. I had a hard time feeling like I was doing a good job in my position and struggled to see a lot of outward support from others. But I took a step back, evaluated things and made myself realize that could recognize for myself all of the hard work I was putting in. I knew that I was doing good things and trying to be a good person and with that realization, I began to see that I did have support; I just couldn't see it until I supported and valued myself. I will stay this level is still a work in progress, but what would life be if one was perfect?

After my fourth year in school, I still had one more semester to finish all my classes. This fifth-ish year (that is still happening) is when I started to see the level of "Self-Actualization". Maslow describes this section as the desire to accomplish everything one can and to become the most that one can be. He says that this level cannot be understood until all previous needs are mastered. As I said, I think I'm still somewhere in the "Esteem" area, but in that, I am still looking for ways to be the best I can be and accomplish everything I can before my time as District President runs out.

Somehow, my life and time in Tau Beta Sigma fits almost perfectly into Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. From basic needs to esteem and self-actualization, these organizations and the Sisters and Brothers in them have given me so much and helped me grow and build an excellent foundation. Don't be afraid to build yourself up from the bottom, we all have to start somewhere.



10. Participation in National Programs – Sometimes participating in National Programs takes a bit of time and planning. Take a look through your organizations programs and see what things your chapter could get involved with and then do that! Start planning those now!

9. Leadership Development – Having solid leaders in your chapter takes time and planning. As election season is in full swing, look at having Officer Transition Workshops with old and new executive councils. Make sure to take some time to set goals for the next year and plan!

8. National Convention – Really, planning for convention should be going on right now! It's in the summer so, is it the new year or the old year? Either way, plan for it! You can do it! If you need help, reach out and ask the many resources available (District Council, National Officers, Headquarters).

7. District Convention – Like before, the earlier you start planning, the better! Get the dates on your calendar, start setting aside \$5 a week for the full year and you'll be pretty dang close to making it.

6. District Involvement – Want to get more involved besides just attending conventions? Look into putting in a bid to HOST convention next year! It'll be a great opportunity to show off your chapter and let the district see what your chapter stands for. Also start thinking if you'd like to be a district officer. If so, observe. Take notes on what the current council is up to and ask questions about their job. Think on that throughout the year.

5. Chapter Relations – Whether you need to look at the relations within your chapter or with your brother chapter, start thinking about some goals in regards to how you can improve your relationships within chapters. Work together to come up with a plan to improve joint or chapter relations!

4. Improvements – Deciding what it is about your chapter that needs to be improved for the future is a tedious process that requires a lot of analyzing and discussion. Start those conversations now to figure out what changes or improvements you might want to look at for the future.

3. Fall Service – Look into different service projects for the band or community that might take a little extra time and preparation. Talk with people over the summer to start putting those plans together so you can start the fall off swinging!



Top 10 Things to
Start Planning for
Next year


Sami Belford

Tau Beta Sigma– Psi, SWD
VPSP

Top 10 Things to Start Planning for Next Year Cont'd...

2. Membership Education Process – Your Membership Education Plan needs to be turned in before the start of your process and should be in the works! Take some time to write down what you all do during your education process. If you need help, look through the resources on the District Website for a template for your MEP. This is absolutely essential for planning your activities next year!

1. Personal Legacy – What legacy do you want to leave on your chapter, your district, or these organizations as a whole? The impact made doesn't start when you leave, it is an everyday process. Think about how you want to make a difference next year and set some goals to help enable you to do so!



If you were to Google “Why is service important?” there are many different pages telling about how good it is for you and the personal benefits it offers. Some discuss the psychological benefits, while others detail the community connections and skill building that help volunteers to find jobs later. Another prominent theme in these pages is that it looks good for college admissions. While all of these things are true, there should be deeper meaning in continuing to serve others. I believe that we should continue to serve in order to impact the lives of others for the better.

-Some brothers and sisters teamed up with some Phi Mu Alpha brothers to go Christmas caroling in nursing homes. This has been a tradition for our chapters in recent years. It never fails to bring a smile to the faces of the residents. One year we even went caroling in Wal-Mart and the employees absolutely loved it!

-For one of our recruitment events, we have a service informational where we pick up trash on the parking lot we practice on and then make cards for the Arkansas Children's Hospital. This has come to be a tradition in our recruitment events these past few years. It is a great way to introduce our potential members to the kinds of service we love to do!

-One of my favorite service projects we do is Adopt-a-Band. We round up many sisters and head out to a local football or basketball game and play with a high school band. It is always very rewarding to make an impact on young musicians and support them in what they do. They are always very welcoming and love to share with us what they do, and in turn we get to tell them about college band and how awesome it would be for them to join us one day!

-Every game day, we brave the elements to put out seat covers to keep our white uniform pants white and water coolers to keep the band hydrated. Recently, we have also started helping our brothers unload the trucks full of instruments and game day equipment.

-One last picture I will leave you with is our instrument petting zoo at the Boys and Girls Club. We let kids try out our instruments and get to hang out with these awesome kids for a while.

As you can see, our chapters serve the very young, the very old, and many people in between. Every bit of the service is rewarding, whether or not we get a thank you. Just a smile is enough to know that you have made a lasting impact. I encourage all of you to serve in any capacity you can, and begin (or continue) a long legacy of service in your chapters, starting today!





Change is an idea and a process that scares many of us. As a society, we get comfortable thinking and acting in certain ways, and we don't want to take the time to create active change. Many of us get stuck in the past and forget to look ahead to see how our actions today are impacting the future. If we can become aware of our current actions and limitations, we can actively take steps to ensure our success in the future. The first step is to identify a problem.

Change doesn't always have to be a dramatic force. It can be something as simple as altering our daily routine or way of thinking. A simple switch to a healthier lifestyle or healthy diet is an easy way to start change in your life. However, many of us think on a grand scale, specifically involving Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. When it comes to large-scale change, many people get overwhelmed and consumed with the thought, "I'm just one person, what can I do?"

One person can truly start a wave of change within a society. If you believe that one person cannot make a difference, just take a look at our founders. Mr. Bohumil Makovsky was just one man, but he established a lasting brotherhood that still stands together today, ninety-six years later. Mrs. Wava Banes Henry was just one woman who was repeatedly denied the ability to create a sisterhood designed to serve the band program. However, she did not let others stand in her way. A single person was able to pave the way for decades of sisterhood and service. Change is daunting, yes; but it is not impossible.

The first step is identifying a problem. Whether it's noticing a lack of sisterhood or brotherhood in your chapter, a decreased focus on band service, or even perceiving a sense of apathy within yourself. Nothing good can come from simply complaining about a problem. Sure, your voice is heard, but now that people are listening, what will you say next? Rather than criticize, become the instrument of change within that situation. Step two is to find a solution.

Every problem can have a solution. It may take time, and it may be difficult, but it's out there. It's your responsibility to find it. If you cannot determine a reasonable solution to the situation, ask others what their thoughts are. Network and connect with other people who are impacted by the problem. If it is a problem in your chapter, ask other sisters and brothers their thoughts. Talk to your sponsor and director of bands. Other chapters and your district officers are also great resources. Explore different options and ideas before settling on the best one.

Another important factor is determining past attempts at change. If someone tried changing this aspect or idea previously, find out why it did not work. What caused it to fail? For example, when I switched my home chapter from a fall to a spring process, during my research I found out that roughly seven years earlier our chapter had attempted a spring process. It was my responsibility to find out what happened to cause the plan to fail so I could avoid those pitfalls in the future. A great way to understand past attempts at change is talking with alumni.

The next step to change is presenting the idea to others. Now that you have your great solution, you need to understand how others perceive your designs. "Throw some feelers out there" is what I like to say. Ask around and get opinions preferably from other chapter members, your sponsor, and your director of bands. And remember, if someone has an opposing opinion or concern, do not shut them out. Listen to what they have to say, and take their thoughts into serious consideration. If someone is against your change in plans, understand why by asking questions. Take their concerns, address them, and implement them into your plan for change. Their concerns help strengthen your idea, if you treat them seriously.

Finally, once you have the logistics and mechanics worked through, officially present your plan of change. At this point you should have already discussed the idea with your sponsor, director of bands, and multiple chapter members. When presenting your idea, be confident! No one knows the plan better than you, and you should back your idea one hundred percent. If you can't be confident and excited about the change, you're going to have a harder time convincing others to change with you.



Steps to a Lasting Impact

Ashlyn Kubacek

Tau Beta Sigma- Psi,
SWD VPME

Top 10 Things to Start Planning for Next Year Cont'd...

Last, but certainly not least, never be afraid to let your voice be heard. You have great ideas that are unique to you alone. No one out there is exactly like you. If you identify a problem, don't be afraid to let someone know about it. Talk to your big sister or big brother, the chapter president, or even your sponsor. Your opinions and perspectives are unique and necessary in order to establish a welcoming environment. Never let anyone make you feel less than you, because you are a vital member to your organization.



Though some people don't put much stock in it, dreams are very important to our everyday life. I'm not talking about the crazy beautiful images that run through our heads at night, I'm referring to our craziest goals and our heart's desires. Dreams are what built the beautiful United States of America, they are what fuel the world's most powerful businesses, and more importantly, they are what helped establish our amazing organizations.

I have several dreams. They range from being a middle school band director, the director of bands at a university, and being a stand-up comedian in New York City. Some of my dreams also can have an impact on my TBS chapter. I had a dream during my beginnings in TBS that I could run for an Executive Council position. I followed that dream, and now I am Vice President of Membership Education in my chapter with 21 beautiful membership candidates! Last year when I attended Arkansas Area Workshop, I attended a session lead by the Director of Bands at Arkansas State University. At the height of his talk I remember he said, "If your dreams aren't big enough to scare you, then you need to dream bigger." This piece of advice has had a great influence on me in the past year. Whenever I am thinking about my goals or my dreams, I ask myself if it is big enough. If it's not, then I dream bigger! It's fun and exciting to dream big and to make those dreams a reality!

