

# *New ALTO*

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*Kappa Kappa Psi & Tau Beta Sigma*

*Fall 2019*

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*Where It All Began....*



# Meet the New ALTO Staff



**Rachael Baca**  
VP for Programs  
K K Ψ - Gamma Iota



**Wendy Stewart**  
VP for Special Projects  
TBS - Psi



**Erica Wilson**  
Copy Editor  
TBS - Psi



**Megan Cross**  
Copy Editor  
K K Ψ - Lambda



**Christopher Bailon**  
Design Editor  
K K Ψ - Gamma Iota



**Kelly Gage**  
Public Relations Officer  
K K Ψ - Gamma Theta



My journey in TBS all began with my mom. However, my mom was never in band. She never played a musical instrument or tossed a flag, but she would make the best member of Tau Beta Sigma.

My mom (pictured with me) volunteered for the bands from when I started the 6th grade till last year when my brother graduated from high school. For 9 years, she did everything a volunteer could do. She helped fit us for band uniforms every school year. She served as a band chaperone, keeping track of buses of kids on trips to countless contests and football games. Even when I was an angsty teen and didn't want to be seen near her she was not deterred from chaperoning. She would carry props and pit instruments onto the field for performances and help serve the band meals. For the past year, she was even the designated "Food Services Rep." That meant she planned two weeks of summer band camp lunches for over 200 people, not to mention a football seasons worth of game-day and competition meals. She once even set up a carnival fundraiser and worked several others to raise money for the band. I cannot list her whole resume of band service, but it came to an end this fall when she had no more children in band near her.

My brother and I were both in college band 6.5 hours away and I think she missed band as much as she missed us. She missed it like a graduated alumna would. My mom even went to my high school's band area competition to cheer them on this fall. Still itching to help, she also talked to me about considering ditching another event to attend a highschool band parent Q&A session where she could answer questions about getting involved and what to expect. My mom would also take any opportunity to tell parents and band seniors how much fun we were having in college band. These little things made me realize she genuinely enjoyed music and the community band creates. Then this fall, I realized she is why I'm in TBS.

My family visited me at a football game this year. When the game was over and the stadium empty, my mom made her way to the band section where my chapter was cleaning and rolling seat covers. Without even seeing me, she began helping us brush the empty water bottles and trash off the seat covers and asked my sisters what she could do to help.

It was then that I saw my mom is everything a sister should be. She promotes the existence and welfare of bands. She has unmatched "generosity of mind, heart, and hand" and exemplifies every other essential factor. I got to grow up with that example and learn to emulate it. Without even knowing what TBS was, my mom showed me what I want to be as a sister, as a president, and as a woman in music. She is where my journey in Tau Beta Sigma all began.



Alyssa Bobalik - TBS



### Going through change

Jesus Del Rio - K K Ψ

The Gamma Eta chapter was reinstalled on November 15, 2015. With four years of existing and starting up again, there's been a lot of adjusting, overcoming, and developing going on in my chapter. As the last member of the Alpha class of the Gamma Eta chapter, I have seen this chapter change in many ways.

Since I've been here, The Pride of New Mexico has been under the direction of three different band directors. I also had to go through the change from the old way of teaching membership candidates to the Road to Wisdom. So many changes within four years can sometimes be a challenge to adjust as a chapter, but as the years went by and Alpha class graduated, I look back and see the same passion the founding fathers had for chapter in the eyes of the new classes. As my last year almost comes to an end, I am pleased to see how much this chapter has grown and overcome. It all began with a group of band members that wanted to make the band better and it will be left to those who want the same in the future.



