



Answer the Call

New ALTO Spring 2016 Edition

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CONTINUITY IN THE CHAPTER

Alana Sewell, Tau Beta Sigma, Gamma Nu Chapter



Chapter continuity is one of the biggest problems growing chapters face over the course of several years. Continuity helps our chapters build and reinforce stable foundations in the changing generations of our membership. With the Active membership life-span being (on average) between 4-5 years, it is important to establish chapter norms and expectations that will keep the chapter from reinventing the wheel every year. These methods save time and add to the level of productivity the chapter is able to accomplish so they may simply continue to improve and strengthen the fundamentals that have been forged.

Long-Term Goals

At the beginning of the year, the President should initiate a conversation about goals (short, medium, and long term) with the chapter. This discussion should also specifically include long-term goals for the entire year *and* future years. Goals are important because they give the chapter direction and some-

thing to strive for together. It is important to keep in mind that the best goals are tangible and attainable.

An important thing to remember about goals is to have them written down and to revisit them often. A good schedule for discussing and evaluating the chapter's progress on the goals could be as follows:

- Beginning of the fall
- Middle of the fall
- End of the fall/beginning of the spring
- Middle of the spring
- End of the spring
- Officer evaluations and goal adjustment should also take place at the end of every semester. Keep in mind that at the end of the spring semester, the outgoing President should take note of the standing of all the goals and pass them on to the incoming President for the next year. This marks the end of the current year and the beginning of the next year. The new President can then start a discussion with the chapter about the old goals and starting new ones at the first meeting of the fall semester.

It may seem like I am suggesting you should go over

goals a lot and, well, I am! Goals are so important and the most successful chapters have them. To ensure continuity in your chapter, it is essential to have and maintain tangible and attainable long term goals throughout the years.

Incorporate Chapter Operations within MEP

Have you ever had a Membership Candidate class that is nearly as big as the Active members and/or will be a huge portion of the Active membership once they cross? Do you want to eliminate the 'transition period' from Membership Candidate to Active? Use your Membership Education Process as an opportunity to teach your chapter Operations to your Membership Candidates. This will help your Membership Candidates learn about the basic procedures of the chapter and become used to using them *before* they even cross as Active members! This means they are already getting comfortable with the protocol of your chapter and practicing way before they actually participate in Active meetings.

For example, Gamma Nu has our Membership Candi-

dates use our chapter Event Proposal Form when they plan their fundraiser, sisterhood activity, and service project. When a Committee Head is planning a project, they must fill out the Event Proposal Form in advance with their committee and then present it to the chapter at an Active meeting for approval. Therefore, we have our Membership Candidates do the same. Even if members of that class will never be an officer, Gamma Nu has decided that event planning is one of our priorities and something we want our class to know how to do before they become Active members. The class also holds their own meetings and are expected to use an agenda and follow Robert's Rules. When they are finally able to participate in their first Active meeting, they feel less overwhelmed because the process of being in a meeting is not new to them. These are basic standards of the Gamma Nu chapter that they are expected to learn and follow as Membership Candidates that will help them when they are Active members. Including these or similar aspects into your Membership Education Program will ensure the transfer of knowledge about basic chapter Operations to all incoming classes the same way every year.

Using PIME

Many chapters use PIME as an acronym for POST-Initiate Membership Education. This means that PIME sessions are presented to educate all members of the chapter after the Membership Candidate class has crossed. Gamma Nu uses it as POST and PRE so that we have an education process going on throughout the entire year. While serving as Vice President of Membership for Gamma Nu, I made it a point to include other members in planning PIME as well. If someone felt passionate about a particular topic, I would let them put together a presentation for the chapter and assist them as needed. This helps instill a sense of ownership within the chapter about education. Another benefit is that this allows other members the opportunity to experience teaching the chapter (helpful for future VPMs) and developing lesson plans.

When someone teaches a lesson about a particular subject, they mostly likely will become the new 'expert' on that topic due to the amount of time it takes to study that subject. For example, I had an Active member approach me about doing an extremely in-depth PIME on all of the rituals. She studied the ritual

deeply and presented the chapter with a 3-part series of thorough breakdowns about the ritual. Not only did the chapter have the opportunity to revisit our ritual in another setting other than experiencing it, but this member now knows the ritual so extensively that if we ever have a question, she will know the answer. The knowledge of the chapter has been spread to another member and will continue to do so when others take on this task as well.

Transparency of Officers

In my personal opinion, too many chapters give their executive council an overabundance of power within the chapter. This can create an environment of hierarchy rather than a team-led establishment. Active members who are not officers can begin to feel that they have little to no input on the current and future activities of the chapter. This can also impact the future officers who would then have no idea as to what the previous officers accomplished. A chapter works best when everyone contributes and has a voice but this is impossible with an overbearing executive council. By making the leadership transparent, meaning, less convoluted and secret, all members will be aware of what is going on at

all times.

In addition, do not be afraid to spread the leadership to other members. Officers do not have to be the ones fully responsible for organizing an entire project. For example, in Gamma Nu, we had an Active member that had strong ties to a Girl Scout Troop organize our Crescendo project (previously known as Scouting for Music) for us while the Vice President of Service supervised and kept that member on track. That member had been given a personal responsibility and a leadership opportunity that would have otherwise been unavailable to her if the officers were the ones holding all the power. Incorporating more power within the Active membership and having transparency of the executive council educates the entire chapter on the process of accomplishing activities and ends up training the chapter on exactly what an officer does. This this information, Actives will be more aware of the expectations of officers before they run for the positions and for assistance when participating in committees.

Officer Resources

Each officer should work to put together a resource binder of all their activities and projects. At the end of their term, consider having

the officer make charges for the incoming officer to help continue and/or rework projects. To go along with maintaining a resource, the officer can upload digital copies of their reports and documents to a GoogleDrive and/or DropBox to pass along to the next member to take that office. If you wanted to continue the theme of educating Actives about the officers, the Google-Drive could even be made viewable by the rest of the chapter so that people that are interested in positions will have the opportunity to look over materials at any time.

By having these resources, officers will not be rediscovering their position every year. Hopefully, the chapter will learn what does and does not work, keep record of those things, and build on the things that are successful. In the long run, the amount of continuous successes will add up and the officers will continuously improve their position so that newbies will spend less time making the same mistakes that were made in the past.

Give Members a Voice – EVALUATIONS

Complete chapter and Officer Evaluations at the end of every semester. Chapter Evaluations discuss the overall

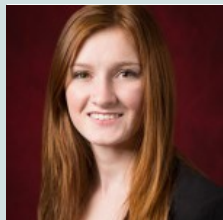


status and progress of the chapter as a whole while Officer Evaluations are specific to that position. By doing this, all members are given the opportunity to give their opinion on what they like/dislike about various aspects of the chapter in an anonymous and safe environment. This is yet another way to provide your chapter with a continuous growth plan designed by the members of the chapter. The most important thing to keep in mind with Evaluations is that they must come from a positive and constructive place. The purpose for doing them is for improvement of the chapter in the long run.

I hope I have given you some ways to think about improving chapter continuity. Focusing on this aspect of our organizations will ensure us years of healthy chapter development and I encourage everyone to have a discussion about their continuity plan. This could be a game changer for your chapter and the future of your organization will be thankful!

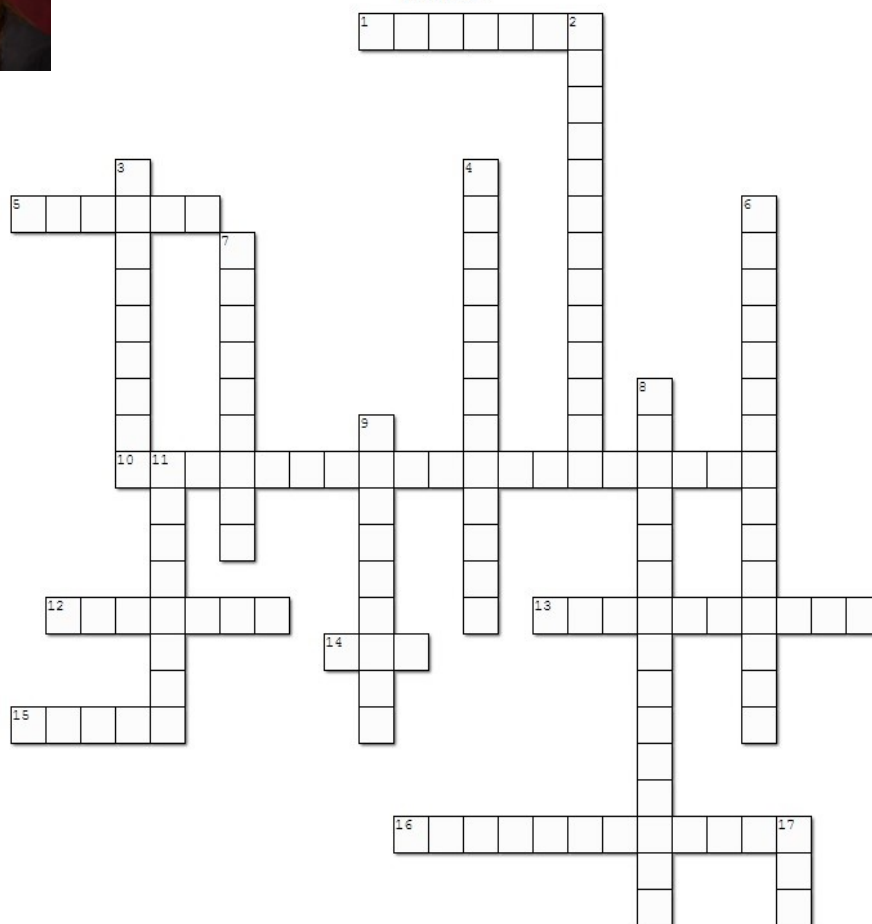
CROSSWORD

Ashlyn Kubacak, Tau Beta Sigma, Psi Chapter, SWD VPM



Ultimate KKY & TBS Crossword

Complete the crossword below. I bet you'll need to google at least one of the answers! Test your knowledge!



Across

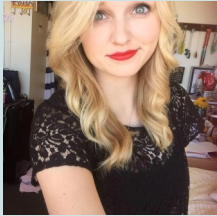
1. City where the Tau Beta Sigma shrine is located
5. Tau Beta Sigma scholarship awarded to members who show outstanding business abilities
10. Motto of Kappa Kappa Psi
12. City where the 2017 National Convention will be held
13. City where National Headquarters is located
14. Minimum number of charter members for a colony to be formed for Kappa Kappa Psi
15. Minimum number of charter members for a colony to be formed for Tau Beta Sigma
16. Founded in 1946; National Honorary Band Service Sorority

Down

2. Founded in 1919; Honorary Fraternity for College Bandsmen
3. Founder of Tau Beta Sigma
4. First Tau Beta Sigma National President
6. Motto of Tau Beta Sigma
7. Established in 1947 as the joint national publication
8. Founder of Kappa Kappa Psi
9. Previously known as District 6; contains Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico
11. Kappa Kappa Psi's first national publication
17. Kappa Kappa Psi scholarship given to outstanding active or associate members of the fraternity

WORTHWILE NEVER GOES WITHOUT STYLE

Amy Crone, Tau Beta Sigma, Epsilon Beta Chapter



The fourth purpose of Tau Beta Sigma is "to encourage a close relationship between collegiate bands and promote a high average of attainment by the performance of good music and selection of worthwhile projects." The performance of good music comes easily with membership in almost any collegiate band program. Our wonderful directors organize our music and performances while we as members of the band prepare as most of us have been taught since middle school. It is the "selection of worthwhile projects" part of the fourth purpose that is up

to the leadership within each TBS chapter to determine. "Worthwhile" can be defined as worth the time, money, or effort spent; of value or importance. One of my favorite projects that I have participated in with Epsilon Beta is our "Trick-or-Can" project. This is where, on Halloween night, we invite potential membership candidates to dress up in costumes with us and "Trick-or-Treat" for canned goods to donate to a local food pantry. Is it worth the time? Certainly!