We all can have an impact on our chapters by following your dreams. If you have something that you want to accomplish in your chapter, don't be afraid to make it happen! Nothing will happen unless someone makes it happen. Our founders had dreams to create organizations that served the band and honored outstanding young men and women. Through hard work and determination, those dreams became realities. So no matter what the dream, whether it is a service project, running for your local leadership, or something on a district level, go for it! One of the ideals of Tau Beta Sigma is "Fortitude and courage to see an ideal, to seize upon it, and follow it wherever it may lead you in Tau Beta Sigma." However, this doesn't have to apply just to TBS, it applies to every part of our lives. So, keep dreaming big!



A dash, a key, a footprint. What do these three things have in common? Do they mean anything to you? Think this over for a second before you continue reading.

What does it mean to leave a legacy? This is the question I asked myself when told the theme for the New ALTO. Some famous people that come to mind when I think of the word 'LEGACY' are Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, Maya Angelo, and Steve Jobs. But why do we say these people have left a legacy? What have they done with their lives that has made them legacy worthy?

Leaving a legacy to me means making a positive difference in someone's world that they will remember forever. Leaving a mark of love and courage that goes beyond just doing a nice thing; it's doing something that makes a noticeable difference. Take a second and think about people who have left a legacy in your mind and heart that are not known by all of society. How have they left a legacy? Why have they left a legacy? What have they done in your mind that is legacy worthy to you?



Dreaming Big

Sara Remoy

Tau Beta Sigma—Psi



A Dash, A Key, A Footprint

Hannah Wells

Tau Beta Sigma—Psi

A Dash, A Key, A Footprint Cont'd...

I am also sure you can think of some people in your personal life that have left a legacy to you. For me it is my Mema, Marion Glenn, because all she did was give and did not expect anything back. My Papa, Ervin Glenn, for his bravery and courage in fighting for our country in WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. My grandpa, Chauncey Wells, for always wanting to see my brothers and I smile and be happy and laughing. It is my brother

who has passed, Benjamin Holland Wells, for his cheerfulness at all times even in the face of great trial. I always see my mom and dad do something that leaves a legacy in my mind; from the love my parents have shared with me and taught to share with everybody I meet, to the way they stand up for their beliefs and morals. They are impacting my life. They are my role models, inspiration, and the definition of legacy in my mind.

Going back to the beginning of the article: the dash, the key and the footprint. So what do they have in common? All three represent ways to leave a legacy.

Wherever you go, you leave a footprint. Physical or emotional, you can leave your footprint anywhere and on anyone. Leaving a physical footprint can mean you have trod to many places far and wide and met many people. You have not done much for the whole world, but you have done a lot for those in your world. Impacting people emotionally so that they always remember your kindness and love and heart is one of the greatest legacies to leave.

You can pass your key to those younger than you. Being a role model and a leader to them, you can pass on your wisdom and leadership strengths. The key to life's secrets and how to excel in Tau Beta Sigma or Kappa Kappa Psi but also in life.



Service is one of the greatest purposes of Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi. One of the other important purposes is the cultivation and maintenance of an honest and moral character with each individual member of the chapter. This purpose is evident in Tau Beta Sigma's sixth factor of the "Eight Essential Factors:" "Generosity of Mind, Heart, and Hand." I believe that while service for the band should be the primary goal, service projects geared towards the community should also be an important and regular occurrence. I believe this for two reasons: one, we should be kind and generous to everyone that we see--there are problems and needs in every community that our chapters may easily be able to tackle. Two, many members of both chapters will not be involved with band after they graduate college. If we do service projects outside of band while we are actively involved with TBS and KKPsi, we will be more likely to continue serving those around us throughout our lives.

TBS and KKY can make a big difference in the hearts and lives of those around us, even outside of band. Although I am not yet a full member of Tau Beta Sigma, throughout the process I have gotten to know the men and women who are a part of these organizations. They have shown me that, next to sisterhood and brotherhood, being a genuinely good, kind, and caring person is the most important thing in TBS/KKY and in life. I believe that doing service for the community will create a positive impact on the world and will help foster those valued qualities into life-long traits of each



Setting your chapter up for success isn't an easy task. At times, the balance between the short term goals of your chapter and the long term interests of your chapter is incredibly hard to find. It is one of the most important things for you to keep sight of as an active. Luckily, there are a few simple things everyone can do to help keep things moving in the right direction.

1.) Strive to be the best member you can be. Pull your weight. Do your job. *Follow the teachings of your organization.* Check the attitude at the door. When in doubt, think to yourself "If I came back to visit and every active was acting the way I am now, would I be proud to call myself an alumnus?"



Service Projects
Outside of Band

Sarah Yannielo

Tau Beta Sigma MC- Psi



Building a
Brighter Future

Vivien Kirk

Tau Beta Sigma- Tau

Building a Brighter Future Cont'd...

- 2.) Don't put off for tomorrow what you can get done today. Quit stalling. Don't put things off for future generations of the chapter to deal with. The goal should always be to leave the chapter in better condition than when you found it.
- 3.) Remember why you're here. Especially during marching season, it is incredibly easy to lose sight of what made service fun. Take the time to remind yourself, as well as your brothers and sisters, of why we joined these organizations in the first place.
- 4.) Don't forget your founders. Your organization was put together for a reason and your traditions are important, so while progress and change are necessary never forget where you came from.
- 5.) Don't forget about the bigger picture. It's true in a band setting and it's true for the progress of your chapter. If you focus too hard on the problems directly ahead of you won't be able to see the long term effects of your actions.

In reality, there are many different ways to keep your chapter moving in a positive direction. The most important thing to remember is that you always want to keep the best interest of the organization in every action. Keep that in mind and you'll be well on your way to



Whenever you turn on the television or go to the cinema, there are many references to time travel. Typically in these circumstances, the main character discovers the ability to travel either forward or backward in time, travels in that direction, and messes something up that causes the events in the future to change drastically. These problems are usually the focus of the episode/movie and fixed by traveling back to where they traveled before and stopping themselves from doing what they originally did. The stem of the problems in these showings is always the same; the main character went someplace they weren't supposed to go; a place where the people are different due to the difference in time between the cultures. The question then is, how could the citizens of the future or past help the main character, and what if the main character wanted to live permanently in this new time?

Before we get into that discussion, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Stephen Lusk and I am a junior music education major. I also happen to be a Membership Candidate for the Alpha Omicron chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. For our chapter, new Membership Candidates are typically freshmen who have been at the university for the fall semester and rush in the spring. This makes me an odd-ball, being the only non-freshman in my class. In this scenario, I am the time traveler. I am the person who has traveled forward in time and met a group of people with views that differ from my own. Being the only upper-classman in your MC class can pose many unique problems that chapters may not have an answer. So, here are a few tips on how to better integrate time travelers into your membership classes:

- 1.) Keep the time-travelers occupied and involved:

Having different views from the majority can leave someone feeling left out. Center your Membership Education program around the idea of letting every MC have a voice in their class. Allow everyone who wants to speak an opportunity to share, especially if that opinion differs from the rest of the group. Encourage all MCs to actively participate in discussions and share ideas, as it will go a long way towards the bond between the MCs.

- 2.) Understand that the time-travelers may have friends who are actives

The time-travelers have come to your organization, like all of the other MCs, for a reason. The time travelers though, have had more connections with your organization than most of the freshman in a typical MC class. This means that their motivations for joining and desire to serve could have deeper emotional connections than the other members of their class. They also probably know or are good friends with other actives in your chapter who are close to their age. These actives are your best recruiters from the time-traveler pool who may join your organization. These actives may also have the easiest time bonding with time-travelers as well as helping them adjust to the organization.



The Time
Traveler's MC

Stephen Lusk

Tau Beta Sigma MC-
Alpha Omicron

The Time Traveler's MC Cont'd...

3.) Time-travelers may need more guidance when it comes to what they should do.

I've had issues this semester regarding where my place should be in my class. Being an older guy raised in a different way from my line sisters, I wondered if I should even voice my opinions or involve myself in coming up with ideas for our required service project, fundraiser, and social. Since it won't be long before I graduate, I wondered if it would be fair to share opinions that would affect my class. Through the guidance of my Big Sister, the membership educators, and other actives of the chapter, I found my own voice at meetings and became an integral part of MC meetings.

I feel that the greatest challenge time-travelers face is the fear and uncertainty of the process. The best thing you can do for these time-travelers is get to know them and integrate them with their class and with the chapter. This means involving them in their MC meetings, talking to them outside of official chapter business, and getting to know them despite their age. Build a bond, because the true bonds of friendship and sisterhood that tie people together are the best way to create a legacy that transcend time.



Imagine an event or action towards the benefit of your chapter that you put more effort into than ever before. Were you an officer? Were you participating in a service event? Were you the head of a committee overseeing the work? Did you feel valued or important?

A lot of times, committees exist simply to vote on or decide a certain course of action. If you have had a committee meeting like this, then you are not alone, trust me. But how many times do we actually all have a voice in the events that are decided?

It is easy to come to a committee meeting expecting just to give your opinion or ask for opinions, but does that really make your members feel valuable? The work that needs to be done to plan a fundraiser, social, service event, or any other activity should involve all of the committee members at all times. If your committee is making letters or photos to send to other chapters, have a committee member create the idea for them instead of you. Or if you have been planning all of the details for a social and are bringing all of those details to vote or tweaking within the committee, try instead having a general idea and allowing the members to build upon that idea in ways they would like to see that event grow. Also, aim to incorporate a bit of every person's ideas into the final product.

The committee head should almost be a normal member within the committee, still working and devoting time and simply overseeing the little projects that fuse into the final product. They should listen to the members' ideas and truly consider them a possibility before ruling them out. Each idea deserves a chance and should be weighed into the project equation.