EmilyAnn Richardson - K K Ψ

### The Home I Knew

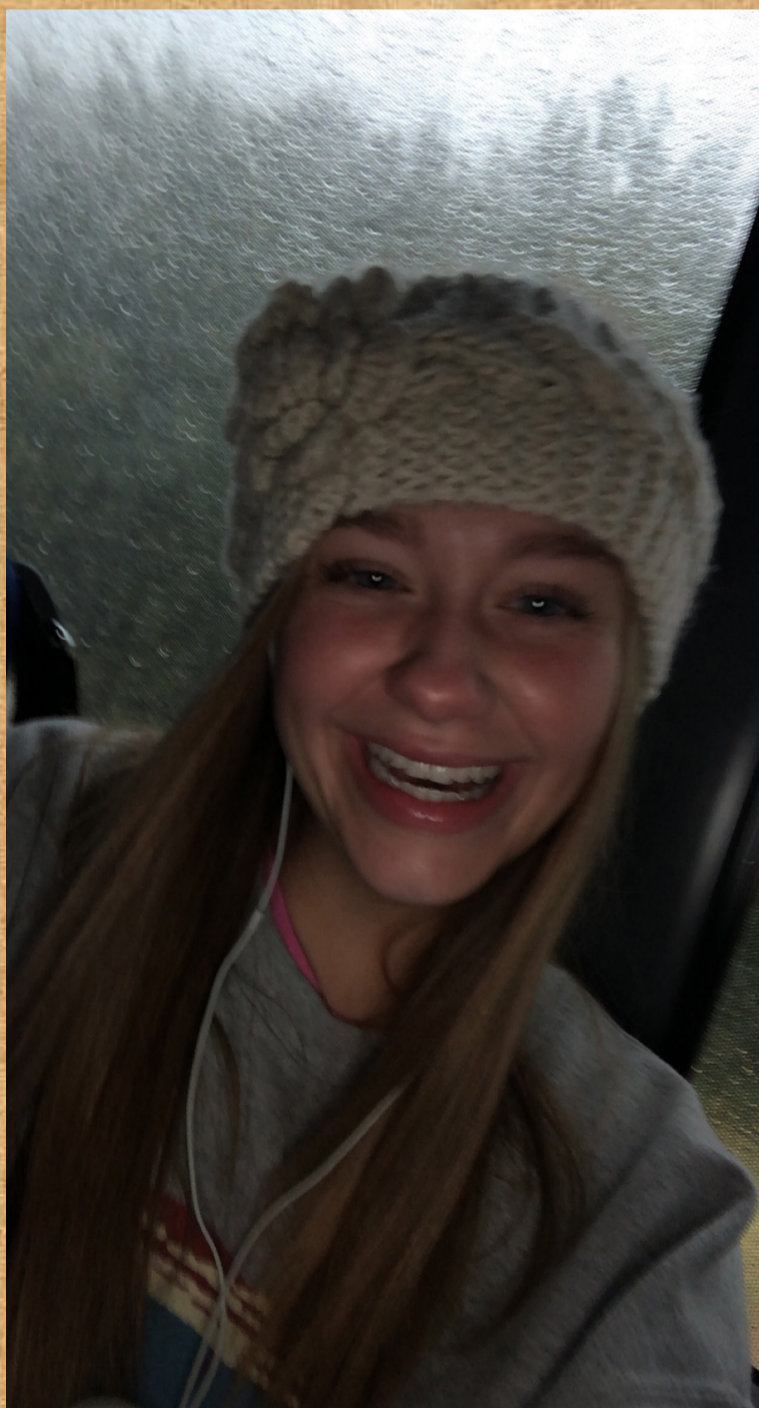
I sat beneath the Tree one night  
 Which ten years ago was fresh and new  
 I was not here to see it grow  
 To tend the seeds that it would sow  
 Instead I sat from year to year  
 And when I smiled from ear to ear  
 The Tree smiled with me through the day  
 And when I mourned I heard it say  
 "You're more than this" and it was right  
 So as I sat there through the night  
 We grew together, the Tree and I  
 The home I knew  
 Kappa Kappa Psi



Kelsey Cook - TBS

### To My Beautiful Sisters

To all my beautiful sisters  
 For making my heart soar  
 For always making me laugh  
 And opening so many doors  
 It is so easy to be angry, it is so easy to hate  
 But your love trumps every obstacle  
 Such magic you create!  
 Thank you for being my home  
 My place of light when needed most  
 Thank you for being my shelter  
 And for letting me making this post! :) <3



### Little Dunkle Boy

A haiku with love for a forgetful  
 brother

Have you seen my shoe?  
 Dinkles can't just be replaced.  
 Nicknames from my bros.

Rachel Hawk - TBS





## Why TBS?

## Ashley Mueller - TBS

Every time I mention TBS service events to my friends who aren't in the organization, I am asked why I choose to do "all that work" for seemingly little reward. Every time, I get to explain exactly why I willingly and lovingly serve in this wonderful sisterhood. Getting to have a direct impact on the band we serve while also making lifelong friends is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I am so blessed to have in TBS. When we distribute sandwiches to the band on game days, I get to give back to the band that has given me innumerable memories and the closest friends of my life. Outside of that context, I get to serve in various other activities alongside my sisters. Volunteer pep gigs, helping at animal shelters, and moving freshman Pride members into their dorms become more than merely good deeds when I undertake them in TBS. For some, the service requirements may seem to be a burden, or a reason not to join the sorority, but to me, it is integral to who we are and what we do.