We get to bond with sisters and future sisters, all while serving the community. Is it worth the money? Considering it is a free project, yes! Is it worth the effort spent? All we do is figure out a costume

and walk around collecting cans for a few blocks, it's not bad! When we deliver the items we have collected, I know that those who utilize the food pantry appreciate what they have been given immensely. Charity work is a value that will always be important. Therefore, I think our "Trick-or-Can" can be identified as a worthwhile project! It is always a memorable time serving the community in silly costumes alongside sisters of Tau Beta Sigma.



ANDY THE ARMADILLO'S ADVENTURES

Andy the Armadillo, Kappa Kappa Psi, Beta Lambda Chapter Resident



Hey guys this is Andy the armadillo all the way from

Portales, New Mexico. I joined the Beta Lambda Chapter at last district convention after I had been with the Zeta Beta Chapter at Howard Payne University. It's been quite a journey going to Eastern New Mexico University. During the Fall 2015 semester, they had

two new brothers join their chapter and they also installed the Gamma Eta Chapter of KKPsi at New Mexico State University. I went along with eight of the Brothers from Beta Lambda to this installation.

At Gamma Eta, their chapter had 11 people become

brothers and 2 Honorary members go through the process. At the installation, Beta Lambda had to run all three degrees for the Gamma Eta chapter because some of them were sick during some of the degree and others had graduated before they finished the process. At this event, we met up with the Gamma Iota chapter at the University of New Mexico. Also during this semester, we went to play at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys. That was a fun adventure where we met up with one of the other chapters of KKPsi and saw some brothers that were playing at the game after us.

After all of this was done came graduation. Beta Lambda had several brothers grad-

uate in the fall. Two of which I got to take pictures with at graduation. They also lost four officers, so their two newest brothers stepped up to take officer positions for Treasurer and secretary. Then another brother who had gone through the previous spring semester stepped up and took the position of historian. However, they were still short one officer, so one of their Alumni brothers that came back during this semester took this position which was the position of Sergeant at Arms.

Then came the spring 2016 semester in which Beta Lambda has a total of nine potential brothers going through the process which is going to double the size of their chapter. I hope that most of their membership

candidates will pass the class and become brothers. During this semester, they decided to start doing a service project after their informal meetings or when their VPP tells them that they are going to do it. For this project, they clean up the practice rooms in their music building and make sure that every room has a chair and stand. They also make sure that the mirrors located in each practice room are clean for members of their choirs to use. They are also going to be doing a clinic for Portales High School which is in their area. During this clinic, they will be running sectionals and then adjudicating the high school band to help them prepare for competitions. I can't wait to see which chapter I will be going with next.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

Candace Brown, Kappa Kappa Psi Membership Candidate, Lambda Chapter



My name is Candace. I am a senior English major, a trumpet player, and a student at the University of Arkansas. I am also a Membership Candidate going through process.

Yep. You read that right: a senior rushing KKPsi.

See a disconnect? It's understandably bizarre and makes current members cock their heads as though one half of their brains is heavy with questions and involuntarily tilts to the side. I've spent the last six weeks explaining myself over and over, trying to make it less weird. "Wait, why now?" they ask, not accusing, just confused. I think the ex-

planation lies more in why not the last three years.

I was in the Razorback Marching Band for all four years. By the end of Early Week, I knew that I would find my joy amongst these wonderfully musically hilariously brilliant people, a continuation of my experience around "band kids" before college. I also knew that the best peo-

ple, the ones that drew you in and made your day, were members of Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi. That first year, we were especially tight on money, and I got it in my head that both TBS and KKPsi were Greek organizations (gasp) with Greek prices and never pursued them.

The following year, I was a Section Leader for the Trumpet Section, and I considered it a huge honor. I was focused on not throwing away my shot. The problem came a month before Early Week when I realized how problematic my new job would become; I was hired as a Resident Assistant for University Housing. I had seen other R.A.s balance band and work well, so I knew it was possible. However, I had a new supervisor who was a bit antagonistic to my heavier involvement in band with being on Leadership. I had to skip Leadership Camp entirely, and I missed a day of Early Week. It became a struggle just to balance those aspects of my life without adding anything else.

In my junior year, I was made a member of the Leadership team over the band called Team T.U.S.K. (Get it-Hogs? Tusks? Never mind). I was also hired to a new building where my supervisor had a high standard of event-planning for our building

(building-wide programs every month). These became my focus for the year, and once again, the possibility of going through process was out; thus, here I am, a senior going to graduate school next year here.

So why do it?

I met with my friend Coby the other day, and he's an active member of KKPsi. We've been friends since we met in a bonding activity during Early Week our freshman year, so I knew he would be honest with me.

"So.... Is this weird at all? I mean, I'll be able to do Hogwild Band next year, but no marching band, so I know it looks bad--"

"Nah, it's not weird," he interjected. "In fact, I think I respect you more for doing this despite your year. I mean, it shows that you still want to serve the band with the time you have left. I think that's honorable."

Those words have been echoed in other active members on the trips I've taken thus far (including both my bigs, who are younger than me). For the most part, they all support me and applaud me for doing this, even off the normal timetable; how refreshing it is to be apart of something like this!

While I have absolutely no idea what is ahead, I am hav-

ing a blast! It's growing me in ways I can't describe. Being able to spend time with people I've marched alongside and finally learn about their lives, about how the organizations supported them through tough familial times or they have loved the easy transition from serving in high school to serving the band here. I'm seeing the process through the eyes of someone who has watched KKPsi from the metaphorical sideline; I've watched the game, and now, I get to see the playbook. It's surreal knowing that all that makes up both organizations has been happening just under the surface of each semester, but I guess that's the amazing thing about them both: KKPsi & TBS have been calmly and steadily striving for the highest for decades, and, pardon the pun, but they don't toot their horns about it.

I knew that I wanted to do what I could to make full use of process, but I had no idea that I would be elected President of the Delta Psi Membership Candidate Class in our first meeting. We are now about to execute a social event for the band, and we just passed Midpoint. Afterward Midpoint, some of the MC's and I went to Whataburger and swapped laughs well after midnight. I know that the process is far

from over, but I am having the time of my life. I am so thankful that I am doing this rather

than not doing it because of feeling too old for it. The other [freshman] MCs call me

“Mom” on occasion, which is fine; they’re becoming my family, after all.

HOW I ANSWERED THE CALL TO CORRESPONDENCE

Carly Shields, Tau Beta Sigma, Eta Epsilon Chapter



When I was in my second year of college, my parents told me that we were going to move to California in order to be closer to some of my father’s family. I was so scared of transferring from the University of Memphis to San Diego State University because I had never been so far away from my friends that I had known for most of my life. When I got to California at the end of May 2013, we lived with family for a month before getting our own house. Our family greeted us with open arms for a week or so. Then we realized that because we had never lived together before, things were getting tense. To sum up that long story, we ended up moving into our own house closer to the San Diego area because our sides of the family were polar opposites. It was just time to be on our own.

Not too long after we got into our new house, I found out that I would be able to be

in the band at San Diego State. I remember the Tau Beta Sigma chapter there (Zeta Xi) posted on the band’s Facebook page about providing food for a pre-season rookies camp. I was instantly excited because I remembered there being a Tau Beta Sigma chapter at University of Memphis (Iota Mu) and they were nothing but wonderful people. After moving to a new state and having our family basically abandon us, I knew that it was a good time to check out Tau Beta Sigma.

The first or second week of school, I received a bid for TBS at Zeta Xi and I gladly accepted. I had been interested when I was at the University of Memphis but something told me to wait. I wanted to get used to being a college student before joining any organizations. I am glad that I



waited because I grew so much as an individual during my process at Zeta Xi. One of the most important things that I learned was that it is an honor to be selected to serve no matter what the circumstances are.

After I crossed at the end of that semester (Fall 2013), my parents broke the news to me that we were running out of money to live on. They still had not found jobs in California so what little money we had was not going to last much longer. They decided that we were going to sell the house and move to Buda, TX to be closer to my brother’s family. Even though I was excited to move to Texas and be closer to my family here, I was so nervous and I knew that I would miss Zeta Xi so much. This was exactly the reason why I did not rush TBS during my sophomore year of college at Iota Mu. I did not want to grow attached to a group of sisters and then move away from them. Fortunately, I had a great group of sisters at Zeta Xi and they supported me



throughout my departure from San Diego and my arrival to Texas via Facebook. They knew that moving away would be hard for me and they stuck by me through everything. There will always be a special place in my heart for Zeta Xi.

When I was searching for schools to transfer to, I had to find a school with a TBS chapter. I knew that Texas State was close to where I would be moving, so I decided to google them. I found a few Youtube videos of them singing on campus at a past district workshop and decided that I wanted to be a part of Eta Epsilon. I started out by contacting the band director, (who just so happened to be the chapter sponsor) and she gave me the contact information for the chapter president at the time. I emailed the chapter president, and she instantly accepted me with open arms by giving me her phone number so that we could text. She asked every sister to add me on

Facebook and get to know me so that I would not be as nervous about transferring to Eta Epsilon. She invited me to go to district with them and I was so excited because it was my first time going to district convention. I got to meet so many people that had crossed TBS the same semester that I did. I got to meet the amazing TaShana Hooker of Delta Upsilon. I also met several sisters from Delta Phi and they have been come great friends of mine.

During Fall 2014, I got to experience my first official active semester at Eta Epsilon. I got a new big sister, Elizabeth Herrmann, and just so happened to get a new twin sister, Josh Valdez (current Eta Epsilon president) as well. I never realized just how much love I would get to experience by transferring to this chapter. I also got to get to know our brother chapter, Theta Alpha, which is pretty awesome because we did not have a KKPsi chapter at San Diego State. At

the end of Spring 15, it was elections time. There were a few offices that I wanted to run for but only one that the chapter saw me fit for. I was elected as my current office, which is the Corresponding and Alumni Secretary.

During my term thus far, I have gotten to meet other chapters at football games (home and away games). I just really love meeting sisters from other chapters! It is fun to me! I have coordinated something special for our alumni when we had our alumni game day last fall. I corresponded with the other music organizations by co-hosting a Joint Winter Ball with all of the music organizations.

Last semester (Fall 15), I got a little sister, Lavender Hayman, and it is my only hope that she will go on to always have the same love and excitement I have had for TBS and our district!



WHAT IS A BROTHER?

Cayce Baxter, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Nu Chapter



What is a brother? By definition, it means a male in relation to other sons and daughters

of his parents. However, the word brother means so much more to me. It does not have to be someone you are related to. It can be someone who is always there for you, even when you call him in the middle of the night because you have no one else to turn to. It is someone who will always stick up for you. Many people do not have the privilege of having a brother. I am very fortunate because I can say that I not only have a biological brother, but I also have fifteen brothers that are not even related to me. They are my brothers in the Delta Delta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi. This is not including the five wonderful MCs that accepted bids this semester. I love every single one of the members in the Delta Delta chapter, but there is one person in particular who I want to write about: my big bro.

My relationship with my

big bro started the first semester of my freshman year, before I was even considering joining Tau Beta Sigma. I later learned that he had called dibs on me as his little sis that semester (even though I did not get a bid until the following spring).