One method that may defeat the obstacle of encompassing every idea is to have each member of the committee in charge of a different section of the event. If you have 3 members in the committee including yourself, have one be in charge of food, one in charge of advertisement/informing the chapter and scheduling, and the other in charge of decorations and supplies. If you have larger committees, then let 5 be in charge of one section, 5 in another, and 3 in one that is less demanding. With this method, you will allow each individual member the chance to know that their voice is being heard and they are making a difference in the inner workings of your chapter.

However, this opportunity comes with the problem of having some committee members that are not as active within the organization, or simply are not as motivated to inputting their ideas or fulfilling important roles. Every member should pull their weight in an organization, but some may be busier than others in a certain semester. The committee head should be open and understanding to what each member thinks they can achieve, but each member should still have some sort of input to the final product. The purpose of committees is to directly involve the individual members of the chapter in the decisions affecting it.



Committee's:
What are They
There for Again?

Hannah Talton

Tau Beta Sigma- Alpha
Omicron

Committee's: What are They There for Again Cont'd...

Committees can be the prime way to include all of the members of your chapter in involvement instead of just participating in the final event. Since any members can attend a committee meeting, all of the voices can be heard, but it is still mainly the committee that follows through with the decisions made. Members can feel like workhorses when all they do is what others tell them to do. The successful use of committees gives your members something they can feel pride in working toward a goal, and have confidence that their opinion matters to their sisters/brothers. Small goals eventually consolidate into one larger one that you may be striving for within your chapter. Though committees may be one of the underutilized assets to your chapter, it surely can be turned around to be one of the greatest strengths and sisterhood builders your chapter has. Let your members feel proud for the work they put in for their fellow sisters/brothers/friends, and continue to let that feeling inspire them into doing greater and grander things both in life and within the chapter.



I doubt that I am the only officer to experience a shift in personal relationships after elections. My sisters have been my best friends and my strongest supporters throughout my college career and I didn't expect my relationship with them to change so drastically when I became president. I have learned this year that taking on leadership roles can change the way others view and interact with you in some really unexpected ways, and I'm hoping that I can help you deal with the uncertainty of that shift.

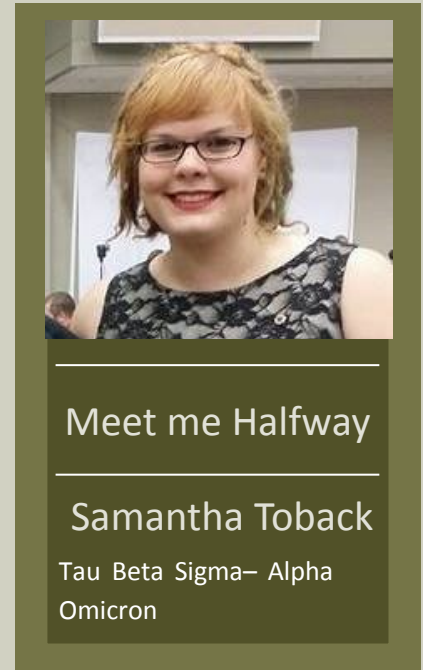
Make sure that you show your appreciation for your officers if you are a chapter member, and vice versa. I won't lie - my chapter is absolutely amazing and I love them to bits. I give them glowing compliments regularly because they constantly blow me away with how great they are. Everybody loves hearing that they are doing a great job, and they do a great job all the time! Unfortunately, we get caught up in the work that we do and forget to compliment each other. During a meeting, I mentioned that I felt like I was just their business partner and not their sister. This opened their eyes, and now we all feel comfortable putting our titles away to bond as sisters without the cloud of authority hanging over us.

Give suggestions, not demands. I've learned that as president, my words have a lot of weight. I give my officers and their committees suggestions instead of telling them to do something - for example, when our historian was working on the display for district convention, I suggested that it might be cool to make it interactive and let her decide whether or not to do it and then brainstorm how to make it happen. As an officer, make sure that you aren't steamrolling your chapter's ideas and replacing them with your own.

Step up to the challenge. I'm not a music major and I'm definitely not the best mellophone player at my university. I had grown into a habit of being a solid follower in the mello section. I found that with my new role of president, the marching band leadership looked to me for guidance regarding things like uniforms and equipment loading. I had to learn how to work with the band leadership and my chapter's Service Coordinator to ensure that everything was ready to go for the band when I was used to being a follower in my section. There will be something new that you will need to learn, so make sure that you face the challenge with an open mindset.

You will mess up. People will be upset, including you. I've been upset with officers as a chapter member, and I've had chapter members upset with me as an officer. When giving criticism or voicing displeasure, make sure that you separate the office itself from the person filling the role - you could be sitting in that chair a year from now! Remember that your officers were your sisters before they took on their leadership roles, and sometimes they don't know that they're doing something wrong. Support them by talking to them about how they can improve their office instead of stewing in your own frustrations. Believe me, we love hearing your ideas on how to improve.

Take time to be friends with your sisters. Many of us joined Tau Beta Sigma or Kappa Kappa Psi because of the friendships we developed during band. Those bonds of friendships turned into the bonds of sisterhood or brotherhood, and sometimes we lose sight of the friendships that drew us to the organization in the first place. I personally found myself letting Tau Beta Sigma business take up a lot of the time I used to devote to spending time with my friends in the chapter. Make sure that you don't let business become the only thing you do with your sisters or



Meet Me Halfway Cont'd...

brothers - spend time outside of chapter events with your friends and try to talk about things other than the upcoming service project or rush event.

Now that I have experienced these problems, I can warn the next president to watch out for them. I have encouraged my officers to create documents explaining things that they wish they had known before taking their leadership roles in the chapter so that they can pass it down to the next officer. Every office has its own unexpected responsibilities that become natural throughout the year. The best way to ensure a strong and healthy chapter in the future is making sure that each new set of officers is given the tools to succeed in their new roles. These documents will hopefully help them know what to expect and how to deal with any problems that arise. Just because you struggled with something doesn't mean your successor has to!



A big sister is someone who loves their little sister unconditionally, despite their flaws and imperfections. They- instead accept and embrace all these differences. "As your big sister, I'll be your biggest supporter, your greatest fan, and your shoulder to lean on during tough times. I'm the type of person who will do anything to make my little smile." Words like these are said to our little sisters before we reveal our identities as their big, when a wonderful and powerful bond is born. We like to think that the big is the one being the positive mentor and making an impact on the life of their little, but sometimes the train can go both ways.

For me, being a big sister is one of the most precious joys and the biggest responsibility of being a sister of Tau Beta Sigma. It's a call of duty and a huge honor, if you allow it. The ideal big is a physical example of the 5's and 8's and the perfect representation of the chapter's values and expectations. You are showing them how to be a good chapter member and sister during and beyond the process. No matter how old your little is, they will look up to you and follow everything you do. To them, you're the ideal sister and the foundations of how to be a good sister will be created by you.

My big, Stephanie Pardo, has been my guiding star and my best friend since I crossed into Tau Beta Sigma. She showed me how to care about myself by teaching me how to set my priorities straight and gave me the tools to create my own path. She knew how to be gentle with me but also knew when to tell me the harsh truth when I needed to hear it. Because of her guidance, I was able to learn valuable lessons from my mistakes. My honorary big, Deanna Mireles, has been huge impact on my life as well. Like Stephanie, I don't know where I would be without her. She has been through it all, and always knows what to say to stop the tears and start the laughter. She stands beside me when I need support and calls me out on my recklessness to bring me back to Earth. They are both the best role models I could have ever asked for and I hope I can become as incredible as they are.

My littles are three of the most amazing human beings that I know. My littles inspire me to not only become a better man, but to be more involved in my sorority. My first little, Thomas, made me realize that I needed to become more mature and emotionally stable. He inspired me to live up to the 8's and 5's more than I had before. I started going to counseling and became more willing to take up leadership roles in the chapter, such as being the truck manger and help lead service projects. My honorary little, Meghan, taught me how to open my eyes and see with a more open mind. I became compassionate and understanding about other people's feelings and learned the importance of being there for your sisters. My little, Dominique, has taught me the true meaning of determination. Although I am their big sister and I taught them about our organization and sisterhood, they are teaching me how to have new outlooks on my own personal relationships and life in general.

The big/little relationship can be one of the most special aspects of the Tau Beta Sigma. Your little may match you in every single way, or fill in a new part of your life that you didn't even know you were missing. For me, my bigs and littles represent a piece of my heart and soul, and they have shaped me into the man I am today.

The big/little relationship can be one of the most special aspects of the Tau Beta Sigma. Your little may match you in every single way, or fill in a new part of your life that you didn't even know you were missing. For me, my bigs and littles represent a piece of my heart and soul, and they have shaped me into the man I am today.



How My Bigs and
Littles Made me
a Better Person

Keith Williams

Tau Beta Sigma- Alpha
Omicron



In our chapter, Beta Delta, we have a unique way of letting our sisters know just how much we care for each one of them. A few years ago, our sisters decided that they would start a new tradition in our chapter—they put together an empty scrap book with the intent that each week it would be filled with love letters from one sister to another in our chapter. They called it the Love Book and it has become a much cherished item within our chapter.

This idea has turned into one of the coolest ways that we are able to share how much we care about one of our sisters each week. At the end of each meeting we have a time where the sister who got the book the previous week reads a letter that she has written to a sister she feels has impacted her life in a positive way. The letters typically start out as a little ambiguous and the name of the recipient isn't mentioned until about halfway through. As our sister reads her love letter we all listen intently and it always fills me with such warmth seeing the receiving sister's face light up knowing that she is loved.

Our Love Book is just one way that we are able to show how much we admire each other and it also shows us that small moments spent with our sisters really strengthen the bond between us. We have filled up two Love Books and are now working on a third. Recently, the latest recipient of the Love Book noticed that everyone in the chapter had received the Love Book. She came with an idea that for the next few weeks, we could have a few sisters write a letter to either their rush class or the entire chapter. I am excited to hear some lovely letters from my sisters! Each letter that is written is put into a sleeve in the Love Book so that every sister that receives the book can go back and read all the old letters and see a small glimpse of the kindness shared between our chapter.