## Amber Jones - TBS

### How Tau Beta Sigma Brought Me out of My Shell



When I first attended the University of Arkansas, I didn't know a single person. I wanted to continue my love for music and open myself up to meet new people through marching band. Although there were many amazing people in band, I still had a hard time being extroverted enough to create bonds and relationships. After a rehearsal, the VPME at the time for Psi made an announcement about an informational recruitment event happening that week. I was skeptical to go, but some other people who were interested in the sorority convinced me to attend with them. During the recruitment event, I found myself struggling to connect with the other potential new members and again I was upset with myself for not talking to them. I knew I wanted to be in the sisterhood for the service and for the hopes of having sisters I could connect with. After a couple of months, I accepted my bid and started my journey into the sisterhood of Tau Beta Sigma. Through this process, I found myself talking to more and more people, sisters and band members alike. I started going to more events and started to make friends that I believed would be there for a lifetime. By the time initiation came around, I was more outgoing and finally felt like I could be myself. It felt so weird to be able to talk to anybody and make bonds so easily. Collectively, my sisters helped me out of this shell I wore to shield myself from interaction. I've been a sister in Tau Beta Sigma for four years now and have held two executive positions since. I appreciate everything the sisterhood has done for me and am grateful for the bonds I have created in the sorority.



Corrie Bird - TBS



Megan Fox - TBS





Noah Ward - TBS



*I know when I'm down,  
so I fill myself with those I love  
around,  
the ones that help and all the  
rest.  
But with my sisters, I am best.*  
-NOAH WARD



Tyler Hern - TBS, SWD  
Secretary/Treasurer



## Delta Is Still My Happy Place

This semester was the first fall that I wasn't in the Pride. I wanted to be, but my class schedule wouldn't allow me to make any of the rehearsals, and I was honestly very concerned about what TBS would be like without Pride. A lot of the time that I got to spend with my sisters was either at chapter or at Pride rehearsal. I was worried that maybe the friendships I had with my sisters would be kind of disconnected by not seeing them as much, but I was worried for nothing. All of my sisters have been so supportive, made an effort to remain in touch throughout the semester, and have consistently been there for me no matter what I needed. Tau Beta Sigma will be something that is in my life after Pride, and honestly even after college. Our rush theme for this fall is "Delta Is My Happy Place" and it has made me think a lot about how Delta has always been a place where I belong. I was worried that without Pride I would lose that sense of belonging. This semester has been one of the hardest semesters I have gone through and I wouldn't have been able to get through some of it without my sisters. Even without being in Pride, Delta is still my happy place.



## Lily Romero - Κ Κ Ψ



©DawnseyesPho

If you would ever tell me before I had started college that I would ever be part of a Greek organization, I probably would've called you crazy. Whenever I started college, I was the usual nervous freshman. I was scared to talk to others and the upperclassmen intimidated me. As the fall semester went its course, I was slowly introduced to the members of the Gamma Theta chapter and told what Kappa Kappa Psi was about. When the time came for recruitment week, I was so excited. I was coming out of my shell and talking to older members of the band. I was interested in becoming a member of the chapter and learning more about KKPsi. As I got my bid and became a membership candidate, I learned about how we join this fraternity for life and the brotherhood that comes with it. I learned about how we serve the band and do what we can for it. I learned that even though I'm not a music major, music is a part of my life no matter what. I was excited to be initiated this past Spring and finally join. I am proud to be a part of Kappa Kappa Psi and I am thankful for the people that I have grown close with and that I can call my family. They have made my experience here at East Central University amazing and I am glad that I get to learn what I can about being a leader, a friend, a helper, and a brother through Kappa Kappa Psi. I am proud to be part of the Gamma Theta chapter here at ECU, I am excited to grow with my chapter, and this is where it all began for me.