After I received my bid, I knew without a doubt who I wanted as my big bro. However, being the jerk that he is, he convinced me he was not taking a little sis. I was heartbroken. The week leading up to reveal was full of suspense. Since I was convinced I did not get the person I wanted, I was very critical of all of the presents. I remember the first day I did not get anything, and I was so upset because everyone else had gotten something. I was talking about it to someone and they said “well maybe you should write to him first.” So I did, and I got a response almost immediately! The rest of the week I got tons of notes and gifts. When Brotherhood/Sisterhood Night finally arrived, I was excited but anxious. Who was going to be my big bro? Would I like my big bro? Would we have a good relationship? I had no idea.

As the night went on, I grew more and more anxious. When the time for big/little reveal finally came, I turned around and there he was standing in front of me. The one who had claimed me my first semester. He was standing with his arms open for a hug with a giant smirk on his face. That night started one of the best friendships I have ever had, and I am so thankful to be able to have someone I can call my big bro. We may not always get to spend a lot of time together, but I know that he is always there for me – no matter what.

People tell me that our big/little relationship is rare, and I wish that was not true. I think everybody should have a



strong bond with all of their brothers. They are our brother organization for a reason, so why put our relationship with them on the back burner? In my opinion, forming a relationship with Kappa Kappa Psi is almost as important as your relationship with your sisters.

So why do we not treat it as such?

I do not know what I would do without my Kappa Kappa Psi brothers because they are some of my best friends, and I know they would do whatever they could to help me if I needed it. So,

my challenge to whoever reads this article is this: try to strengthen your bond with Kappa Kappa Psi. Love your brothers, and get to know them, because you might end up starting a friendship that will last a lifetime.

HAPPINESS OR JOY

Colin Peters, Tau Beta Sigma, Tau Chapter, SWD Sec/Treas



Life can throw a lot of different scenarios at a person.

Even at a very young age we are pressured into making decisions like who our best friend is, what's our favorite music group, and (my personal favorite) what we want to be when we grow up. Instead of having one answer, I have always asked myself, out of how ever many options, what makes me the happiest? Or better yet, what brings me the most joy?

I have found in my life that there is a big difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is a temporary feeling that can change quickly. You might be extremely happy receiving a large amount of money. But that feeling can go away quickly once the money is all gone. Joy, however, is a more permanent feeling of satisfaction one can get when

doing a good deed or excelling at a personal goal or endeavor. Music and Tau Beta Sigma have always been two things that have brought major joy to my life; I think that is due to the fact both of these mediums are forever changing. Music is a lifelong journey that brings so many ups and downs - but through all of the trials, there is the joy of music at the end of every treacherous road traveled. Tau Beta Sigma is also a lifelong journey full of friendships, love, education, and faith. People are forever coming in and out of our lives through TBS, and we realize that it is the people not always around us that have shaped us into the amazing Sisters and Brothers that we

are today.

The phrase "You are apart of something so much greater than yourself," stands true in life's musical journey and the journey Tau Beta Sigma provides for us. I challenge all people to find their joy in all things. If you are not fully satisfied with certain aspects of your life, then why partake in them? I am forever grateful for the joy I have experienced so far in my life from being a musician and for being apart of the amazing organization that is Tau Beta Sigma. I hope you can take the time to evaluate aspects of your life and find great joy.



RE-EVALUATING YOUR CHAPTER'S SERVICE PROJECTS

Connor Terry, Kappa Kappa Psi, Alpha Chapter, SWD Co-MAL



As service organizations, our main purpose is and should always be finding ways to serve our band programs. But what constitutes a quality service project or event?

Quality service occurs when there is a motive behind the event that gives it a purpose. In the perfect world, all of our service endeavors would be filled with such great purpose that it would motivate the individual members themselves to attend and assist with these events, and we would have infinite resources to achieve our goals. But in reality, this is not the case for most chapters.

From my experiences, I believe that there are three types of chapters that exist when it comes to service, and each carry with them their own benefits and setbacks. Being any one of these three types is never a bad thing, but I encourage you to reflect upon which category your chapter falls into, and what discussion your chapter might engage in because of it.

The first type of chapter is

one that simply does not perform any service projects at all or only is able to do one every year. This chapter type usually has passion to perform meaningful service, but lacks the resources or chapter size required to feasibly plan and execute what they wish to do.

This is by no means a bad thing, for each chapter has its own obstacles to overcome. But rather than looking at one massive project, try looking at ways that you can serve your band program that are still equally meaningful. This could be something simple such as helping to run an audition day for your school, setting up chairs and stands for a dress rehearsal, cleaning the band hall once a month, or folding programs for an upcoming concert. While these seem like very insignificant acts, their combined effect will be equal to the single event you attempt to complete.

The second type of chapter is one that has achieved the happy medium that every chapter wishes to have. The chapter has the right amount of members and resources to perform the events that they want to put on, and they are

careful not to be over ambitious with their endeavors.

Sometimes chapters that fall into this category engage in the same service events each year, for they are familiar and easy to reproduce year to year. While it is good to sit in the realm of comfort, sometimes new opportunities can be missed or neglected because they have not previously been done before.

If you believe your chapter is within this category, re-evaluate the service programs your chapter does, and see if there are new projects you could perform in place of old ones. Better yet, consider doing events in a rotation, so that your members do not get complacent or disinterested in participating all together. If you cannot achieve that, think of ways that you could obtain the same end result but through a different method. Rather than donating money to support the purchasing of a new podium in the band hall, consider asking if a member could build it themselves with help from other actives. Be creative when performing service, and don't just let your chapter perform the same thing over and over again.

The last type of chapter is one that performs great numbers of service projects within a given year. Their chapter or officer in charge of service is ambitious and passionate, and because of this there is never a time when a project is not happening or being prepared.

If this is your chapter, you are awesome, and I commend you and your members for your efforts to make your band program greater than it was when you got there. But sometimes the massive amount of events you are running can take its toll on the members. When there are too many things happening at once within the chapter, along

with school, work, band, and lack of sleep, members can get burned out and lose motivation.

Maybe it's time to look at what all you are doing and evaluate if all of your service projects are actually producing the results you were hoping to see. If every month your chapter goes to a high school or middle school band program and plays music with their students, that's wonderful! But if your purpose was to encourage those students to continue long term with band, and that goal is not occurring, there might be a need for reconsideration and amending the program's goal.

Similarly it might be necessary to cut back on your projects. It is great to do large amounts of service and create change, but at some point your members will need a break. It is always better to perform a few programs well and to full fruition than to perform a multitude of programs halfway and poorly.

It is my hope that this can help your chapter evaluate your current position with regards to service. If nothing else, always assign a purpose to your service. Doing service for service's sake is not enough to create change.

BETA DELTA UPDATE

Emily Siegers, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Delta Chapter



This semester I have had the pleasure of seeing Beta Delta take strides to become more mindful of other campus organizations and activities. We are fortunate enough to have both a TBS and a KKY chapter at TCU, and there are always opportunities for us to work together on service projects for the band. Although, it's also exciting to

branch out and explore the other organizations! It is such a joy to see our members constantly posting on our Facebook page about fundraisers happening around Fort Worth for other organizations and to see my sisters encouraging our members to go out and support their causes. Our wonderful president Rebekah attended TCU's Fraternity Sorority Life President's Retreat in order to gain a better understanding of the work all of our fraternity and sororities

are doing. She and another member also attended Omega Delta Phi's New Member Showcase this semester and brought back wonderful stories to share with the chapter! Rebekah told us that until this semester, she did not know any members of that organization, so it was so interesting to hear about their history and their mission and to also see how much support they had from other TCU Greeks. It is so exciting to see all the organizations on campus coming

together and sharing with one another. I am also thrilled that our chapter has included the other fraternity and sorority councils in the information

taught to our members and member candidates so that we can all have a better understanding of the diverse groups that we share our

home with at TCU! I love my chapter for caring about not only our work as an organization, but for trying to support everyone on campus!

JOINT RELATIONS IN MOORES SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Erin Shier, Tau Beta Sigma, Tau Chapter



Our chapter maintains relationships with our brother chapter throughout the year in many

events that we do together. Our membership educator works closely with theirs to plan joint recruitment events. These recruitment events ranged from game day events - where those that were attending the events would help with set up on game days, to field day events at our recreation and wellness center. The game day recruitment events were all about what we do during the fall semester. Our chapters strive to work together so that we can have a successful marching season. In between set up for game day and our game day rehearsal, we like to play games that involve both chapters as well as those interested in joining Tau Beta Sigma or Kappa Kappa Psi. We pair up the potential members with the brothers and sisters

so they can get to know them on an individual level rather than just as a whole group. Getting to work one-on-one with a potential member has to be one of the most rewarding things about the game day recruiting events. Getting to know someone on a personal level, regardless of where they want to be a member, is a valuable experience that can never be replaced.

Our Spirit and Sisterhood chair works closely with the social chair of the Kappa Kappa Psi chapter when they plan activities. To close out this past fall semester, they planned a banquet for the four families of the music school. Our Tau Beta Sigma chapter, our Kappa Kappa Psi chapter, our Sigma Alpha Iota chapter, and our Phi Mu Alpha chapter all participated in the end of the year banquet – and it was wonderful. We further made this event a success by having a canned food drive contest between the four chapters. For the end of the semester, they are planning



an event between the four families called Red and Blue week where we have joint activities for all the chapters. It is a time where we get together and celebrate our similarities. The social chairs are planning a dinner, a service event, singing in the lobby of the school of music and then finishing the week with a day at the park with a cook-off. The relationships between our chapters is unlike any other. We strive to make the relationships between our four chapters more genuine and unique than ever before. The relationships I have with my sisters in Tau Beta Sigma and Sigma Alpha Iota, and my brothers in Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha have definitely made my time in Tau Beta Sigma so far a memorable one.

THROUGH MY EYES

Evelyn Jones, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Nu Chapter



When you come to college, you never really think about all the organizations that are at your fingertips. But as the year rolls on and you make new friends, you discover which organization is the right one for you. This has been a unique experience for me personally. I don't know anyone who has done what I have done over the past year and a half. I became a member of Tau Beta Sigma despite being what one would call a non-traditional student. I have completed a Bachelor's degree and am currently working on my second in Early Childhood Education. When I decided to come back to school, I knew that I would get back into Marching and Concert Band simply because music has always been a part of my life. I have had people ask me "Why do you do this?", and "Don't you think you're a little old to get involved in something like this?" Well, let me tell you why. When I was working on my first degree I

was a Membership Candidate of Tau Beta Sigma and was unable to finish my journey. I do this because I love music, serving the band and my community, and I also felt as though I had something to finish.

As I stood with new freshmen at rush events, I started to feel a little out of place and began to consider that maybe I was too old to be doing this. I'm 28, married, and have a 2 year old son. However, I received an opportunity to do what I love to do – so I became a member of Tau Beta Sigma. It was one of the best decisions I ever made. My first year as an Active member has not been easy one, as I was appointed Historian and have another child on the way. I see things so much differently than my younger sisters in my chapter and I question why they think or feel the way they do. I constantly have to step back and evaluate how they feel because at one point in my life I thought and saw things as they do now. I have grown in many

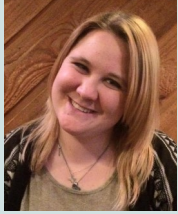
different ways than most of my TBS sisters. Sometimes they are not as noticeable as other changes would have or have been seen in younger college students. I began my journey in spring of 2010 and in the spring of 2015, I completed that journey.

Being a part of Tau Beta Sigma has been a great experience for me and getting to work with a group of ladies and gentlemen who have the same drive as I do has been one of the highlights of my whole college experience. However, the journey is still not over. I continue to grow with my sisters and serve my school and my community. We laugh and cry together over all the times we have had thus far. I would not give it up for the world because "With my sisters, I am Best".