I believe I can speak for the entire chapter when I say that my college experience would not be nearly as memorable or fulfilling as it would be if it had not been for the friendship and sisterhood I have experienced in my time in Tau Beta Sigma. Each one of the girls in this chapter holds a special place in my heart and I love that we have a platform to express our admiration for each other every week. I hope the tradition of the Love Book continues to be passed down as time goes on because in the midst of all of our busy lives, it is nice to be able to slow down and share some love with our sisters.



My father and mother met at Howard Payne University in the band. He played tuba, was a member of KKΨ, and also president of the Zeta Beta chapter for two years. My mother did everything from playing the clarinet to color guard to holding cymbals for the pit, she also was a member of TBΣ Delta Upsilon chapter, and the KKPsi sweetheart.

With this background, how could I not go into band? I picked up a saxophone in the sixth grade and still have it to this day. When I got to college, I never really questioned where I belonged during rush season. I knew I was meant to be in the Beta Zeta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma.

Now that I've been active for almost a year, I can attest that I made a great decision. Since the start of the past fall semester, we have done so much to help our band and the community at large. We spent \$5,000 out of our joint account with our Gamma Phi brothers to pay for new ponchos for the entire band of 300 plus. We adopted two angels at Christmas and bought them presents for the holidays. We ran a donation that produced a massive quantity of clothes for Good Will. We monitored and helped run the UIL Marching Contest and Solo and Ensemble that was hosted on campus, as well as putting together two Women in Music speaker events. On top of all these activities, we also cleaned the band hall, provided water at games, cleaned the seat covers, and organized music stands.



The Love Book

Courtney Jameson

Tau Beta Sigma– Beta
Delta




Enthusiastic Service

Mikaela Lumpkins

Tau Beta Sigma– Beta
Delta

Enthusiastic Service Cont'd...

If you asked me what service was, I would say look at the sisters of Beta Zeta. Even though we accomplished many projects, the sisters are always clamoring for more. Every meeting, someone brings up a new idea on how we can help someone. We put out Christmas lights for our honorary member who couldn't do it herself. We have recently decided that every week 4 or 5 sisters will go to the local Boys and Girls Club to volunteer with the kids. The generosity and willingness to help in this chapter is so abundant. These ideas can be used almost anywhere; share the enthusiasm for service with your chapter and see the incredible results that can happen.



As I sit here with my cup of hot tea thinking about what to write in this article, I am wondering what kind of legacy I will leave after my time in Tau Beta Sigma. I graduate this May, and even though I've gone far in the sorority and served my time as a district officer, what will happen when I'm gone? What have I done to affect this great organization after I leave? In a way, it feels like I haven't done anything of great importance, but instead, I've only done what was expected of me in a service organization. I've served the band, the community, and others during my time as an active member, but why is that special in Tau Beta Sigma? What exactly is my legacy?

Throughout my entire time as an active member, I've held some sort of office. My first year in the organization, I served as my chapter's Vice President of Special Projects. During this time, my chapter was small and recovering from some damage, but the entire membership for the year was dedicated, hard working, and most importantly, supportive of every other sister. I might not have had much experience in my office, but I knew I could count on every sister to help me when I needed it. They helped me learn how to fulfill and even surpass the requirements of the office, and they helped me grow into who I would eventually become. During this crucial first year, they made me feel like I belonged in the sorority.

My second year as an active member, I was made Vice President of Membership. This was a very demanding office, but it's also one of the most rewarding offices I've held. In this office, I learned event planning, organizational and time management skills, and how to help people achieve great things. During my time as the membership educator, the chapter crossed fourteen people into beautiful sisters. I might have taught the MC class about the history and traditions of the sorority, but they taught me much more than I could ever teach them. They gave me valuable lessons on leadership, listening, compassion, and much more—lessons that can't be taught in a classroom. The MCs I educated influenced me much more than they will ever realize, and I am grateful for it.

After my time as chapter Vice President of Membership, I was elected to the district council as Secretary/Treasurer. It has been incredible serving the district and seeing how the sorority works on a much grander scale. Even though I started with very little experience as a secretary or a treasurer, I've learned yet again how another important position works. It's true that fulfilling the duties of the office is important, but that's not the entire experience on the district council. I was blessed to work with three incredible individuals on the council and one of the most awesome counselors in the entire national sorority. These people are some of the most competent colleagues I've come across in my life, and more than that, working with them has shown me what it's like to emulate true greatness. By working with Christy, Ashlyn, Sami, and Erika, I know that a higher standard is possible in my life, and I will always set my expectations for myself much higher.


As my hot cup of tea turns cold while trying to think about my own legacy, I can only think about how other people have influenced me to become who I am today—I think about the friends I've made, the bonds that had been created, and the memories that I will forever cherish. Instead of the legacy I have left, I can only think of the legacies other people have left in my life, but maybe that's my legacy; maybe I've touched someone's life like mine has been touched by so many others. Even if I won't be remembered by the entire sorority in five, ten, or fifteen years, if I've had an influence in someone's life that is even a small fraction of the influences in my own life in the sorority, then that's a good enough legacy for me.



Legacies in My Life

Tyler Gorshing

Tau Beta Sigma—
Gamma Phi SWD Sec/
Treas



There are so many reasons why Delta Phi stands out when taking into consideration how far we have come along and the goals we have exceeded as a chapter. Delta Phi represents a drive for wanting to learn and do more activities and events each and every year. To start off with our leadership, we have eager and encouraging sisters who represent each of the ideals of Tau Beta Sigma and bring them into place in the organization. As for the rest of the active members who may not be in a leadership role, those members are wanting to put in every effort that it takes to make Tau Beta Sigma at Texas Lutheran University something to look back on and be proud. We have three main goals within our organization which include the ongoing community service, the interactive education, and the bonding experience.

We believe that, as a chapter, we want more than anything to lend a helping hand and to do everything that it takes to make this possible. We are continually helping out with band moves, Mid-Texas Symphony moves, hosting Women in Music Speaker Series, engaging in school community service events, participating in High School Outreach, and various events that pop up throughout the year. Delta Phi goes beyond participating in music related functions and strives to serve the community as well. This time last year we went to the local nursing home where we cleaned their apartments and played bingo with the residents. That was actually a really enjoyable event that took place on a Saturday morning.

It is safe to say that three years ago, the membership candidates didn't get much of an education nor did they learn much about what goes on in Tau Beta Sigma outside of Texas Lutheran University. It was around that time that certain sisters wanted more and sought to spread this knowledge to the whole chapter. This led to four sisters going to National Convention in Springfield and more sisters going to district convention. In a matter of two years, our program changed. We all wanted more and we all agreed that we can make Tau Beta Sigma something much more at our university. We are leaving a legacy by making the change that will live on forever in the Delta Phi Chapter. Our last year's membership candidates were the first class to receive the education that was needed in order for them to understand what Tau Beta Sigma means and their part as an active member. Since the first day when those prospectives became active, the chapter as a whole noticed a change and a sense of creativity bursting. Each and every day since then, the Delta Phi Chapter has included and practiced in many ways the ideals of Tau Beta Sigma.

As sisters, we try to find new ways to bond with each other and our crazy schedules. Most recently we hosted a bonfire at a sister's house and this was the highlight of our semester. For the first time, everyone was able to show up and get away from school and any other stresses we might have been having. Considering that 75% of our active members are non-music majors, it was a delight to see everyone since we don't always get to see our smiling faces in the music building. Also, we have made excellent strides to make social events happen with our Kappa Kappa Psi brothers. We love their company and we collaborate very well together. Recently, we hosted the South Texas Area Workshop and never before have both chapters spent that much time and effort together to make such a quality product.

Delta Phi stands out because of our continuous effort to participate not only at our school level, but as well at the district and national level. We come from a small school but that is not stopping us from reaching our goals and making connections to further explore why it is we belong in Tau Beta Sigma. We are leaving our legacy each and every day and it shows. Delta Phi doesn't have to be the largest chapter to get things accomplished, but we strive to be a well-oiled machine to get things accomplished. We are Delta Phi and we live our ideals.



A Delta Phi Story

Nichele Rios

Tau Beta Sigma– Delta
Phi



Sisterhood is defined as “an association, society, or community of women linked by a common interest, religion, or trade.” Thankfully, I have truly found that in the bond I have with the fellow members of Tau Beta Sigma. Initially, I was going to write about something completely different, but after the events of the day I just had, I was inspired by my sisters to write a little bit about what the bond means to me.

This afternoon, I was informed that my grandfather was moved into the ICU after having a stroke during a “simple” procedure. Being away from my family during the few hours it took me to get home was agonizing. I was a mess all day. I was not around my sisters, but I felt loved and supported by them all the same. Throughout the day, I got many text messages saying that they were praying for me and my family, and many messages inquiring about my grandpa’s state. This is not the first time that they have shown their support for another member or expressed their love for one another. It happens all the time and I see it on a daily basis. Since I crossed into active membership, and even throughout my membership process, there has not been a bad day where I have not been encouraged by my sisters. Whether I received a bad grade in theory or got news like I did today, there has always been some one asking me about it. To me, this is what sisterhood is all about. I feel like a member of a community, and even deeper, like a member of a second family.

Growing up, my mom used to always tell me that friendships fade, time passes and our elders do too, but sisters will be with us until the end. I always knew that my blood sisters would be with me, but I have fifteen other sisters that I hold close to me as well. I cannot fully express the gratitude I have for my chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. When we sing “with my sisters, I am best,” it rings out as a beautiful truth that I have had the privilege of discovering and contributing to. Despite the events of this day, I feel a sense of peace because of the support I have from my families at home and at school. MLITB has never expressed more truth to me than it has tonight.