## Ciara Gibbs - TBS, SWD President



## Hard, but Worthwhile

I am in my second term as president for the Eta Pi chapter at NSU and it is time for me to be real about my position. It is hard. There are some days I still question if my chapter made the right decision to elect me. There are days when I don't know if I have enough energy to make it to another committee meeting. There are days I cry because I had to make a hard decision regarding the fate of the chapter. At the end of the day, I still wouldn't trade my time as president for anything else. When I first got into the chapter, I knew that I would love to be president of it one day. This position has pushed me to be a better person, leader, and sister. I have had to trust my knowledge and instincts. I know that each day in this position is helping me prepare for my future. The valuable lessons that I have learned during my time in office are the very same reasons why I encourage people to run for an office. The time to start thinking about running is now. Don't dismiss the idea because the work will be hard in that position. Ponder the idea of doing it because it will be hard. If nothing is pushing you to get better, then how will you get better? With all of this, I want to leave y'all with a quote from Manny Pacquiao. "Life is meant to be a challenge, because challenges make you grow."

## A Seniors Lament

Long summer days  
And warm evening light  
The shine off the bells  
Sound of the fight

Song in the stadium  
By students galore  
The crowds going wild  
Yelling for more

Sisters working hard  
And chapter running long.  
Gathering in a circle  
And singing our song.

Loud booming voices  
At the top of the crest,  
And I always know that  
With my sisters – I am best.

## Lauren Murabito - TBS





Music has always been around. It is a big part of my culture, it formed my childhood, it became my life. From a young age, I wanted to play an instrument. I wanted to call myself a musician. I watched as my older brother graduated from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelors in Music Education, from there he went on to be a high school band director, and soon he would become the Head Director of an entire band program teaching sixth-grade beginning band to high school. By the age of eight, I was put into piano lessons, and four years later I started saxophone. I would be a part of the second group of students to go through the Los Lunas Eastside Band Program under the direction of my own brother, Anthony Baca.

As I progressed through school and the program, I had made the decision to major in Music Performance. That was until my freshman year of high school and I heard the piece “Blue and Green Music” by Samuel Hazo. I have always loved and appreciated how music was written but I never cared for why it was written or what would inspire music. Something about this particular piece struck a chord, I remember asking for the score, and I remember for the first time falling in love with all parts of a piece. From then on I wanted to one day write something that would make someone feel the way I did at that moment.

Soon enough I would be at the University of New Mexico studying the very thing I wanted. Not everything comes easy. Within my first year at UNM it was discovered that I had nerve damage to my left hand, making it difficult to progress on my own instrument. That ultimately lead to paperwork and long discussions as to my own place within the music department. Not being able to be in major ensembles and having to do the bare minimum to stay Active is one thing that I wish on no one. I still had composing, and I still had that feeling as before that I could do wonders. I had to step back from the very thing that led me to want to be a composer in the first place.

Composing has given me the opportunity to arrange the Fraternity Hymn instrumental for my chapter, the Gamma Iota Chapter Hymn, numerous premieres, countless friends and brothers, and to learn to love and appreciate music in a new way. It all began thanks to my directors, my peers, and fellow musicians who have always pushed me to be a better musician when everything was good or going wrong. Nearing the end of my degree and time as an Active, reflecting on how I am and where I am is what grounds me when life becomes too much. Composing is my now and my future, it holds possibilities that I have yet to discover. I am a different kind of musician that what I would have been without going down this path. It all began with a feeling.



Seferina Baca - Κ Κ Ψ





The Gamma Zeta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at Lamar University, this was after district convention and one of the first meetings for the most recent membership candidate class, the Spring '19 class

Ruben Anfoso - K K Ψ



The brothers of the Gamma Zeta chapter of Lamar University and the sisters of the Alpha Upsilon chapter of Tau Beta Sigma of Lamar University after playing music in the stands for Evadale High School at their football game.

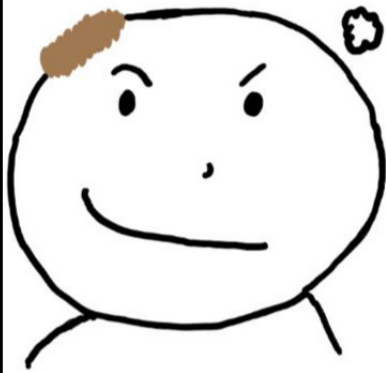
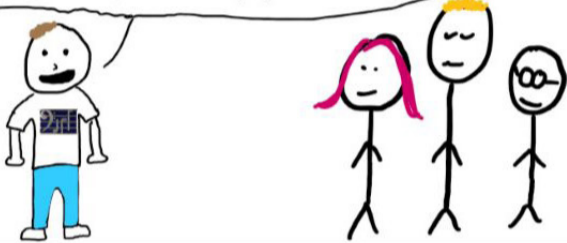