MY FIRST BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Faith Freeman, Tau Beta Sigma, Psi Chapter



As an only child, I grew up wondering what it would be like to have a brother or a sister. It was something that was always in the back of my mind when I would hear people talk about their siblings or see them together. What in the world was it like to have an instant connection to someone who wasn't my parents? I may still be an only child, but I have a new understanding of the word sisterhood. I have Tau Beta Sigma to thank for that.

I wasn't really sure what to expect when I thought about becoming a sister once I accepted my bid in December. The idea of even being able to refer to people as my future brother or sister is still kind of amazing to me. Until I decided I wanted to become a member of TBΣ, I never thought I'd use the words 'my' and 'brother' or 'sister' in the same sentence unless it was referring to my in-laws or there was a 'like' in front of them. Even being in band from elementary school all through high school, I hadn't found that connection I've found once I decided to pur-

sue becoming a sister. The sense of community within both organizations has made getting to know both my fellow MCs and members so much easier. It's not as intimidating going up to someone I don't know or getting to know them because they're my future brothers and sisters. Just that tiny fact tying each of us to each other is just amazing to me.

I've been hearing several variations of the phrase 'this is what sisters are for' since I became interested in Tau Beta Sigma, and now I'm starting to understand what that means to me. Being an only child, I only really had my parents and a few friends to ask questions and get advice, and now I have more people than I could've imagined. From the person I'm lucky enough to call my Big Sister to my fellow MCs, my future sisters are there for me when I need them and vice versa regardless of how well we know each other.

We had our joint Big Little Reveal Potluck earlier this week, and

already I feel even closer to my future brothers because of it. I didn't really know my Big Brother before the potluck, but from the moment he became my Big I felt instantly more comfortable around him. We also started a group chat between the TBΣ MCs and the KKΨ MCs, and we've already started talking about a group movie night and gotten to know each other better just talking to each other between classes.

Sisterhood to me is never judging your fellow sisters and brothers, and always being there even in the subtlest, quietest moments. Regardless of what we do, whether it be watching Netflix, pinning silly pins on Pinterest, or doing homework, we are doing it together. Together, in the bond, forever. Sisterhood. This is what sisters are for.



SERVICE AND ITS ROLE IN THE CHAPTER

George Ishii, Kappa Kappa Psi, Delta Sigma Chapter



Kappa Kappa Psi was founded on the idea that there should exist a Brotherhood of outstanding bandsmen which would work to promote the college and university bands and their pursuit of music. And yet, while service for our bands is at the heart of what we do, it often does not function as we might expect in our chapters.

Oftentimes the actions of our chapters are with the ultimate goal of serving our program. Service, however, is often the last link in a chain of events that must occur in our chapter operations if we are to serve the bands to the best of our ability. The concept of an “hierarchy of needs” demonstrates this quite well.

The individual needs in the pyramid *must* be fulfilled before the need above it can be met, before self-actualization can be achieved. In the same way do our chapters have needs in order to operate efficiently and effectively.

In order for our service to be as effective as possible, our chapters must be in a good

place financially. When our chapters have access to very little funds, the scope of the service we can provide is severely limited. Kappa Kappa Psi is special in that its members are willing to donate all their resources to the projects they undertake, supplying a program with new instruments, for example, or even commissioning a new musical work. While the service we can provide through manual labor alone is worthwhile, as members of this organization we have the opportunity to do so much more! We are much abler to take advantage of that opportunity, though, when our chapters are stable financially.

However, we cannot get our chapters to that point if we are unorganized in our operations. Understanding how to communicate effectively is paramount, as is the ability to think ahead, and plan details. If we lack the skills to make a fundraiser happen smoothly, there is little chance of our being able to manage those funds that we do raise, let alone ensuring our service projects will be successful.



Fi-

nally, we reach the foundation of the pyramid: membership. As brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi, we are a special type of person. Membership in our brotherhood is an honor, and to receive that honor we have shown ourselves to be outstanding members of our bands. I believe that we as brothers are the type of people who *make it happen*. We cannot allow ourselves to get lazy or lose sight of who and what we are. If we do, our pyramid will break down, and we cannot function effectively in Kappa Kappa Psi. Fortunately, our fraternity motto is the perfect solution: *strive for the highest*. If we continue to push and challenge ourselves to be the best we can everyday and in everything we do, we will find that our chapters thrive, our band programs become stronger, our appreciation for the fine art of music deepens, and we as people will continue to grow.

It is easy to misconstrue the true place service has in our chapters. I currently serve my own chapter as Vice President of Programs, an office in which I chair the committee for activities and organize the service projects my chapter takes on. When I first took office, I thought of the service our chapter provides as a

completely separate business from the rest of our offices, but during my term, I have come to realize that service is really only the “tip of the spear” in what our chapter does. I cannot fulfill my responsibilities to the best of my ability without cooperating with and supporting the rest of the chapter; lucky for me,

those are the best bunch of people I know - my brothers. I hope my observations and experiences are helpful to you and your chapter, and aid you in serving for greater bands and *striving for the highest!* AEA, brothers!

RECOGNITION VERSUS VALIDATION

Graham Delafield, Kappa Kappa Psi, Delta Chapter, SWD President



Our chapter maintains relationships with our brother chapter throughout the year in many events that we do together. Our membership educator works closely with theirs to plan joint recruitment events. These recruitment events ranged from game day events - where those that were attending the events would help with set up on game days, to field day events at our recreation and wellness center. The game day recruitment events were all about what we do during the fall semester. Our chapters strive to work together so that we can have a successful marching season. In between set up for game day and our game day

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TRICK OR TREAT SO KIDS CAN EAT

Hannah Strebeck, Tau Beta Sigma, Delta Upsilon Chapter



One of the eight essential factors that we as members of Tau Beta Sigma are expected to uphold is generosity of mind, heart, and hand. In the Delta Upsilon chapter, we exemplify this through service to our band as well as the surrounding community. In Brownwood, Texas, many of the neighborhoods and families are considered to be living below the poverty level. After numerous years of providing service to the Yellow Jacket Band we felt the need to extend our hand of service to the community and university. The active sisters decided on a specific way we could accomplish this goal. It was through them that “Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat” was started.

“Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat” is a tradition of Delta Upsilon beginning approximately six years ago, further back

than any of the active sisters today. On Halloween we all dress up, split in groups, and go to different neighborhoods to “trick-or-treat” for canned goods. We partner with Good Samaritan Ministries (an organization that provides inexpensive food and clothing to people in need) and the Howard Payne University food pantry to donate the collected items to. After trick-or-treating, we count and split the canned goods to be evenly donated to those two organizations. This past October, we donated around four hundred pounds of canned goods.

Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat is a worthwhile project because it allows us as a band service sorority to step outside of our expected area of service and give back to our community. We never serve for the purpose of our personal gain, or for recognition. We serve and give back for the

sole purpose of meeting the needs of others. Not only that, but we are also able to make connections and build relationships with other people and organizations. The relationships we form from giving and serving are worthwhile in itself. To top it all off, serving our community by doing this project just feels good. It is a worthwhile experience to go out and do something for someone else without wanting anything in return. This project is still relatively new to our chapter, but has already made a huge impact. It is important to give back to our respective communities, because if we don’t, who will?



A PLACE TO BELONG

Hannah Wells, Tau Beta Sigma, Psi Chapter



In sixth grade, I decided I would come to the University of Arkansas to be closer to my Mema and Papa and to get my name on Senior Walk, a long tradition where graduates' names are engraved into the sidewalks of the university. I would see my Mema and Papa every few months for holidays; but, because I lived in Oklahoma City and they in Fort Smith, I missed them all the time and wanted to be closer.

Fast forward three years – spring semester of my freshman year of high school. I have reached the understanding of what people meant when they said high school was a lot different than middle school. There was a lot more drama. Four days after Valentine's Day my world is turned upside down. I was naïve and did not know I was until now. February 19th of 2010 my Papa passed away in the hospital from a heart attack after surviving surgery to remove cancer. It was un-

foreseen, devastating, and mind-blowing. I had never thought I could lose them before. It now became more pressing for me to get to Arkansas to be closer to my Mema.

Fast forward three years – spring semester of my senior year of high school. I auditioned at the University of Arkansas and got in to the Razorback Marching Band. My Mema had gotten sick and my mom spent the majority of the end of my senior year in Arkansas at the hospital with my Mema and my aunts. My dad got to step up and help me pick my prom dress and graduation dress, he was not very helpful but very sweet and loving. My Mema seemed to be getting better and the chances of her coming to my graduation grew larger. May 10th of 2013, seven days before my high school graduation, my Mema passed away somewhat unexpectedly and everything turned upside down once more.

Fall of 2013 I came to the University of Arkansas. I had no idea why I was coming anymore. I had no reason. My reasons had literally disappeared. I was homesick and

felt so invisible and not sure why I was in Arkansas away from my friends, family and support system. After our marching band's early week the Psi chapter of Tau Beta Sigma and the Lambda chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi hosted an ice cream informational. I went because, hey, free ice cream! There I heard for the first time what Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi were and saw a sisterhood and brotherhood and joint family. I saw somewhere I could feel visible and like I had reason to be in Arkansas.

I went through the process to be in Tau Beta Sigma. The thought of sisterhood was appealing to me, probably because I have two older brothers. I wanted to be a part of what Tau Beta Sigma was and what it stood for. I did not realize how much this organization would impact my life though.

Although I had done lots of service throughout my life before I came to college, I never knew how much service meant to my life, until Tau Beta Sigma. I found through my process that I loved service. My journey through process brought me closer to people I

had spent an entire semester with but never really talked to or knew. Older members who inspired me to be a better person and sister. Class sisters who helped me get through freshman year and realize my full potential. In Tau Beta Sigma, I found a place to be ME on the University of Arkansas campus. I found a sisterhood to belong to, a brotherhood to protect me, and a family to love me and care for me.

This family and love brought me to find what service meant to me. Service means giving your intentional or unintentional time to someone or something bigger than yourself, whether it or they ask for it or not. I found that service is a huge part of my life. I became the assistant to our chapter VPSP that fall and received a firsthand experience of what service was like internally and externally. With the support of that VPSP and a few sisters I was close to I made the decision to pursue the newly split position of Vice President of Philanthropy.

After being unanimously voted in as VPP, I made it my goal to reinstate the passion of service into our sisterhood. I brought forth the idea to the Psi chapter "Service through sisterhood, sisterhood through service". As we are doing service events or fulfilling service points, we can

be building our sisterhood. As we do social events and build our sisterhood, we can be doing service as well. These two entities go hand in hand.

I have a burning passion for service and I think it is something our chapter was in desperate need of. I have been told multiple times that because of me, my passion, enthusiasm, and care for service the service in our chapter has improved and grown.

This passion for service and sisterhood, along with the support of my sisters, has inspired me to expand my love of service to others. To build more sisterhood relationships and bring passion back to other chapters as I pursue running for District Vice President of Special Projects. I plan to re-run for our chapter Vice President of Philanthropy as well. Why? Because I love service. I find new service ideas all the time and I am continually pushing myself and my chapter to do more service. We

recently raised our goal for service points from 2,000 for the year to

2,500 for the year because we almost broke our record just coming into the beginning of the Spring semester.

It is crazy to look back and think that two and a half years ago I came to the University of Arkansas and had no idea why I was here and felt so alone and no purpose. Now I am the Vice President of Philanthropy for the Psi chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. I am in an amazing sisterhood and joint family with Kappa Kappa Psi. I am running for SWD VPSP. I have three semesters left at the University of Arkansas and have no idea where I am going to end up and while that scares me, I know when I wander far from home, I'll have courage I am not alone. There will always be a Tau Beta Sigma sister nearby to give me the support when I am down and remind me that I do have a place in this world for 'ere long.