In the spring semester of 2014, the four active members of Epsilon Beta recruited six new members into the chapter. I was fortunate to be one of them. These four members who assisted our Membership Education Process (MEP) all graduated or left to student teach within the same semester that our Membership Candidate class became Actives. This left six new initiates with the enormous task of stepping up as leaders in our chapter and in our music department. As any person in a new role might feel, there were many challenging learning experiences for which we were unprepared. We didn’t have years of active sisterhood under our belts, so we needed to use any and all resources that were available to us. After visiting with many experienced sisters and officers from other chapters, our vision and plans became clear. Our Chapter President worked diligently to improve our chapter operations, and has continued to work with the President of our brother chapter, Zeta Kappa, to establish guidelines in order to assist the music department. We learned that many aspects of our MEP were outdated and were below National standards. As the Membership Education Officer, I began to develop a program that is educational, purposeful, and that allowed both Actives and Membership Candidates to become closer as a unit. Our Chapter Treasurer worked with both the President and Vice-President to create a budget that would prevent chapter members from needing to pay for every fundraiser and project with their own money. To do so, a plan was implemented to establish Spring Chapter fees that helped lift this burden. Having only six chapter members plus one transfer student, who was also a new member at the time, many of us had to hold more than one office in order to function as a successful chapter. During the 2014-2015 school year, we worked hard to focus on recruitment and preparation to help our chapter grow. In the spring of 2015, we initiated nine new members into Epsilon Beta, more than doubling the size of our chapter to 16 members. In one year, we have begun a new legacy that will continue on for many years to come.



What Sisterhood Means to Me

Emily Morris

Tau Beta Sigma—
Epsilon Beta



Growing Pains: Our Chapter’s Journey

Emily Paxton

Tau Beta Sigma—
Epsilon Beta

Growing Pains: Our Chapter's Journey Cont'd...

On a personal note, this journey has inspired me in many ways. For example, during my Membership Education Process, I recognized important traits in the Active sisters whom I admired. I wanted to be just as dedicated to Tau Beta Sigma as they were. They sparked my passion, and fueled our chapter's dedication and hard work during these "growing pains". The dedication of these role models has challenged me to help my chapter reach its goals and ways that I can assist our band department. I truly love being a sister of Tau Beta Sigma, and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to know and be inspired by the previous members of Epsilon Beta.

Our chapter has come a long way in such a short time, and hopefully our story has been a help to others. Learn from your successes and failures of the past, communicate with other sisters and officers for advice, and most importantly, persevere when times get hard. These experiences could be a blessing in disguise.



During my time as a brother, I have always tried to find a way to leave a mark on our chapter. It could be starting some cool tradition or doing something fun with my brothers, but I eventually found out I was going about it all wrong. I found that the best way to leave a mark was right in front of me, in the fourth purpose. "To promote a high average of attainment by the performance of good music and selection of worthwhile projects."

This last Christmas season, the Delta chapter had the opportunity to go Kappa Kappa Caroling (with instruments). We put together an ensemble of about twenty-five people and made our way to a local neighborhood where we were able to spread Christmas cheer. Everyone that participated had a wonderful time and said that it would be something they would want to continue in the future.

After receiving this feedback we were extremely excited because we felt like it was our chance to leave a mark that everyone could benefit from. This is an event that we plan on continuing during our time at the University of Oklahoma, and hope that it will continue to exist many years down the road. We have already been brainstorming ways to improve future caroling ensembles. Next year, we hope to make this a joint event with our wonderful Tau Beta Sigma chapter. Since this year was such a success, we hope the ensemble keeps growing and many more get involved. We would also like to get our membership candidates involved. If we can include them and show them how we serve in our community, it will help the ensemble, candidates, and the entire chapter. By instilling the importance of service, we will be promoting the high average of attainment in which we strive for every day.




Kappa Kappa
Caroling

Ryan Bayless

Kappa Kappa Psi—Delta

To promote a high average of
attainment by the performance
of good music and selection of
worthwhile projects



When it comes to being on the executive council, it is not always sunshine and rainbows. Imagine, you mustered the courage to run for office and put yourself out there in front of your chapter and your friends. You swallowed the nerves as you presented your overly self-scrutinized platform, and were elected to serve as an officer. That's all great, but now what? The fact of the matter is the visibility and effectiveness of your actions practically disappears. I would venture to say that ninety percent of the time, people would not be speculating *what we are doing* with our offices, only that *we are doing something* related to the goals we presented to the chapter. Depending on your office – and this applies more so as you go down the “order of succession,” as it were – you can get away with doing almost nothing. You can go week after week, slowly inching your way along while not really accomplishing anything. And you can probably convince quite a few people – if not everyone – that you are “working hard.” If only that person would email you back, you could do more. If only someone else was doing his or her job, you could complete the project you've been working on for several weeks. If only you hadn't forgotten to do that one thing, you would be so much farther along than you are. The list of excuses is endless. But as exec members, we should be held to a higher standard, and in the endeavors of improving our office and our chapter, laziness will not do. Combating this laziness in an effective way involves accountability, action, and confirmation.

Accountability is imperative. If you cannot hold yourself to a certain level of performance, how can you ever expect someone else do the same? Much less, how can you ever hope to see any kind of growth or continued success within your office or chapter? The aspect that should be the foundation on which you perform your duties is accountability. But how do you do this? The answer is short-term goals. When you serve as an officer you will more than likely have weekly exec meetings with the rest of the committee, and you should identify what – in one week's time – you wish to, and *are going to*, accomplish. But you cannot stop there. You need to present these ideas to the rest of the executive committee so that they know what they should expect from you. By doing this, you establish two systems of accountability: you have determined the expectations you have for yourself, and you have told others what they need to expect from you. Accountability is key. If you construct avenues of accountability for yourself, you will – at the urgency of yourself or someone else – be an effective exec member. People mess up and that is okay; at some point, we all need our feet held to the flames.

Action is the most obvious of the three. How is progress made if you don't do anything? As an exec member, you have made a commitment. Remember when you were sworn into office? You took an oath to uphold the virtues of the fraternity or sorority and to accomplish all tasks placed in front of you. It is too easy to say, “Well I've taken a million oaths since I joined the organization, and I barely remember any of them. How binding are they really?” In a way, those thoughts are grounded in reason. How binding is an oath of office? If I fail at one aspect of this office will I be kicked out of the fraternity or sorority? No. If I do poorly enough to be labeled a “bad exec member”? Will the spirit of Bohumil Makovsky, A. Andrew Frank Martin, or Wava Baner Turner Henry come to haunt like in “A Christmas Carol?” Hopefully not, but you know how temperamental those spirits can be. The point is there is no almighty force binding you to your duties and forcing you to do a good job. But you made a promise to your friends, you made a commitment to your chapter, and you swore to yourself that you would do your utmost in all regards. Action is necessary. Action is vital. Action has to be apart of your everyday life.

Confirmation is often overlooked. Accountability and action alone are good, but they almost mean nothing if you are not following through and confirming that you accomplished something. At the end of every project, event, party, or meeting that takes place as part of your office (i.e. something you planned or were in charge of), it is crucial that you take time to evaluate the successes and possible improvements. It is important to identify these successes and possible improvements so that you can report back to the chapter and the rest of the executive committee on how your event went. Confirmation means being able to show others what things happened, what you would change, and how you can make things better; this confirmation step brings into focus both accountability and action. And even more so, this confirmation should propel you into the next project. You need to take the knowledge you gain from your first experience and channel it into a better plan for the next time.



Assuring
Effectiveness as
an Exec Member:
Accountability,
Action and
Confirmation

Graham Delafield

Kappa Kappa Psi– Delta,
SWD VP

Assuring Effectiveness as an Exec Member Cont'd...

Once the confirmation step is completed, set your sights on the next project. Then the whole process of accountability, action, and confirmation starts all over again.

As an exec member, the biggest obstacle is you. There is no impending doom for doing a bad job, there are no real-world consequences of shortcoming, and no one will hate you if you forget a few things. But if you can learn to be effective now – in this seemingly small situation of being one officer in a growing fraternity – you will create success for yourself and for others for years to come. Being an executive member should be seen as an important commitment, and we should always be searching to find ways to be more successful and effective.



Think of this first – how big is your chapter? Do you ever feel like you are not needed? Do you ever feel like you are doing too much, or doing a bulk of the work? When working with a group, this is a rather common issue. No matter what, it is crucial to remember that **YOU** are important! Whether your chapter is big or small, the impact you can make as an individual is **HUGE**. After all, the group benefits from the dedication of the individuals. It takes just one selfless consideration from each of us. Just **ONE**.

Consider a medium-large chapter of the size of 30 members. Everyone organizes one service event in the year. That is 30 service events for 365 days. If 5 people attend every planned event, each person will attend 5 events over the span of the year. If you plan one event, and attend 5 events at an average length of 2 hours each, you are dedicating a mere 10 hours of service **per year**. Truly, that should be the bare minimum if you have dedicated yourself to serving the musical community.

If you are a member of a smaller chapter, the same principle applies. Do the math on your own! A chapter of 10 can have just as much of an impact as a chapter of 30. It only takes one person to make a positive impact. Group participation simply demonstrates a greater passion and dedication to service. If you need extra hands, recruit the help of fellow band members. Open up service to all engaged in college band work and further spread the great name of Kappa Kappa Psi or Tau Beta Sigma!

Maybe individual effort is not an issue for your chapter. You may have the issue of discovering a new way to serve. So, how can you “distribute the wealth” of service? Here are some simple suggestions (applying to all members):

Executives - use your committee! – This is the easiest scenario. Set an expectation for each member of a committee to organize at least one committee-related event each semester/year. Focus on events outside of the arts.

Band Leadership – Pep Bands - Organize KKY/TBS related pep gigs for on campus and the community.

Music Majors - Network with local teachers by providing service to their band programs. Organize their library, raise funds, play with their band, teach a free private lesson, (We can go on forever on this topic...).

The “No Duh” example for everyone – Talk to your director about serving the band at your college/university! There is *always* something that can be done on campus.