# JIMBO THE MC

## MC Class Elections

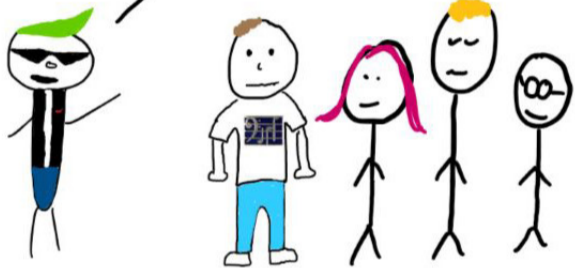
...so if I am elected for class President, I have no doubt we will soar for new heights under my 17-step plan!



With this well thought out plan, there is no way I won't be elected for MC class president!

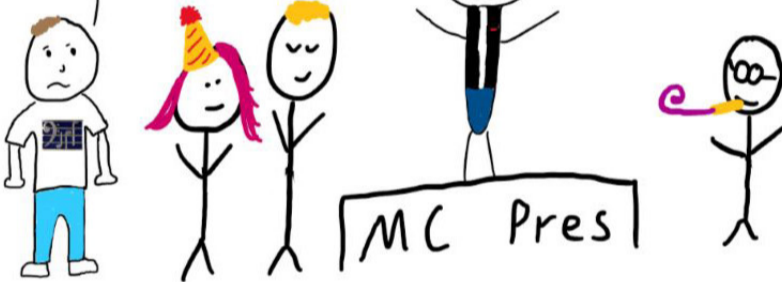
Rick "Cool Guy" Trombone

If you guys elect me, I will make us a Minecraft Server



Oh Boh-ther

Rad



Garret Gardenhire -  
K K Ψ,  
SWD Preisdent



Ashley DeSoto - TBS



The sisters of the Zeta Phi chapter provide the Louisiana Tech band with bananas after half time every game.





## Purple Cats

Since moving to the University of Oklahoma, like most people, football soon took over my life. Watching highlight reel after highlight reel and reading statistic after statistic, I began to realize my addiction. Never in my life have I gotten emotional after games. It is just a game, is it not? Life will go on if the Sooners lose the game. Then the Oklahoma Sooners went to the Big Apple, wait no sorry the “Little Apple,” home of the Kansas State kitty cats. Except these kitty cats came to fight. Someone must have pooped in their litter box because they came out swinging. We were a 3-touchdown favorite, the key word there being “were.” I now see why Egyptians and K-state fans worship cats now, because we ended up losing that game pretty badly. Our father Jalen Hurts was near perfection, putting up nearly 500 yards of offense, but unfortunately to us Sooner fans there is more to football than just offense. Our defense consisted of somewhere between seven and eleven players who instead of stopping the cats, decided to pick daisies with their eyes closed. Regardless of this smackdown that ended our playoff chances despite our impressive twenty-two consecutive true away-game winning streak that might have damaged my mental health, the Kansas State band was simply remarkable, from engaging with the audience with their pep tunes, halftime, and pre-game, to being class act ambassadors of their organization. It could have been so easy to be mean, like all the “I peaked in high school” experts that were all on twitter, but they decide to be to A+ humans by making sure the OU pep band was safe getting out of the stadium as the purple faithful stormed their own field in celebration. So, to that I say thank you. Thank you for being great individuals that make this world a better place. not only in the band community, but to every person that see you guys at football games, regardless what team they cheer for, because in the end we are all human.

## Clarke Bruneau - TBS



## Mikayla Blankenship - TBS



“Mentis et cordis et manus liberalitas”- Translated by Mikayla Blankenship and Professor Hanson

“Generosity of mind, heart, and hand” is one of our 8 essential factors. Breaking down the phrase helps explain why we, Tau Beta Sigma, hold this dear to our hearts. Generosity is the act/quality of being kind and generous. To apply this to the mind, we start by thinking kindly of others and ourselves. When we think of kind things and doing the right thing our hearts will be changed with generosity. With our minds and hearts being touched by generosity, we can give it to others. We do this with our love of serving the band and our community.



If I'm being perfectly honest, when I came into college I wasn't sure that I wanted to join Kappa Kappa Psi. I only went to one recruitment event, and at the time I didn't really know anyone. I saw how involved my sister Sefe was with the fraternity and so in the fall of 2017, I turned in an application to become a part of the Gamma Iota Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi.