A LETTER TO NEW INITIATES

Jared Holt, Kappa Kappa Psi, Epsilon Beta Chapter, SWD Sec/Treas



Kappa Kappa Psi has changed my life in more ways over the past four years than I ever thought joining a Fraternity could, as I know it and Tau Beta Sigma have done for many of you reading this. Also like many of you, I'm graduating this May, and the end of our academic careers brings with it the end of our time as active Brothers and Sisters. Conversely, as many of us are wrapping up our time in college and with our chapters, so many more members have just been initiated into our amazing Fraternity and Sorority.

To anyone reading this who has been or will be initiated this semester, firstly, congratulations! Accepting my bid to Kappa Kappa Psi back in my freshman year was one of the best decisions I've ever made, and I hope that all of you look back during your last semester of college and feel the same way. As I'm leaving, I feel the best service I can do to newer members is to share with them the three main pieces of the advice I was given shortly after my ini-

tiation, by an alumna of my chapter. Don't worry; this isn't going to be one of those clickbait articles of "27 Things Every College Freshman Needs to Know" that tells you clichés like, "People change. Let them," and reminds you to wash your bedsheets. I simply want to pass on the advice I followed, which has helped me get the most out of my time as an active member.

First and foremost, never stop learning. I know you've all absorbed more information about this Fraternity or Sorority in the past eight than you ever thought you'd need to know, but there is so much more to learn than just the Greek alphabet, founding dates and our purposes. Our organizations have nearly a century of rich history to be taken in, on national, district and chapter levels, and there are so many ways to learn from it. You can talk to alumni and find out more about the history of the Southwest District and of your chapter, do some reading from the many great resources available online, or even contact one of your District and National officers for help. To this day, I still learn something new about Kappa Kappa Psi or

Tau Beta Sigma at least once a week. Another great way to learn about your organization in the modern day is to check out one of your chapter's ritual books and better familiarize yourselves with the ritual you've already completed, as well as the ceremonies you may or may not have experienced by now. Plus, taking some time to read through and remind yourself of the principles and ideals revealed through our rituals is a good idea no matter how long you've been a member.

Second, meet as many people as you can. There are thousands of other Brothers and Sisters around the country that are dying to get to know fellow members of our organizations. Speaking from experience, even if the only thing you have in common with someone is that you're a part of our Brotherhood or Sisterhood, that's more than enough to start a friendship strong enough to last a lifetime. Someone you talked to for ten minutes at one event could end up becoming the friend you keep up with and look for at District Convention every year for the rest of your college career. You could add a random Brother or Sister on

any of the social media available to us and end up with friends from around the nation, all of whom share the bond of our ideals and purposes. Personally, I've met more people and made more friends than I'd ever be able to count just by tracking Kappa Kappa Psi hashtags on Instagram and Tumblr. And the best part of knowing Brothers and Sisters from all parts is that each one of them has a different perspective and new ideas for how to improve our chapters and better the college band programs to which we've pledged ourselves.

Finally, and most importantly, go to events!

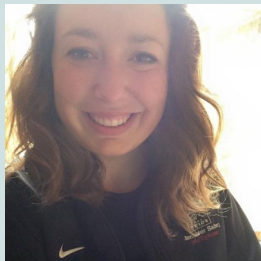
Attend Area Workshops and District Convention, go to one of a nearby chapter's rituals, or even just go hang out with Brothers and Sisters near you. Not only have all of my best memories from the past four years come from road trips I've taken with my Brothers, but traveling to events was the best way that I accomplished the first two parts of this list. Going to and participating in workshops is hands down the best way to learn the history and structure of our Fraternity and Sorority, as well as how to be better, more effective members. And what better way to meet people than to go to an event

hosted by Brothers and Sisters for Brothers and Sisters? Even if you just meet up with a nearby chapter for dinner, you're still sure to meet new people and learn new things about a different section of the same great organization

I sincerely hope that the next few years are enriched by your time as a member of our Fraternity and Sorority, and that you come to cherish Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma just as much as we do once it's your turn to say goodbye and pass on what you've learned to the next generation.

MAKING HABITAT A HABIT

Jennifer Salvo, Tau Beta Sigma, Delta Chapter



Habitat for Humanity is an organization designed around the vision and belief that every human has the right to have a decent place to call home. The Delta chapters of Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi recognized that vision and knew that we needed to step up, answer the call, and help. Blessed to be where we are in life, and blessed

with spare time dedicated to serve, our chapters organized a date with the Habitat for Humanity organization and spent a Sunday morning doing manual labor for a home in Moore. Specifically, this home was for a woman and her family that were affected by the May 2013 Moore tornado. There we performed small tasks such as painting and putting in windows. Though the contributions were relatively small, we were able to work together to progress the lives of strangers while

strengthening the bonds within our chapter. We were also able to start a relationship between our organizations and we plan on working with them in the near and far future. I encourage all other chapters to reach out to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and build a relation with them, and/or begin making small differences in your community! Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi can make a difference.

IMPROVED RECRUITMENT: IMPROVED CHAPTER FUNCTIONALITY

Justin Chesak, Kappa Kappa Psi, Gamma Iota Chapter, SWD VP



In the Fall New ALTO issue, I discussed how the MEP ideally molds candidates into

brothers or sisters, but before you can do that you have to consider this important question: to whom do we extend the invitation of membership in our organizations? This question may be a bigger factor defining the success of your chapter, and the brothers or sisters who you may be considering granting membership to.

So let us start with addressing the potential issues that chapters may face. Whether it is members missing chapter functions, having trouble with slipping grades, or lack of meaningful participation in music ensembles, it can be difficult to handle these situations that involve not only your brothers or sisters but likely your close friends. Some chapters implement a fine policy; others have points or strike systems or both as an unbiased system to hold others accountable for their actions, or lack thereof.

Many chapters have pursued furthering their probation protocol as an effort to encourage their peers to change their behavior for the better.

But are these issues of personal accountability, or their potential consequences, necessary? With the implementation of a more stringent recruitment program it is likely these issues would not be as common. I remember a time when our chapter was (and still is) in the process of changing our recruitment process. It was said in a workshop around the same time that “If you aren’t willing to give a prospective member your final vote to be a brother (or sister) then you shouldn’t vote for that person to be in the chapter.” This quote resonated with me and proved that in the quality vs. quantity argument, quality wins in the end.

This discussion was prevalent at the West Texas/NM Area Workshop during Rob Morris’ workshop. Many chapters present discussed a major solution to finding quality members was having an in-depth, in person interview process for the potential members of the chapter. It seems like if you ask the right

question and know what to look for this can be a successful addition to the recruitment process and help to find better potential members who will strengthen the chapter in the long run.

It may be a difficult change to make, and it isn’t necessarily bad not to. But this change can greatly influence the effectiveness of your chapter, and the quality of the future brothers and sisters that we invite into Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. The Preamble to the Kappa Kappa Psi Constitution and Tau Beta Sigma Constitution solves this problem by respectively stating our (KKPsi) second purpose “To Honor outstanding band-members through privilege of membership extended as a reward for technical achievement for the best in music.” It is this purpose that further proves the debate that, as brothers and sisters, we collectively need to continue holding steadfast to our purposes in an effort to improve the functionality of our chapters, and honor the traditions and ideals of our organizations.

CRESCENDO

Kaila Bowen, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Nu Chapter



Normally, I'm a planner. From deciding on what I'm going to wear tomorrow, to what I'm going to do after graduation. As the treasurer of Tau Beta Sigma – Beta Nu, I plan the budget down to the core. Recently, we had the opportunity to collaborate with the Girl Scouts to teach a troop of local girls about music. We received the email asking for our help two weeks before the event. TWO. WEEKS. After the initial shock, we got down to business. Keep in mind, we had absolutely no details. We split into committees and decided to research different types of instruments. About a week into that research, we received an email saying plans had changed – they now wanted us to focus our research on music on different

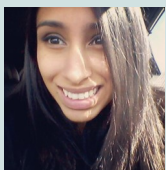
continents. It was now ONE WEEK before the event and we had to change everything we had planned. Honestly, no one was super sure how it was going to turn out, and we might have had a couple freak out moments along the way... (Okay, definitely more than a couple.) A week went by, and we walked into the event room, PowerPoints in hand, ready to go. Right before the event started, someone approached us and told us that they now wanted it to be less PowerPoint and more hands on. We literally had five minutes to change our presentations, but okay. We can do that. As the first group of girls walked into the room, we were all extremely nervous. The Girl Scout's Director also walked into the room, so we were definitely feeling the pressure. As the presentations went on, we became more comfortable; and by the end

of the day, we were pros. We had girls playing the digeridoo, testing their luck at the French horn, as well as playing the flute. There was even an improved clave/oboe song going on!

Throughout the two weeks we had leading up to the event, our chapter learned a lot about ourselves. We faced a difficult time-constricted situation, yet still pulled together an amazing event! The moral of this story is that individually, there was no way any one of us could have pulled something together in that short of time. When we all came together to pitch in, we created an amazing program and successfully shared our love of music with future musicians. Answering the call is easy when you have ten other sisters to rely on. The lyrics, "With my sisters, I am best," really are true!

FEELING WELCOME

Katia Pena, Tau Beta Sigma, Epsilon Beta Chapter



On February 8th, 2016 I became a sister of Tau Beta Sigma. This is sig-

nificant because I am not music major - just a freshman in colorguard, looking to join a band service organization.

Since I have become a sister, I have realized that my rush class of ten will always be a part of my heart. Going

through my membership process I learned that my sisters are very welcoming with open arms to anyone that wants to serve. The best part of my membership process, in my opinion, was when my fellow membership candidates took some time out of their day to help me learn Tau Beta Sigma's Affirmation Song. They understood that I struggle with reading music, and

shared their knowledge with me so that I could sing in harmony with my sisters. While learning to sing Affirmation Song, I noticed that they all were supportive of me (even though I sounded horrible.) They never neglected me for being unknowing in their lifestyle; instead they lent a hand so that we could be successful together. The sisters in Epsilon Beta made my process

unique because they are welcoming to others, even though they may not know much about others in chapters' passion.



SUPPORTIVE SISTERHOOD

Kelsey Branson, Tau Beta Sigma, Delta Chapter



The Spring semester is an exciting time for the Delta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma: rituals, sisterhood and much love in

the bond. All of these events constantly remind us of what we are at the core: a sisterhood. So if you were asked what sisterhood means to you, what would your answer be? To me, sisterhood is more than surface-level conversations. It's more than chapter meetings. It's more than I ever thought it could be.

"When I wander far from home, I'll have courage I'm not alone..."

These words to Tau Beta Sigma's Affirmation Song have

a meaning that will always ring true. Brothers and sisters are always there for each other, no matter what. Even during the worst of times, the sisterhood and its members create an unbreakable support system. This semester, our chapter got a call and decided to answer it. In a time that is so focused on sisterhood, we knew that we needed to reach out to our sisters and remind everyone that we are always there for them, no matter what. With the help of the exec team (shout-out to our secretary, Jennifer Salvo, specifically!), the members and our alumni, we got to learn about mental health during one of our chapters.

College is hard, and balancing day to day activities

can be a struggle. The existence of the sisterhood in Tau Beta Sigma during rough times is so important. Having the speaker let our chapter members know that their sisters may be struggling in ways they may not always see. Hopefully it will lead to many things, including deeper bonds that will allow us to grow and not feel weighed down by any pressures and a new level of sisterhood that uplifts everyone more than it already does.

To those reading, just remember:

Go to your sisters and brothers. They are your support system when you need them most.

If you see someone struggling, help them out. Just as

you know one of your brothers/sisters would do the same for you.

Sisterhood and brotherhood goes beyond the service

we do for our bands and communities; it is being there for each other in the time of need and answering the call when someone needs us.

“When darkness falls and all is night, I’ll trust my heart and find the light.”