Along with these suggestions, don't forget that your brothers and sisters can always use a helping hand. Just one act of kindness can make a lasting impression on your brother or sister. This seems like such a simple idea, but I think it is something most of us fail to consider every day. We fail to see the huge impact that small efforts can make, especially when considering serving the community. When organizing at least **ONE** event of service each semester, consider the difference your chapter can make - together.





It was cool Saturday morning at Carl Albert High School when a small caravan of cars arrived from the South. They had driven for thirty minutes with a purpose: that purpose was service to a brother, a band, and to the musical community at large. These cars were driven by the brothers and sisters of the Delta chapters of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma, and they were spurred on by a desire to serve alumni brother and new band director, Logan Stalcup. Logan had requested the help of the Delta chapters in cleaning out and reorganizing the band building of his school.

We pulled up to find a building in disarray, with instruments scattered and equipment piled in corners. Not to mention the chairs set facing the wrong way, the percussion room cluttered, and the jazz band risers blocking a fire exit. We immediately set to work organizing and cleaning the room. We matched hats to hat boxes, we placed covers on vibraphones, and we threw out the world's oldest, saddest bass drum. By the mid-afternoon, we had taken a cramped, disorganized space and refurbished it into a space worthy of an excellent band. We had cleaned the office space, turned the mess of the percussion room into both a well-organized storage space and a workable classroom, and even taken the time to organize the trophies found in the building's attic. It was hard work, but we relished the opportunity for service.

This service, however, was not to our band, or even to a band we once were a part of. Carl Albert High School has no alumni in the Delta chapter; none of us nor any of the bands we traditionally serve would ever use these facilities. What reason did we have for our thirty minute drive that morning?

Sure, it could be said that we did this to help a brother; but I don't feel that's the full extent of our motivation. I think that the motivation to serve as a member of Kappa Kappa Psi has to derive from our appreciation of music. Music, the universal language, stirs us to the cause of service and bonds us as brothers. I think that the answer to the question "Why do we serve?" comes from a desire to see music brought to new heights. We might never hear the sound of a band ringing through that hall, but because of our work that sound will be all the sweeter to others. We should serve bands not for ourselves, but for the cause of music itself. As college bandsmen, we must accept that we will one day pass from these bands, as will our friends, and our directors, and our brothers, until the bands we once served might be unrecognizable to us. What these bands and ours have in common, what all bands will always have in common, is music. It is our only truly lasting legacy.



"It builds character" is a saying that has stuck with me my entire life. I grew up in a hardworking household where my family was always up at the crack of dawn working on some project. Be it a rebuilding project for a burnt down barn or jack hammering concrete for an Eagle Scout project, it was always busy around the house. If it needed to get done, my family would be the first people there. However, whenever I asked my father why we were participating in these projects or even why we doing them so early, he would turn to me and say, with a grin spread across his face, "Bud, it builds character." I hated that saying. I had first heard it when begging to come home from church camp, where I had stolen a counselor's phone to call my mother. Barely able to catch a word through my uncontrollable sobs, she handed the phone to my father. After sobbing to him, he paused for a moment and told me those three words. "Matthew, it builds character." And then he hung up.

To this day my friends tease me about it, and has probably become the family motto. However, I never saw this saying as a truth. That was until two summers ago. Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in The Boy Scouts program requires that you plan and execute a service project. I decided I would build a handicap ramp for my high school. I won't bore you with the details but it was one of the toughest things I have ever done. It took me two weeks to complete



We Serve For
Music: A
Reflection on the
Motivations for
Service

Ryan Maxey

Kappa Kappa Psi– Delta



Character
Building

Matthew Patrick

Kappa Kappa Psi– Delta

Character Building Cont'd...

that project and the day after we finished, I started my senior year of high school. That's when I noticed something different. I felt more focused once I started back to school. I then decided to run for Student Council President and I won. I had complete confidence in myself now. For some reason this project had refined my leadership skills and boosted my self-esteem. The whole point of this project was to better the school, yet I bettered myself at the same time.

The point I am trying to get is that members of KKY and TBS need to rethink how we see service projects. Yes, the whole point of a service project is to serve those who are in need of service, and in that process we better those around us. However, we are not only serving those involved in the service project, we are also benefiting ourselves. These service projects make us better people in the long run as they teach skills we never thought we could learn and hones skills we didn't know we had. Plus, the feeling you get after finishing a service project is indescribable. So just remember next time you are offered a spot for a service event or even in a hardworking position, just remember those three words that have stuck with me my whole life....

Service is a big part of my collegiate career. One of the main reasons I joined Kappa Kappa Psi, other than the brotherhood aspect, was the mission to serve. Service is something more than just ourselves and it can take many shapes or forms.

Service to me means taking time out of a busy schedule to help make a person's life better or help improve an organization. One of my first serving experiences in college was being a part of the leadership team for the marching band. This kind of service required me to not only push my section to do their best, but also be a part of an ongoing discussion on how the band can be improved. Leadership is a great way to give back to an organization that you have gained from. Since then I have served as the Vice President of Service (VPS) of the Delta chapter and now currently as the President. These positions require a large time commitment from myself so that I can best help the organization I care so much about.

Another good way to serve is to reach out to the community. Around Norman and Oklahoma City, there are a lot of smaller schools that do not receive as much assistance as the larger schools do. This is a great opportunity to reach out and help them with daily operations. One project that we did while I was VPS was reach out to a school in a less fortunate area. The great thing about this band program was that they reached out to economically disadvantaged children and showed them how to focus their energies through music. We helped this program by spending the day re-painting and cleaning the band room and organizing music.

In addition to serving the community, we help out a lot with serving our band program. One of the big events at the beginning of every year is a workday with TBS. During this workday, we help prepare for the marching season by getting flip folders ready, preparing the marching band field and many other tasks that need to be completed. I enjoy this specific service event because not only am I serving the band program, I am getting the opportunity to mingle with my brothers and sisters I have been away from during the summer.

The great thing about KKPsi and TBS is that we are already the leaders in the band, whether or not the word "leader" is next to your name. You do not have to be a leader in order to serve your program. You can still go out of your way to help a struggling band member, ask if the band staff needs any help, or even ask your officers if you could do anything to help them out. Help is always appreciated and you never how much you can make someone's day, even if it is a seemingly small task!



How I Serve
Through Kappa
Kappa Psi

Andrew Ross

Kappa Kappa Psi- Delta



As a recent transfer from the Gamma Phi chapter to the Delta chapter, I wanted to immerse myself into the size and culture change of my new chapter. I took it upon myself to attend the open executive meetings. Here are few tips for members who do not hold an office position this year:

Why make executive meetings open?

Opening meetings to active members, chapter sponsors, and visitors helps convey ideas that all those in attendance can take away and benefit from. This also allows members to feel a part of the chapter by attending these meetings, and by keeping in the loop of the officers plans.

What about joint relations?

If you have both a Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi chapter, a good place to start improving joint relations is to have joint regular and executive meetings. This is something that both Delta Chapters are working on, to start improving on communication and joint relations.

How this benefits the future Executive officers and members.

With the elections for the 2015-2016 chapter officers approaching, it will help if those who are interested in becoming a future officer to attend these executive meetings. This will allow those who are graduating or leaving their current office to help transition to the future leaders. If members have been attending exec meetings, and then decide to run next year for office, it will help them understand how meetings are run, and even how the chapter meetings should be held.

Efficiency of Meetings and other things to consider

While talking about business and tossing out ideas is important, so is just chitchatting with your members, or maybe going out to lunch or dinner after the meeting! Also note that it is best to have Exec earlier in the week or before your chapter meetings, so that if something comes up, it can be easily addressed. For example, Exec meetings at Delta are on Sunday afternoons and our Chapter Meetings are on Thursday evenings.

Finally, it is a good idea if the secretary of your chapter send out weekly emails after Exec meetings to all chapter members. It helps keep the members in check of when deadlines are, District events coming up, etc. Thank you to Graham Delafield, because yes I do actually read the entire email.

If you have any questions about Exec or have any ideas, feel free to add me on Facebook or email me at danielle.l.sullivan-16@ou.edu



As I get closer and closer to the day I graduate, I look back on the fun times of being a prospective member in the Delta Sigma class of the Lambda Chapter. From memories filled with excitement as we were sitting down sharing a meal or piling in cars to obtain signatures to the disappointment filled room when we heard that a fellow class member had dropped process, the time has flown by and now only a few of the members in my class remain as active brothers.

It seems much like a blur when I start to piece my years as an active member together, but it has been a worthwhile experience to stick to the motto of "striving for the highest." I believe one of the saddest days as a member had to come when a member of my class was put on probation for failing to act with



Oh, So You're Just
a Member? Yes,
You Can Meet
with Us

Danielle Sullivan

Kappa Kappa Psi- Delta



Strive For the
Highest

Eric Barnett

Kappa Kappa Psi-
Lambda, SWD Co-MAL

Strive For the Highest Cont'd

brotherly conduct. Although he is still a great friend, it still pains me to talk to him about the regret he feels about the night he made a wrong decision that cost him his membership into our fraternity. I hope that each of you will take a moment and consider each of the choices you make. Remember that as the words to our Fraternal Hymn read, "I know if I must die I am a brother of K K Psi."

Each of us in all circumstances will reflect upon our organization either in a positive or negative manner. I do realize we are human and make mistakes. That is inevitable. But as Rob Morris pointed out in our chapter "you should never regret anything; each of your decisions makes you who you are." If you want to be a brother or sister in our organizations, there is nothing holding you back except yourself. So why wait? Go be the best brother or sister that you can be.