Soon enough the education classes began and I started to learn about this amazing organization. The classes were so much fun! And through those classes, I began to develop brotherhood with the chapter and my class, Alpha Delta. After our second degree, we did big/little reveals and so on October 22nd, I found out my big was Joahna Lamboy. She has been a HUGE inspiration in my life and one of my biggest motivators. It was also on that day I learned I was apart of the Purple Dino Fam. My G-Big, Ms Ashley Nowikowski, aka best G-big ever, has also been a continuing source of love and support for me.

At the end of the Fall 2017 semester, I was officially a brother of Kappa Kappa Psi. It wasn't an easy semester by far, and the next semester was honestly just as hard, but my chapter is my rock. I know I can count on them to help me out when I need it.

Since becoming a brother, I have had the pleasure of seeing the work of amazing people, inspiring people. I went to my first district convention and watched brothers from my chapter run for district council! When we came back, I decided to run for our chapter Vice President of Programs and am now serving my second term. I have also had the honor to be currently serving as our district Vice President for Programs.

By far, one of the greatest joys of being a brother has been my little, Daniel Ramirez. Truly, he is a blessing in my life. He has taught me so much about how I can be a better brother, teacher, friend, and musician. Daniel is probably the biggest reason why I continue to strive for the highest. He makes me the proudest Big ever and so I only hope that I can lead him in his Kappa Kappa Psi journey the way my family and chapter has led me.

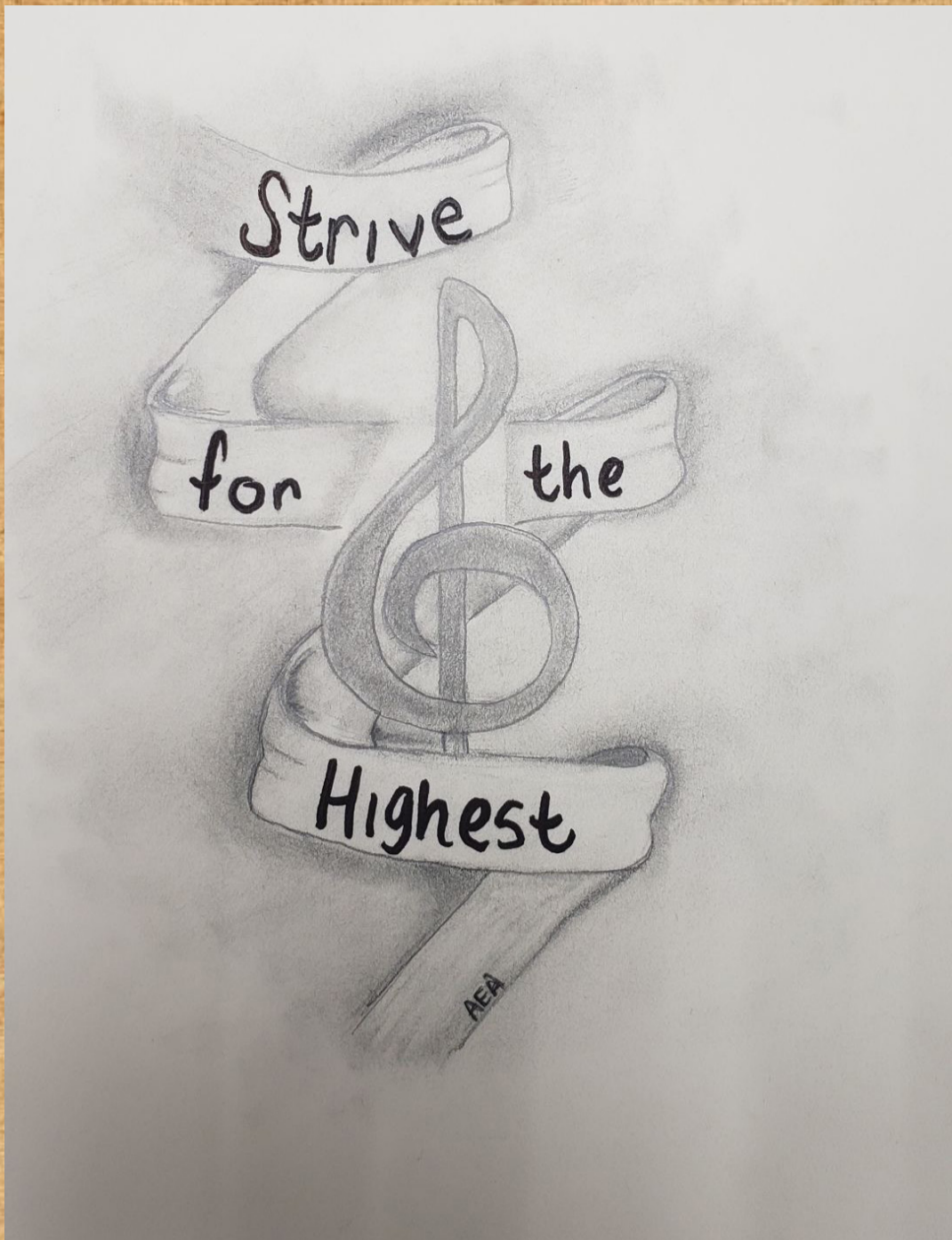
I don't think when I first joined I ever pictured me loving being a part of this organization as much I do. I don't think I pictured becoming part of a family as wonderful as mine. Kappa Kappa Psi has gifted me with an incredible support system and for that I am forever grateful.