WHEN GENEROSITY CALLS

Meeka Smith, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Nu Chapter



I received my bid for Tau Beta Sigma on January 12th, 2016. So currently, I

am merely going through the process of becoming a part of this chapter’s sisterhood. As my Membership Candidate class captain this semester, I have had many opportunities to offer generosity to my class, the chapter, and those around me. I still have plenty to learn and years to grow, but so far, one lesson has created a goal for me as an individual. Funny enough, this lesson came to me before process began and before I even knew I might receive a bid. During our formal interviews, one of the questions asked to me was, “One of our ideals that we look for in a sister of Tau Beta Sigma is generosity of mind, heart, and hand. What does this mean to you?” At the time, I’d had an idea of

what Tau Beta Sigma stood for, but this question took me a bit by surprise considering its specificity. After leaving the interview, I spent a fair amount of time mulling over what those six words (generosity of mind, heart, and hand) truly meant.

Applying the theme of answering the call, what I’ve come to realize is that such a concept is not applicable in just *certain* situations; but, should instead be a phrase that we integrate into our everyday lives. As citizens, we should learn to offer our minds to society and apply our intellect when it comes to voting or simply participating in town hall meetings. Keeping our minds involved in the community will not only help us to contribute to this greater society, but will also help keep us informed on what might affect us in the community. One example of this was offered up by one of my MC Sisters. As we were searching for possible causes to fund-

raise for, she had stated that our local library’s funding had been significantly cut, meaning that it would be next to impossible for them to buy new books. So, this generosity of mind not only helps us answer the call of society, but opens up new opportunities to bring compassion into our own service projects.

It is compassion of the heart like this that can either be the easiest or the hardest call to answer, depending on who you are. Successfully integrating this type of generosity requires a constant attentiveness to those around you. It means being able to listen to what others have to say with an open heart and also taking the time to hear their struggles. Empathy. The type of empathy and connection to others that seems to have been lost in this fast-paced and cellphone-dominated era. For me, this call has been easy and difficult at the same time. I was more than ready to lay aside just minutes of my time

to sympathize with others, but ironically, it was near impossible for me to put down my own phone to answer the call for this compassion. After doing so, however, I truly discovered the beauty of people.

Discovering this beauty through generosity of heart whilst also attending to the involvement of mind makes the last concept so much easier. It is when you begin to full-heartedly grow through the acknowledgment of this phrase, that you begin to ac-

tually *want* to be there for others to offer your hand to your chapter and community. Luckily, having Tau Beta Sigma close by also opens up so many more possibilities to serve; but, answering this call in our everyday lives can be even easier. It's the little moments. Such as holding open the door for a peer, paying close attention during that 9AM lecture, or giving someone your extra dinner roll so they do not have to wait in line for another 10 minutes.

No matter how easy this article might make it sound – these little alterations are difficult, but will leave a lasting impression if done with patience and understanding. Although I have little experience, one thing I do know is that if I become a member of Tau Beta Sigma, these lessons and values will shape my entire life and from now and into the future, I will take as many minutes as possible to answer those calls.

HOW MY SISTERS ANSWERED MY CALL

Meghan Baetz, Tau Beta Sigma, Alpha Omicron Chapter



Answering the call; it can be as simple as answering a phone call from a sister to chat, or sending that silly snapchat to prove that you are still the nut case your sisters fell in love with. My chapter answered my call on January 23rd, 2016. They will forever be in my debt as the most important people in my life, my multiple shoulders to cry on and lean on. Last semester (Fall 2015) I was Vice President of Membership, and everything was going well – we hosted multiple fun events for our many

interested rushees, and I was filling out my forms for working at MD Anderson Cancer Center as a volunteer. Until, the inevitable happened. My father who had been fight Multiple Myeloma (a blood cancer) passed away quicker than I could blink. Being from a small family, this was world shattering to me, and everything to follow made the tragic loss all the harder. Yet, my beautiful sisters were there for me as soon as they found out. I was never without an encouraging message from them to hold my head up, and keep positive. It was the small things, the pictures of cute puppies, the random text

messages, and the multiple calls I answered saying, "I love you, and everything is going to be alright." Answering the call can be such a small act of kindness, it does not have to be huge or extravagant, it can be a smile saying, "I'll be there for you." My sisters helped me rekindle my faith in a better tomorrow, I am forever thankful to my wonderful sisters of Tau Beta Sigma - Alpha Omicron. As my favorite line in our Affirmation Song goes, "When I wander far from home, I'll have courage I'm not alone." Thank you again sisters, for answering my call and being there when I really needed you.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Meri Terpstra, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Delta Chapter, SWD VPSP



It all started with a post on the Tau Beta Sigma – Southwest District Facebook page

that read: “Your Southwest District Council would like to announce a recent vacancy of the Vice President of Special Projects position. At this time we ask that you Answer the Call to Candidacy!” That post was meant for me.

I have had many experiences with the District Council from when I first started rushing and Meridith Crawford (now Brill) was the District VPSP, to being the delegate for my chapter last year at District Convention and sitting on the Nominations committee. Talking with the people who held positions on the District Council, interviewing the potential new officers, and having been encouraged by my big, my sisters, and Meridith, I felt I would make a good officer, but I was nervous.

I was scared that I did not know enough about the sorority or its operations. I was scared that I could not commit a sufficient amount of time to the position. I was scared that

I would hate everything about District Council and be stuck because I hate quitting on commitments. Mostly, though, I was terrified of letting everyone down.

To be completely honest, I had no idea how to go about applying until I was at convention and it was too late anyway, so I figured that I could either try the next year, or just live by the idea of “never try, never fail.” I was okay with that path, with staying just in my chapter, and making friends when I happened to have the opportunity to interact with people from other chapters.

Then I went to National Convention. I met so many wonderful people and had so much fun learning everything I could, so when I saw the Facebook post, I had no doubt in my mind that I should apply. It was everything I could ask for, a short trial period of only a couple of months so if I did a bad job or hated it, I wouldn’t have to stick around too long; a second chance to do something everyone thought I would be good at; and a way to ensure I was going to meet new people from both Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa

Psi.

I was surprised one evening over break when I *answered the call* from Donnelle Mitchell and learned that I had been chosen to fill the VPSP position. About a day later, I sat on my couch and Skyped with Sami Belford for multiple hours trying to get caught up on everything that had occurred and been planned over the previous 8 months. I video conferenced into the Winter Council meetings later that month, because I was still at home in Illinois with my family. I originally did not even know that I was going to be on the District Council, let alone that there was a Winter Council weekend full of meetings.

From the first moment I was added into the Groupme, I was welcomed with an overwhelming amount of sass, sarcasm, and support. I made friends with the KKY guys weeks before I had the opportunity to meet any of them in person. I do not know why I was ever afraid of being on Council. The TBS council has been an amazing support system and insanely patient with me, my counter parts Rob Morris and Connor Terry have

been awesome at answering my questions and helping me figure the VPSP position out, and I have been included and valued as a member of the council.

Some of my ideas have been put into action, and I have had the opportunity to help and encourage people I

never would have met without being selected for this position. I guess what I am trying to say is, I answered the call this year, and it was one of the best decisions I have made in a really long time. I cannot imagine my life without all the fantastic people on the TBS and KKY District Coun-

cils and I cannot wait to see what all we accomplish with the time we have left, as well as who chooses to answer the call to host the next convention or be a part of the District Council next year!

Thank you everyone who has believed in me, and helped me along the way.

SISTERHOOD BUSINESS AS USUAL

Natalia Lambert, Tau Beta Sigma, Alpha Omicron Chapter



Tau Beta Sigma was founded upon a common passion for music and service. However, we cannot

meet our fullest potential without the bond of sisterhood that encourages support, love, and understanding. Earlier this semester, I went through my first bid process as an Active. This process proved to be more difficult to me than it did to others. I was told that the process was to be done in a level-headed and professional manner, which initially made perfect sense to me; however, it ultimately made me dig deeply into what being a sister really entails.

In my eyes, being a sister means being willing to

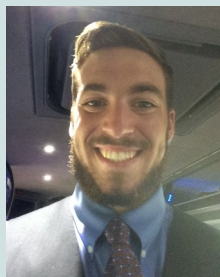
drop everything in a moment's notice if asked. It means sharing the little things, such as advice or a smile to brighten up a fellow sister's day. Sisters show love to one another but they should also be there to tell you the truth, even when you do not want to hear it. These things are just a handful of the examples of true sisterhood which I took into account, along with the Eights and Fives. Sisters are very dear to my heart and I could not take this decision lightly as the time came for bids.

I am the youngest of four girls. Therefore, I know what it is like to have multiple sisters and what it feels like to share that unique bond. I also know what it feels like to lose a sister. My freshman year of high school, my oldest sister was in a car accident that took

her life. The thought of sisterhood as business-like blows my mind. I am passionate about each and every one of my sisters, biological or not. The pain I felt when I lost my sister is indescribable and something that changed my views on the importance of sisterhood and the little things in life. The bond that sisters have is not a feeling one can just decide they want - it is instinctual. Not that the process does not require a lot of thought - because it does. Just make sure that there is also compassion and understanding when making these important decisions. When you give someone a bid, you are not just asking them to be your friend or business partner - you are asking them to become an integral part of your family.

BIGGER THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE

Parker Fleming, Kappa Kappa Psi, Delta Chapter



Coming to the University of Oklahoma, I knew I wanted to be involved because it was such a large school. I never envisioned joining a fraternity. So I joined the Pride of Oklahoma marching band because I wanted to keep marching, playing my instrument, doing shows and—you know—free Sooner football.

As the year progressed and KKPsi was doing all of their rush events, I became more attuned to their presence and everything they did for the marching band. As I started talking to more of the brothers, it became apparent that this was an organization that I would find my niche in. I went through the rush process and my eyes were opened. Doing all the things that the band does to service the band—water in the stands, helping the opposing team band, loading buses and the band trailer—it really was bigger than the outside looking in.

It's not just within the band, but the community as

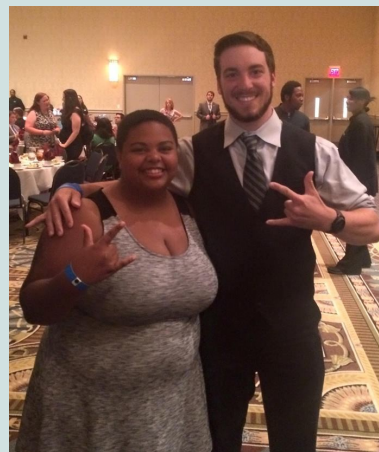
well. Doing all these pep bands for elementary kids and seeing their smiles, to organizing a 5k to help pay for band programs of schools that were hit by the Moore tornado in 2012. Another thing we do is a campus-wide community service project called the Big Event. We also do Soonerthon and Relay for Life, and the Catlett Community Initiative in which we partner with TBS, SAI, and Phi Mu Alpha and go around to metro area schools and help out their band programs in any way. I had no idea about all these things we do when I was rushing and it was absolutely amazing and mind blowing.

Then I went to District Convention in Waco, Texas. Going to all the different workshops, meeting people from different chapters, going to council meetings, and everything involved just broadened my spectrum of what KKPsi is all about.

Then this past summer I went to NatCon and the experience was completely breathtaking. I went to so many workshops about leadership and how to make myself and the chapter better. I still remember going to the work-

shop with Dr. Kirk Randazzo and it got me so unbelievably hyped, it gave me so many ideas that I could bring back to my own chapter. Spencer Hill, Zach Maggia, and I all represented our chapter for the Interactive Psi board and this was also an eye opener. All we did was talk about our chapter and everything we do for approximately four hours and it just made me so proud and ecstatic about everything we have done and everything we plan to do. It was at this moment that I realized Kappa Kappa Psi makes so much of a massive difference in the band and the community, and I felt this overwhelming sense of accomplishment. My journey as a brother has definitely been life changing.