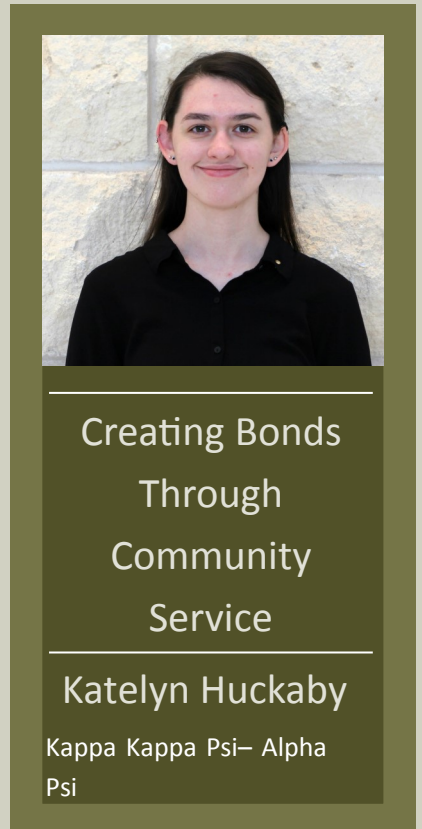
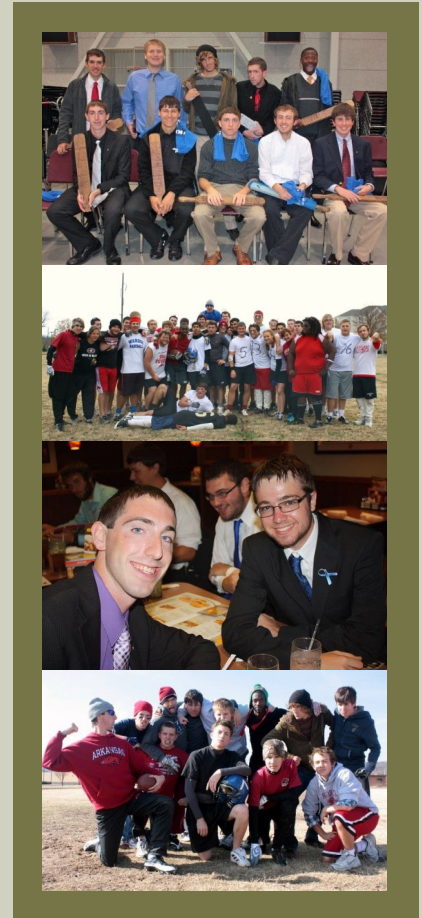


When the subject of music festivals comes up, what comes to mind? To the brothers of Alpha Psi, it means ensuring things run smoothly for the non-profit organization Greater Southwest. Each year, the brothers of the Alpha Psi chapter are asked to undertake one of the biggest events in the area for the fine arts community. Greater Southwest Music Festival is in its 44th year in the Amarillo, TX area. The sole purpose was to promote the education and cultural aspects of fine arts among young people in middle and high schools in the northwest Texas area and surrounding states. The first festival was held in 1971 and has been an annual event since then.

The Festival annually welcomes students from Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas. In recent years, students from 60 schools in 40 cities have resulted in a participation of 8,832 students annually. Each May, the brothers of the Alpha Psi chapter practically run the whole festival. We can be found running setup of the band/orchestra performance area to the warm-up rooms, from running the solo and ensemble area to manning the choir performances across the street at the Globe News Center for the Performing Arts. This event really could not run as smoothly and as successfully without the dedication of the non-profit members and the Alpha Psi chapter.

While serving the musicians of the area, this is a good opportunity for networking and creating bonds with alumni of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. Though there's not much down time, stories from when some of the judges and directors were in college start to come out. I have met several past presidents and officers of not only the Alpha Psi chapter, but of other chapters around the state and the nation. Something I really love about helping with this event each year is that even though I'm still in college and several of these people are old enough to be my parents or grandparents, one thing still unites us: the bond we share through this great brotherhood and sisterhood.

Even though this is a crazy three days filled with constant activity and sometimes frustration over things you cannot fix, I would not trade the memories and experiences for anything. Bonding with my brothers over our shared love of music brings joy to my heart and further confirms that I made the right choice when I chose to join this great brotherhood.





No matter which status you are, we have all heard an alumnus say something similar to the following “Wow! You guys have it easy. Back in my day we had to do “X” to get a “Y” and meet with “Z” all in one week!” You stay with this person as they relive their process and relay it to you, and you will be either horrified by their stories or uninterested because you want to meet with more alumni before they leave. Eventually, you begin to think about how your current chapter operates and teaches its potential members, and you begin to feel incredibly blessed. You are appreciative that your process was not as traumatic as your alumni and that your bonds were established through love and support instead of fear and intimidation. However, you also start to analyze every aspect of your chapter operations and wonder what kind of precedent you are currently setting. How will your current chapter affect the chapter after you?

It is not uncommon to feel this way, especially if you are a newly initiated brother or sister. You know that you will be in your chapter for a while and you only to contribute to its betterment. I tell every potential member I meet that they should attempt to understand the majority of their chapter’s operations and try to find something that they like before they become active, because eventually, this chapter will be theirs. I would not worry to the point where you are questioning every minute of your chapter’s infrastructure, because the last thing any big brother/sister wants is to see their little develop a neurosis in their first semester as an active. Nevertheless, if you see something that is questionable, you should talk to your big, your chapter officers, or your sponsor or Director of Bands.

It is important to take a closer look at anything that members find unnecessary or questionable. It could be that this issue is just misunderstanding between your chapter’s membership and the executive council. You may need to reword this particular item of interest with the help of your brothers or sisters. This way the issue gets resolved and the membership feels included in the important decisions of your chapter. However, it may not have any value to your current chapter and may need to be removed. This might raise some red flags with the older members of your brotherhood/sisterhood because they might see this apparent “issue” as a “tradition.” “Tradition” is a term that can be used a defensive mechanism by your older membership as a way to hang on to the days of their process, but tradition for the sake of tradition only keeps your chapter from advancing. After all, aren’t many things today that we consider hazing glorified as a tradition?

In summary, when considering your chapter “traditions,” if you find there is an educational value to them and they make you and the organization happy, keep them. If they are destructive, get rid of them. Whatever your chapter decides, your organization must stand strong in agreement so they it can face the judgment of the previous members head-on.



I’ve been a part of Kappa Kappa Psi for less than a year now, but I can say I have learned many lessons about band, college, and life in general. Through my experiences with my band, brothers and Fraternity, I have grown to see just how monumental one’s service can actually be.

Serving to me means going above and beyond the basic duties. It’s setting the best example possible. It means not only being a good brother, but also an outstanding bandsman. We may not always be the best musician, but we can never remain stagnant in our craft. We best serve by knowing our role in the chapter. As the old saying goes, “No man is an island.” Therefore by working as a team and making a collective effort, we better serve our bands and community. We serve by knowing when to lead and knowing when to follow... and in my opinion, serving means knowing that all of your hard work may go unnoticed, but also never letting that stop you from doing your best. We serve by being good



Legacy or Fallacy: Traditions and Their Effect on the Brotherhood/ Sisterhood

Austin Bordelon

Kappa Kappa Psi– Beta
Gamma, SWD Co-MAL




An Honor to Serve

Shaqkeen Williams

Kappa Kappa Psi– Delta Psi

An Honor to Serve Cont'd...

stewards to our band programs. Now that doesn't always mean being a janitor, but actually knowing when to pick up the proverbial broom. Serving to me means serving not only marching band, but jazz, concert, symphonic and any other ensembles, for music is a universal language and one that transverses many styles, genres, and mediums. Finally, serving to me means being there for your fellow bandmates, brothers, and sisters. Being of service to those in need goes a long way, and you never know the impact you can have on a person's life. AEA!




Legacy. It's an intriguing word that can be used in both positive and negative language. I think we can all agree we prefer to use that word in a positive light. When we graduate and move from active to alumni status, we hope that we leave a positive legacy with our brothers and sisters. But how do we ensure this happens?

Leaving a legacy begins and ends with our actions. Our actions as brothers, sisters, musicians, friends, and any other roles we serve in our lives determine what our legacy will be. Will these actions be positive or negative? In our membership education process, one of the first lessons we were taught was that we were working to join a music *service* organization.

Service is done through our actions, and the service we accomplish determines our legacy. Begin by asking yourself; are you doing everything you can to do the maximum amount of service to your organization and program? Begin by going above and beyond with the service you do. Make yourself a reliable and hardworking member. Be the one at service projects who is one of the hardest working brother or sister there. Show your fellow bandmembers, through your actions, that you are all about being the best bandmember that you can be!

Have initiative, share your ideas, and seek leadership opportunities. I don't just mean running for office and being elected to a position. Some of the best leaders in a chapter don't have a title in front of their name. Let your ideas be known, raise that hand of yours when someone asks for volunteers or help. Give your support to your fellow brothers and sisters and be a leader through your initiative and support for your organization.

Through positive actions, you will leave a positive legacy. I cannot tell you how exactly you can leave a positive legacy. What I can tell you is to look for the opportunities that allow you to serve the band to the highest ability you can, and seize upon those opportunities and do it!



A lot has happened since my article in last semester's New ALTO! When I last wrote, Zeta Beta had just finished its first rush, which was a service rush all throughout the music building at Howard Payne University. Their next rush was a fish fry rush, where not only fish, but also things such as honey buns and Oreos were fried and enjoyed by KΚΨ brothers and potential members. Their final rush was a formal steak rush, where each brother prepared a steak for themselves and a potential member. There were quite a few interesting steaks, but one made with a Dr Pepper marinade took the cake! In the end, Zeta Beta had six amazing people complete the Membership Education process, and they became brothers on February 28th!