With that, to my brothers and sisters of TBS that may read this, I encourage you to reflect on your journey so far and count your blessings, and remember to strive always.

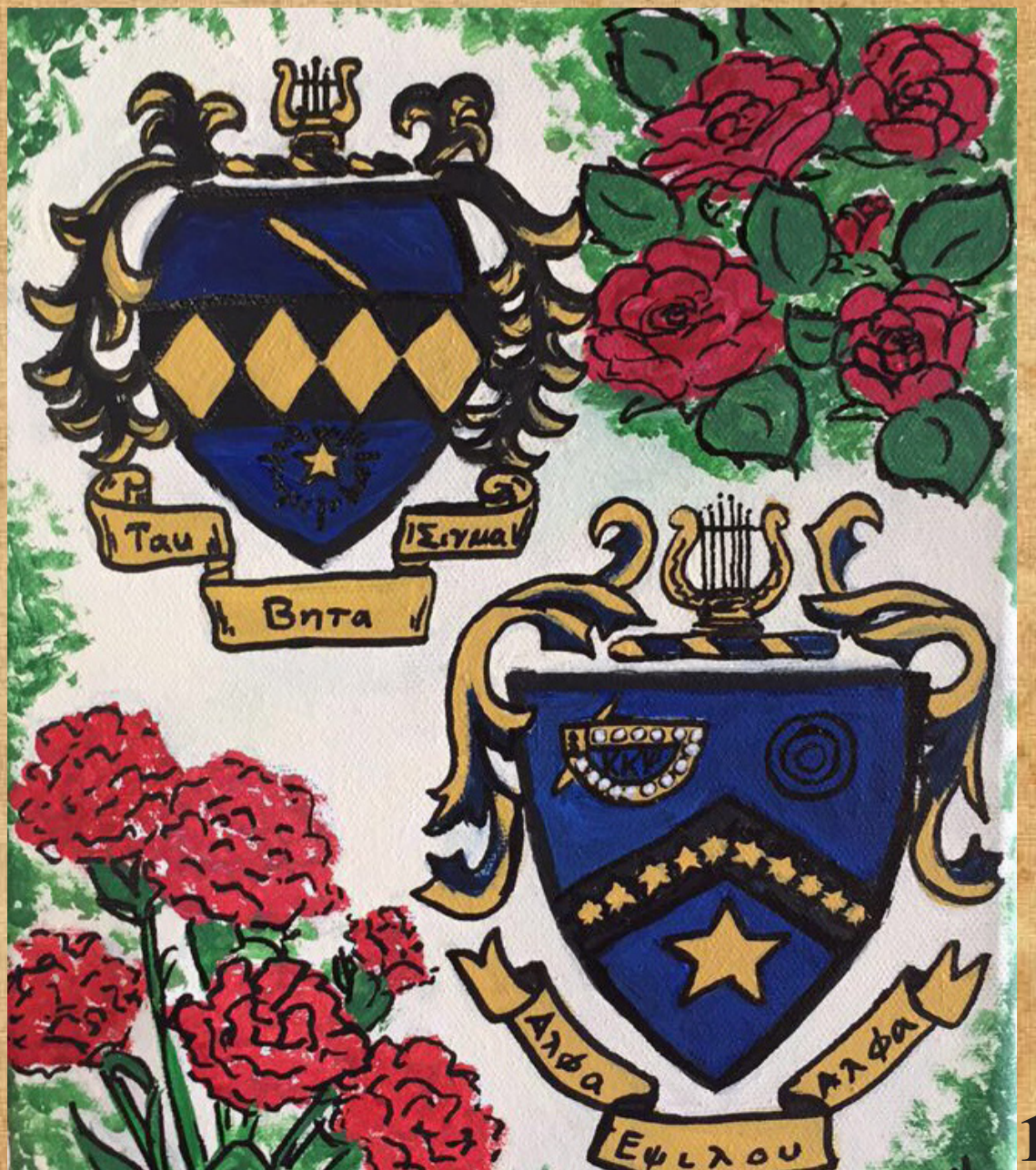




Kaylee Hacker - Κ Κ Ψ



Sophie Vargas - TBS







Faith Dickey - TBS





## Patricia Tobar - TBS



This picture is of when my friends and I first found out that we got bids to Tau Beta Sigma and that we were our own class! This picture was taken on December 6th, 2016, almost 3 years ago and we were all freshmen that were about to start this amazing journey! The class name we made was F.F.A.A.T.C.! We are all now about to graduate with our Bachelors degree and start a new chapter of our lives!



## TK Garrett - K K Ψ

My grandbig, big, and I on our the night of our 1st Degree in the Spring of 2018





Coming into college I never imagined that I would join a fraternity. I was nervous of what the future might hold and what college life would be like. As a Music Education major, the first college experience I had was summer band camp at Stephen F. Austin State University. With a band program of about 300 plus people it was a lot of new faces to take in – especially since I knew no one. During the first morning rehearsal I was introduced to the mellophone section of the Lumberjack Marching Band. It was there that I met someone who would eventually become my Big in Kappa Kappa Psi. For me, that was where it all began.

After becoming acquainted with my Big at summer band camp we would spend the next couple of weeks becoming good friends. As I got comfortable around my section, I began to act more like my goofy self. At the beginning of marching rehearsal one day I was dancing, if you could even call it that, and making fun conversation with my section. As this was happening my Big walked up and said, “Wow...Cody is really weird”. I knew at that moment we would get along just fine because she is just as weird and funny as I am.

Later that semester my Big and I decided to go walk the arboretum here at SFA. The arboretum is basically a huge garden with various walking trails that spread throughout the pine woods. It is full of different types of plants and flowers that are a sight to behold. One afternoon we headed there to walk the trails and talk about ourselves. We discussed about life and what we wanted for our futures as well as how much KKPsi had influenced her life here at SFA. After about an hour or two of walking we found a bench and continued to talk for quite some time well after sunset. The conversations we had will always hold a special place in my heart. It was there that we formed a bond that would continue to grow for years to come.