Always keep striving brothers.



TAU BETA SIGMA CAN HELP

Rachel Brookins, Tau Beta Sigma, Delta Chapter



Every year, the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State University football teams meet in a game we like to call Bedlam. It is heated, intense, and one of the best games of the year. Maybe Boomer Sooner is your favorite song (it's mine), or maybe you think it is the worst thing you have ever heard, but either way the experience is unlike any other. Every year, thousands and thousands of passionate fans pile into our stadiums to experience something that feels a little bit bigger than your average football game. That passion was exactly what the joint Alpha and Delta chapters wanted to harness.

Last fall, all four chapters participated in the Bedlam Canned Food Drive to help families in our respective communities. We decided to have the Pride of Oklahoma and the Cowboy Marching Band participate in a friendly competition to see which band could collect the most cans for our communities. This project turned into some-

thing so much bigger than any one of us anticipated.

Along with the rivalries between our schools, the rivalries among sections also began to heat up. Every day after rehearsal, we would load multiple cars to their capacity with cans. This went on for weeks, with our incredible Vice President of Service, Amelia Schwartz, giving us updates on where each section and our entire band stood. Amelia deserves a huge shout out for the tireless and relentless effort she put into this project. Her passion for her community and her band is something every sister and brother should strive for. She was always quick to remind everyone that this was not about a competition, but about how many families were going to be able to have a Christmas dinner because of it. It was incredibly fulfilling to see how much that meant to our organizations and to our band. In the end our combined bands collected over 7,000 cans for our communities, feeding over 600 families. I am also proud to say that my incredible Pride of Oklahoma saxo-

phones collected over 2,000 of those.

The Pride of Oklahoma's contribution was donated to the Christmas Store in Norman, which resulted in the largest donation they have ever received. This project served so many wonderful purposes. Instead of serving our bands, we got to serve *with* our bands in order to help our communities. In addition to that, we got to further foster joint relations between the joint Delta chapters as well as with the joint Alpha chapters, and we got to show our bands part of what our organizations are all about. So thank you to the Delta and Alpha Chapters, the Cowboy Marching Band, and the Pride of Oklahoma. You answered the call, and touched many lives in the process.



FINDING MEANING IN MUSIC

Robert Morris, Kappa Kappa Psi, Lambda Chapter, SWD Co-MAL



Take a minute and think about your favorite song. Got it? If you're anything like me, your favorite song changes on a week to week basis. Something new comes on the radio, or you find a song by one of your favorite bands that you never really listened to, and you play it over and over until something else piques your interest and becomes your new "favorite song". Sounds kind of shallow, right? Does this music mean anything to us, or is it just pleasing noise? Too often we take for granted the music we listen to on a daily basis and don't take the time to actually understand it. Is it the tonality of the song that sticks with you? Does the message resonate somewhere inside you? Are the instruments arranged in a way pulls on your heart strings? Questions like these can turn a seemingly pointless moment



in popular music into a moment of personal growth and understanding.

Here's an example. The night I graduated from high school, I had a ten-minute drive home by myself before heading out to some school sanctioned after party. I'm sure we all remember the emotions associated with this moment; nervousness, joy, sadness and anxiety about the future, all wrapped up together in a confusing tangle of feelings. The song "1979" by The Smashing Pumpkins is what accompanied this moment for me. I had never really studied it, I just knew it was a quiet, pretty song, and that's what I wanted to hear. As the song played, I began to reflect on my experience in high school, and all the weird, awkwardness that goes along with it, as well as contemplating all the changes that were ahead of me. Much to my surprise, the song was saying in a poetic way, exactly what I was feeling. Later I went back and researched the intended meaning, and sure enough, he wrote it when he was eighteen in the exact same situation I was in. Now whenever larger changes are about to

occur in my life, I go back to this song, and it reminds me that no matter what, everything is going to be OK.

So why does this matter? As members of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma, we are called to revere music as the greatest of the arts, and to foster an understanding of music in all forms. Sure, some of us aren't going to spend our lives in the music field, but nonetheless, music will always have a place in our lives. The more we understand it, and what it means to us as individuals, the more music will have the ability to influence our lives in a positive way.



CANS

Ryan Maxey, Kappa Kappa Psi, Delta Chapter



It was a standard autumn late afternoon in Oklahoma

as I pulled my car into a Norman apartment block. I had arrived at the apartment of Delta TBS' Vice President of Service, looking to help count and sort goods as part of a canned food drive. As I walked into the door, I realized the magnitude of the task set before us, a small joint team of brothers and sisters from the Delta chapters. The entryway, dining room, the living area, and multiple closets were full of cans and other nonperishables.

"Yeah, the maintenance guy calls me the can lady now", the VP said, noting the odd looks she had gotten as she appeared to prepare for the mother of all apocalypses.

We all set to work, counting, sorting and stacking cans before ultimately loading them into what became a multi-car convoy down to the Cleveland County Christmas Store, a charity effort that provides food, clothes and more to families in need around Christmastime. The

load we brought turned out to be just as enormous as it seemed when we were stacking: more than 5,000 cans, the largest food drive the Pride of Oklahoma had ever accomplished and a record donation to the CCCS. But that wasn't all.

The Delta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma has been holding this food drive for some time now, and it has always been a successful project that has assisted the community of Norman for years. But this drive had a new wrinkle, one that was the VP's own brainchild. See, this wasn't the only food drive that a marching band in Oklahoma was undertaking at the time. Our chapters had reached out to the Alpha chapters, challenging them to a Food Drive contest in the spirit of the Bedlam rivalry. Through the spirit of competition and the power of joint relations, Delta and Alpha worked to do more good in our communities than would have ever been possible if we were working alone.

For me, so much of what I love about Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma relates to the way our chapters can work together to do incredible

things at every scale. The network of chapters across the nation, each and every one dedicating to serving the college bands, gives every member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma the opportunity to do things greater than they could do alone. One chapter is more able to help than one man; two chapters are more able than one. What can a network of hundreds of chapters, full of people of all heritages, creeds, and walks of life, each with a unique voice and desire to serve, do for their communities? For me, a better question is "What CAN'T they do?"

If you feel you have an idea that is bigger than your chapter, remember that Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma are also ideas bigger than your chapter. Reach out and find avenues to make your dreams happen.



ANSWER THE CALL

Shania Lewis, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Nu Chapter



Answer the call, in my opinion, is another way of say-

ing step up to help. To help with what, exactly? Well, the band program of course! I had the privilege to serve my band program through Tau Beta Sigma for four years, and now that I am about to graduate, I have had an opportunity to reflect on all the times I got to "Answer the Call." As a part of the Beta Nu chapter at Arkansas Tech University, I was the head of the Uniform committee for two years and assisted for a third. It was a great way for me to serve my band program. Along with our fellow music organizations, our chapter also raised money to be able to provide breakfast for the entire marching band during summer band rehearsals. This is something the chapter will continue to do for years to come.

We also provided dinner one night during summer



band in fall 2015. The spaghetti was delicious!

In fall 2015, the Band of Distinction had our very first Band Banquet. It was hosted by Beta Nu along with our brother chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, Delta Delta. It was a great bonding experience with our brothers and the banquet was a huge success!

Not only do we serve our own band program here at Tech, but we also help out at local high schools! I've worked many concession stands in my four years and also played in the stands with the high school bands. It was a great way to serve the community and to recruit for ATU!

I've also had the privilege to work several junior high and senior high all-region tryouts in the area with the Beta Nu chapter as well as all-state tryouts in 2013. These were great ways that the Beta Nu chapter has answered the call when it comes to serving our band program and area band programs.

We also answered the call in our community. The Beta Nu chapter has an adopted highway that we clean 2 times a year and boy, do we have fun with it!

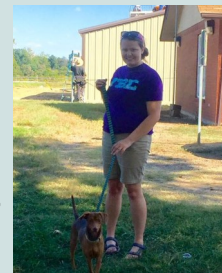
We also hosted a Girl Scouts Day every



year where we help girl scouts earn their music and/or art badges! This is now known as Crescendo and is always a big hit with the girls.

One of my favorite activities we did in the community was volunteer at the local animal shelter. We walked the dogs in the shelter around the property and played with them outside. There was also a cat room! If someone had disappeared, this is where we normally found them. The animals always enjoyed being loved and we enjoyed loving on them!

Tau Beta Sigma is a great service organization and I thank God every day for giving me the opportunity to serve the Arkansas Tech University bands through the wonderful Beta Nu chapter. Tau Beta Sigma will always have a special place in my heart and I cannot wait to see how the Beta Nu chapter will **answer the call** in the future!



THE FOUR KEY ELEMENTS FOR RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL CHAPTER MEETING

Shea Smith, Tau Beta Sigma, Gamma Nu Chapter



Every Chapter wants to have successful meetings that are efficient, effective productive, and fun. I believe that there are 4 key elements to make this happen.

The **first** key element is to have an agenda. An agenda is an official document that lists the order of business and schedule of the meeting. The president should write the agenda, and it should be shared with the rest of the chapter prior to each chapter meeting. Sharing the agenda has multiple benefits. Not only does it give all the members a chance to read the agenda and prepare to discuss all business items, but it also gives the members an opportunity to ask the president to add things to the agenda that they would like to speak on during chapter and to make corrections is necessary. Once the agenda is finalized and sent out to the rest of the chapter the President should make notes on their own copy so they know who is saying what and when.

Agenda Breakdown:
Prior to the minutes the

president must call the meeting to order and announce the time.

Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting must be approved and/ or corrected, then read or dispensed. It can help to read the minutes at each first meeting to be reminded what was last discussed.

Treasurer's Report: Bank account balance is read by the treasurer here and if needed past and upcoming expenses.

Correspondence: Secretary reads all incoming mail, outgoing mail, and chapter members' letters.

Committee Reports: Committee heads will give their committee reports. During this time there should only be approval of plans that were made in the committee meeting. No planning should be done during the presentation of the report. This helps meetings to be efficient. Not all committees need to give reports every meeting.

Old Business: Give thanks to those who helped with an event, give feedback on how the event was executed, and any discussion that was tabled and not resolved.

New Business: Upcoming events that were NOT previously discussed in the committee reports. These items should also be "time relevant". If the event that you want to discuss is happening after your next chapter meeting it should be put on the next meetings agenda.

Announcements: Next meeting time and date, which committee reports are due next meeting, reminders on upcoming events that may not have been talked about previously.

Program: PIME, leadership development, educational workshops, team building activities, sisterhood time, games etc.

Adjournment: Time when the meeting ends.

The **second** key element of running a successful meeting is Robert's Rules. Robert's Rules can save a lot of time in chapter meeting and will keep everyone on task.

Motions: How to make a Motion

1. Obtain the floor
2. Make your motion
3. Wait for a second
4. Chair states your motion
5. Expand on your mo

tion

6. Vote

The parliamentarian (or president) should be keeping track of what motions are being made throughout the meeting to make sure that everyone is following correct Robert's Rules and that all motions are constitutional. It is the entire chapter's responsibility to make motions to keep business moving. For example if a committee did not plan enough, anyone can table the discussion until further planning has been done with the committee

Voting: According to your chapters' constitution there should be specific guidelines to the amount of members that will equal 'Majority Vote'. For my chapter it is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the chapters' active membership that equals 'Majority Vote'. This means that in order for any motion to pass $\frac{3}{4}$ of the active membership have to vote 'Yes'. If less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the active membership votes yes then the motion automatically fails.

For example: Lets say you have 12 active in your chapter. Someone then motions to accept the VPM's report and only 8 people vote to accept. The VPM's report will automatically not be accepted because the majority ($\frac{3}{4}$ vote, 9 people in this instance) did not vote yes.