Along with all the happenings in Brownwood, I have had my fair share of travels. Last semester, I attended the Mu Lambda chapter's 3rd degree, and got to see five new brothers of an amazing chapter! After that, Tippy (Zeta Beta's mascot) and I, along with two Zeta Beta brothers, traveled to West Texas A&M to attend the 2nd and 3rd degrees of the Alpha Psi chapter. We all had an amazing time getting to know those brothers and exploring the Canyon area, especially the natural beauty of Palo Duro Canyon. Shout-out to Katelyn, Alec, and Rachel for being extremely hospitable and brotherly! Most recently, I traveled to McMurry University in Abilene, TX to attend the 2nd degree of the Nu



A Legacy Through Service

Dylan Charrin

Kappa Kappa Psi- Beta
Sigma, SWD Sec/Treas



Spring 2015 with Zeta Beta

Andy the Armadillo

Kappa Kappa Psi- Zeta
Beta

Andy the Armadillo Cont'd...

Delta chapter. It was great seeing two prospective members get one step closer to membership, and I got to meet national CFR Chris Young!

As I type these words (which is hard to do with these claws, by the way), I realize with sadness that my time with Zeta Beta is coming to a close. At the end of March, I will be passed on to another chapter and will start another year of adventures with them. While I am sad to leave the Zeta Beta brothers, I am excited to meet yet another great chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi! I can't wait to see you all at District Convention!



In many chapters, there are members that end up making their membership status conditional for a number of reasons. Whether it be personal or because they are student teaching or completing an internship, we are all very accustomed to how and why this happens. But what exactly does it mean? Many chapters have established norms for conditional members, but I like to think of conditional membership as continued membership. It is very important for members to think of creative and useful ways that they can continue to use their membership that acts in the best interest for themselves and their home chapter.

Have a Positive Mindset: In many scenarios, older members end up changing their status to conditional membership and displace themselves from their Chapter with the mindset of "I've done my time." This is often due to someone being burnt out. I do not think that any one person has actually ever "done their time," because as much as this fraternity does for each of its members, I do not believe that it is even possible to ever come close to matching that as an individual. It is best to go about continuing your membership on conditional terms with a positive outlook. This will only strengthen your connection to your chapter and it will also leave positive memories upon graduation.

Stay Informed: It is each member's responsibility to stay informed about the operations of the chapter when they are not able to be present at all times. One of the easiest ways to accomplish this is to stay caught up with chapter minutes. Make sure that they are posted or sent to you each week and keep yourself informed. If your chapter has a Facebook group page, then make sure you keep up with that as well. Take time every now and then to post about what is going on in your life. The chapter wants to know how your life is and helps them to know that you care as well. It is also best to keep a steady relationship with some of the members in the chapter so that you are aware about more than just what you see on Facebook or in the chapter minutes.

Act as an Advisor: One of the greatest gifts that someone can offer their chapter is their advice, which comes from their experience. When offering advice, you should always keep an open mind and act in favor of the chapter's best interest. Hear everyone out and listen to everything that they have to say. Never give them exact answers or tell them what to do, but instead share your applicable experiences and help guide them in the right direction.

Attend Special Events: Be sure to keep track of your chapter's calendar at all times. If you are in a situation where you will only be able to attend one or two events during the semester, then try and find an event or two that your attendance would be the most meaningful at. Some great examples of special events would be 3rd Degree, District Convention, or National Convention. These events are very positive and memorable, and would be the best ones to attend because they tend to serve as a sort of reunion as well.




Conditional
Continued
Membership

Brandon Fisher

Kappa Kappa Psi- Zeta
Kappa, SWD President

Continuing Conditional Membership Cont'd...

As you can see, there are very useful ways that members with conditional status can stay involved and active within their own chapter. It is very important for members to find their place, and search for what suits them best within their chapter. I would like to challenge all of the members in the Southwest District with conditional membership to define what their role can be within their chapter and commit to striving for the highest in their continued membership.



After reading two semesters worth of articles, I am blown away by the overwhelming response from the District with stories and advice for how to make our great organizations even better. The many anecdotes on how to improve chapter relations, connections with alumni, community involvement and many more helpful topics leave me excited for the future of our fraternity and sorority. Hearing other's favorite times leads me to reminisce on my last three years in Kappa Kappa Psi, and there are so many memorable moments I would like to share, so many wonderful people I want to thank for their tireless work. I could probably fill a book with the many stories and thank yous, so I'll just take a moment to share a few.

Thank you to the person who started it all for me: my big, Sydney Corbin. As Vice President for our chapter and one of the first drum majors for the Spirit of San Antonio marching band, I was taken aback when she encouraged me to attend one of the rush events. It was all history from there, as the people and values of Kappa Kappa Psi captured my attention. I am so inspired by you and I know our connection will last a lifetime.

The Mean Girls of UTSA and my best friends: thank you for helping to keep me somewhat sane and be able to laugh about life. We always managed to have time to go vent about rehearsals and the ludicrous happenings of the Music Department and found some great hangout spots in the meantime. I know I can call you at any hour of the day (and I have) and that you will be there in a heartbeat. See you at the Heat!

My little brothers, Bobby and Morgan, taught me how to be more compassionate and patient. Though you are younger in years, both you guys are incredibly wise and can advise me on the difficult decisions that needed to be made. I always wish that I can do more, but hopefully you guys were able to learn a thing or two from me along the way.

Our sponsor, my boss, the "Iron Chancla" Cindy Solis. What the hell, I never thought I would grow to like you as much as I do, especially since you yell at me so much. Your advice about my major sticks with me to this day and I share it with as many people as possible ("marketing isn't for wussies"). You are an institution in the Music Department and I am incredibly thankful for your helpful advice and tough love.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, as there are countless more people that I will always remember and stories that make me chuckle. Never forget the reasons why you joined these organizations in the first place, as it can become buried underneath the mass of tedious projects, life drama, and exhaustion. Hold the purposes and teachings close to you and you will start to reap the benefits from it. This fraternity has transformed my life in countless ways and it is a bitter-sweet moment as graduation approaches, ending my time as an active member. I will soon be transitioning into the "real world", but I am confident that I enter it well prepared thanks to my time as a member, officer, and brother of Kappa Kappa Psi.



Life in the Times
of a Copy Editor

Aaron Sanchez

Kappa Kappa Psi- Mu
Tau, Copy Editor



To join, or not to join? At some point in your college career, you will ask yourself that question. It isn't a question that should be taken lightly. You should put as much, or more thought into it as you would say, choosing an elective. In essence that is exactly what you are doing; you are electing to take part in something that will affect you in many ways and can make your college journey more enriching.

So what would you consider when deciding to join a fraternity, sorority or other registered organization? Before making the leap, consider these issues: time management, financial obligations, goals of the organization vs. your goals, special opportunities, and legacy. Some of these issues are specific to you and others specific to the organization.

Time management is the most valuable skill you will learn during the course of your college life. When looking at an organization to join ask yourself how much time you will be required to spend just getting through the rush process. Upon acceptance, what time requirements are expected of you as a member? You will have to consider when and how long meetings are held; what service or special projects you are required to participate in and how much of an extra bite out of your time pie this will take. *Cupcakes don't bake themselves.*

If you are an especially ambitious type, you may even consider participating as an officer in your organization. Officers not only spend time attending regular meetings, which they each may spend time preparing for in advance, but officers also attend conventions, meetings with advisors/college representatives, and committees. These time obligations in addition to schoolwork can make even a 24 hour day seem too short. Being a member of a fraternity, especially a service-oriented one, is not for the procrastinator.

The second issue that is specific to the individual is financial obligation. What are the fees or dues involved in being a member? What are the penalties for not meeting that requirement? Does the organization help members raise funds for this purpose? For some organizations, this is not allowed. Even the proverbial bake sale is not meant to subsidize members' fees. In fact, you may even be asked to donate to a fundraiser. Cupcakes also don't pay for themselves.

So where will you get this money? If you work, you must again consider the time this allows you to participate in any extra- curricular activity. Oftentimes, money and time are conversely related. When you have money, you may not have the time to spend it; when you have time, you are usually broke. So be mindful that membership sometimes means having a deep pocket.

When you are shopping around for an organization to join, look for a few things. What kind of fraternity is this, service or social? Does it meet my needs as an individual whether that be to help others, make friends, or network within my career choice? A lot of times these questions can be answered by looking at the mission statement of the fraternity. Of course, this is to complement actually meeting the current members and sharing your own expectations with what current members are experiencing.

Whether social or service, the organization you choose should offer you some special opportunities. Otherwise, why join? A sound organization will offer its members special opportunities non-members don't have. For instance, your membership may take you to conventions where movers and shakers in your career field are addressing areas of interest to you. You will oftentimes meet members from other chapters which increases your connections and belonging to something bigger than yourself. Camaraderie is certainly a positive by-product of membership.

Finally there is legacy. Is this organization one whose roots are as deep as that of your family tree? Many older institutions have these kinds of fraternities that can brag of generations of members. While this may not be the case with younger institutions, consider this: while you may not be the most current member of a long line of ancestral members dating back to Plymouth Rock or the Alamo, you can always be a notable member in your organization's infancy.

So again I pose the question, "To join or not to join," but this time hoping you are more educated and ready to answer it for yourself. Understand the time commitments needed to fulfill your duties to your organization and never let that go by the wayside.



Thinking of Joining an Organization?

Cynthia Solis

Kappa Kappa Psi- Mu
Tau, Sponser

A Thank You From the Staff



Dearest Southwest District,

As we wrap up the school year and this year's edition of the New Alto, there are thank you's to give out. First of all, thank you to our amazing KKPsi Comal's Eric and Austin, and TBS District VPSP Sami for overseeing this at first daunting project. It has certainly been a year of learning, and you guys have been a steady reminder of the goal at hand: to provide a medium to share ideas and thoughts between brothers and sisters of the District and nationally. We have loved reading your articles and seeing what the rest of our amazing brothers and sisters have had to say. The passion for this organization is strong, and the articles prove it. So another thanks goes to everyone who has written an article. It has been a joy and a privilege to spread your thoughts. The best truly do come from the Southwest.

Respectfully Submitted in the Bond,

Your 2014-2015 New Alto Staff

Copy Editor– Aaron Sanchez

Design Editor– Brielle Johnson

Webmaster– Stephen Miller