Here is an extensive list on things that should be voted on during chapter meetings.

- Reading/ Not reading the minutes
- Accepting/ declining absence, conditional, and reinstatement letters from chapter members.
- Committee reports
- Event planning details
- Time
- Date
- Location
- Cost/ Budget
- Required/ Not required
- Who will attend
- Timeline of Day-of details
- Budgets
- Bid Selection
- Paperwork Details (prior to submission to District and or Nationals)
- Constitution Changes

Discussion: The first person to speak in discussion should only speak if they are disagreeing with or clarifying what is currently being proposed. Agreeing with an agenda item does not require discussion. Your approval vote will be all that you need to show your support. Avoid re-stating concerns that were already expressed during discussion. Don't be afraid of speaking up if you disagree with something.

The Chair: The chair is whomever currently has the floor. This person is also in charge of recognizing mem-

bers to speak during discussion. The chair will trade off between members throughout the meeting. For example: When the Vice president of Membership is giving their report, they are the Chair for that specific amount of time.

The **third** key element is keeping detailed minutes. Taking minutes is usually the responsibility of the Secretary. Taking detailed minutes can aid the discussion in upcoming meetings. The minutes will contain information such as budgets, dates, and other in-chapter decisions, and discussion. In the next chapter meeting there will be less time spent trying to remember all of the details that were discussed in the previous meeting. Minutes should be emailed or posted somewhere so that it is easily accessible by all chapter members and sponsor.

The **fourth** and final key element is to maintain an environment where everyone is inclined/encouraged to participate. The steps that it takes to do this are as follows.

- Have an agenda and follow it
- Know and follow Robert's Rules
- Keep detailed minutes

When your chapter meetings are efficiently productive and you spend less time doing work that should

be done outside of the chapter meeting everyone feels less irritated and more willing to participate. When everyone is willing to participate then the bond of sisterhood will come more naturally and it

will be easier to have a good time.

A lot of times everyone gets caught up in the business side of our chapter meetings and we forget that our weekly meeting is the time where we

all get to be together at the same time. Take advantage of this time and fill it with the love you have for the organization and for the sisters you share it with.

TREASURE AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW

Sierra Klutts, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Nu Chapter



Throughout my teenage years, I was lucky to know what sisterhood is.

Though I am an only child - I have chosen my sisters, and I have chosen well. Throughout junior high and high school, I was a part of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls – a sisterhood that I will cherish and carry with me for the rest of my life. Similarly, Tau Beta Sigma will leave an imprint on me that I will carry with me forever.

If you have not heard of IORG, it is a girl's service organization that opens up many leadership and volun-

teer opportunities. The way we liked to explain it to people was simply "A mashup of girl scouts and a sorority." IORG gave me many of the tools I needed to grow and mature as a young woman. I joined at the age of 14, and unfortunately had to leave the organization when I began furthering my education at Arkansas Tech University at age 18.

You have probably already noticed many similarities between Tau Beta Sigma and IORG. Service... Leadership... Sisterhood... These are a few of the more important things we promote in our sorority, and IORG holds many of the same characteristics. Tau Beta

Sigma has helped me to build further onto the foundation I gained from IORG and become the person I am today.

Between both organizations, I have learned many great things that I will take with me into my professional career after graduation. I know that through Tau Beta Sigma, I will continue to gain the tools I need for later in life, and I will grow into an all-around better person. Both TBS and IORG have shaped me for the better, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunities that I have been given through both organizations.

FIGHT CLUB

Taylor Hollowell, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Nu Chapter



So drama. Whether we want it to take place or

not, it happens to the best of us. Our chapter, TBS Beta Nu, came off suspension a year and a half ago, but with the

way we came flying out the gates, you would not have been able to tell. We had a million and one ideas, and we

had every intention of completing every single one of them. While we were able to accomplish quite a few of them, something kept getting in the way of our success- drama. Not only was it drama, but it was the kind that almost got us kicked off campus... again. We just could not seem to figure out the key to not letting small things build and become really big problems.

Now I may not know everyone who reads this personally, but I can almost guarantee that their chapter has had some type of drama. Whether the chapter has ten members or 100 members, people are going to have disagreements and quarrels. Conflict is inevitable. Some chapter may have problems weekly, while others may have it very seldom. Whichever one describes your chapter, it is important to know how to combat drama. From experience, I have come up with a list of ways to reduce drama in your chapter and to make your bonds even stronger!

DON'T: Remain silent.

Remaining silent is one of the quickest ways to have drama blown out of proportion. When people stay silent about issues they have, people tend to get more and more and more upset until the seemingly small issue becomes a massive point of damage. This is

what happened to our chapter; people decided to stay quiet about issues and by the time they were brought up things had gotten out of hand. It can be hard to bring up issues, but it's worth it in the long run.

DO: Find a system that works for your chapter.

A conflict resolution system is a great idea for any chapter! I wish I could tell you which system works best, but honestly it is going to be different for everyone. Our chapter had to go through three different systems before we finally found one that fits us, so you may not find your perfect system right away! We have a system now called "Got an Issue? Bring a Tissue!" where we pick three different members each week to speak in front of the chapter. These members have the opportunity to talk about any problems they have with individuals or the chapter as a whole. It keeps feeling out in the open and we've been able to solve numerous problems through this system!

DON'T: Try resolving things through text message.

This is one of the worst things you can do! So many things could go wrong through text. Things can be interpreted incorrectly, typos can occur, or your issue is just not the thing that needs to be texted

about. Always try and talk in person, because this is the quickest and most efficient way to solve problems!

DO: Keep an open mind to what people are saying.

I know that this can be a hard thing to do, but sometimes when you are involved in conflict, you need to take a step back and reevaluate the situation. Try seeing the problem from both sides! You might be surprised with what you find.

DON'T: Gossip to the entire chapter.

Trust me, I understand how fun gossiping can be, and I would be lying if I said I have never done it before. Gossip can be a dangerous game to play though, and will almost always make a situation a hundred times worse. The best thing to do is to try and keep your problem as contained as possible. Keep it between you and the person you are having problems with, and if it gets serious enough – your Executive Board.

DO: Utilize your Executive Board.

Don't be afraid to bring your problems to the higher officers; that is a part of why they are there! Many people feel like they are alone when problems happen, but it does not have to be that way. As a member, you have every right to voice opinions and prob-

lems to your executive board, so do not be afraid to talk about things!

DON'T: Make a scene.

We are all college students, so the last thing people want to see is a scene unfold. This makes everyone uncomfortable, and it can make problems way worse. Instead of throwing a fit, calm down and take some time to think things through. I can almost guarantee that your opinions will change after you take some time to think things through.

DO: Forgive and forget.

Sisters and brothers will make you mad sometimes, or you will have a disagreement, but the best thing to do is for-

give them. I know, I know, this sounds super cheesy, but it really is true. Not only will it make your bond stronger, but it will make you feel a lot better too. Do not bring up past problems – if it happened in the past, it belongs in the past.

DON'T: Blame.

There is a big difference between solving problems and resolving conflicts, and blaming each other for problems. Your goal should always be to resolve any problems you might have as quickly as possible. Blame will do the exact opposite of this. I believe blame is all in how you approach things, such as your tone of voice and body lan-

guage. If you accuse someone of something hatefully they are probably going to get defensive, and then drama will occur. If you need to bring up a problem to a member, make sure you approach things in a calm and collected manner.

We are all brothers and sisters in the bond, but sometimes being a part of a family is arguing and fighting. It is good to know, however, that no matter how many problems you have with sisters or brothers, they are still going to be there for you no matter what. While drama is not ideal, it has a way of making us all closer in Tau Beta Sigma.

MEMBERSHIP EDUCATION: THE IDEAL EXPERIENCE

Timothy Emery, Tau Beta Sigma, Delta Upsilon Chapter



The process of membership education is sometimes a daunting task for all involved, and the amount of time and dedication required can make most shake in their boots. The process can further be complicated when the officers involved take impor-

er steps in preparation for the process and a lack of concern for the membership candidates as a whole. This was not at all evident with the Delta Upsilon chapter at Howard Payne University. In my eyes, these individuals could not have done a more exemplary job at ensuring the well-being of all involved in the process while still accomplishing the task at hand of learning about the national, district, and local history of Tau Beta Sigma.

To be quite honest, I was overwhelmed by the task ahead of me. With the interviews and all of the assignments put in front of me that I was expected to complete in a relatively short amount of time, I fully believed that I would crumble under the pressure and drop out of the process. However, as soon as the sisters picked up on the fear in my thinking, I was supported and encouraged to keep going. The person who

has kept all of us together as a unit and helped us to keep sane has been our VP and membership educator, miss TaShana Hooker. Though she has endured some hardships

of her own this semester, she has managed to consistently be proactive in her duties as our guide and friend.

I am honored to soon be a part of this wonderful chapter

and hopefully carry on the tradition of excellence in all that we do, including the membership education process.

MEMORIES

Winona Gbedy, Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Delta Chapter



When music is your “passtime” rather than your “career”, high school band directors can have a way of making you feel awfully small. I have never been particularly great at music, even when I stayed up into the wee hours of the morning practicing the same All-Region music I had been playing for the past four months. Even now, as a sophomore in college, I can still say I am not *good* at what I do. But I stick with it, because music is something that I love. Someone said, “Music is the best solution to any problem,” and to me, for the most part, that is true.

When I left high school, I vowed never to step foot into a band hall again, not if I could help it. After having my confidence dashed time and time

again by a band director that cared more about the sounds than the person producing them, I was determined not to soil the few good memories I had left by joining yet another concert band. Marching band was going to be good enough for me. However, Tau Beta Sigma pushed me into quite the conundrum: join a group of wonderful women who were passionate about music and service, or forsake it for the purpose of maintaining my one-manned boycott of concert bands. Was my ambivalence towards my past band directors going to push me into a decision I would eventually regret?

A year and a half later, here I am. Still less-than-stellar at the flute, but that's okay. Unlike my high school band directors, my TBS sisters know the connective power of music. They realize that the very act of performing it with others, putting your heart and soul into it and conveying *that*

to the audience, that is what makes it truly special.

In Tau Beta Sigma, I have truly been blessed with friendship and love and true happiness. Even though my flute playing is not the prettiest, and my singing is not much better – my sisters love and accept me. They lift me up when I am down and encourage me to become a better version of myself. My sisters are my family away from home, and I honestly do not know where I would be without them.

Beta Delta, I love who we are!



NEW ALTO STAFF 2015-2016



Copy Editor: Ali Oldright is a senior Clarinet Performance and Music Education double-major at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. There, she serves as the Treasurer and Webmaster of the Gamma Phi chapter of Tau Beta Sigma, and as Historian of the Gamma Gamma chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, a professional music fraternity. In her free time she enjoys painting, running, and watching DCI videos.



Copy Editor: Justin Packard is a senior at Oklahoma State University studying Sports Media and Statistics. From Colorado Springs, Colorado, He grew up with a love for all things sports. He plays trumpet in the Cowboy Marching Band, Spirit Band, Concert Band and a Dixieland band the Alpha chapter recently started. He has love for music and is passionate about it. He joined Kappa Kappa Psi in March of 2013 and is now president of the Alpha chapter.



Caroline Lee is a Multimedia Journalism Graduate from Oklahoma State University, A member of the Alpha chapter of Tau Beta Sigma, and a trumpet player. She was an intern for KOTV News on 6 this past summer, and is a huge fan of traveling. She graduated in December of 2015 and hopes to become gainfully employed at a news station.



Brielle Johnson is the returning Design Editor for the New Alto Staff. She has been a member of the Psi chapter of Tau Beta Sigma at the University of Arkansas since Fall of 2012 and is the current Parliamentarian. She is a senior psychology major and is planning on going into marketing or business for graduate studies in 2017.