Fast-forward ahead to the next spring semester where I had become a candidate for the Gamma Phi chapter. I had finally been officially appointed as her Little, and her my Big – even though everyone always knew we were made for each other. It was during this crucial time that I learned from my Big the importance and meaning of being in Kappa Kappa Psi. The list of what she taught me could go on forever. She taught me how to be a better musician, friend, teacher, and overall human being. I was already a hard worker but she made me work even harder to set myself apart from others while also lifting them up. We talked about the Road to Wisdom and how it would guide me not just through candidacy but as an active as well. It was during this time that I learned that music is truly the greatest of all the arts and its impact on people could change the world.

My favorite memory of candidacy with my Big was at our reflection bonfire. The purpose of the bonfire was to look back on how we were doing as candidates and as a class. We discussed what it means to be a brother of Kappa Kappa Psi and the bonds that we create in our chapter can last a lifetime. After the reflection the Bigs and their Littles would go off and talk more in depth about the reflection. My Big and I went to the spot where her Big took her when she was a candidate. She asked me questions about Kappa Kappa Psi and what I sought from being a brother. It was here that she would give me the greatest advice. I have always put others before myself because I believe that other people are more important than myself. I would rather help them achieve their goals than my own. She responded by telling me that I have more worth than I know and I can make a difference that no one else can. No one had ever said those words to me and I will always cherish how much they have made a difference in my life.

Even after these two and a half years together my Big and I are still as close as ever. I am truly grateful for all she has sacrificed for me. These past few years have been life-changing and I owe it all to her and Kappa Kappa Psi. She has watched me grow and mature as a person but I have also been blessed to witness all the great achievements she has made with her hard work at SFA. If there is anyone on this planet who will continue to create an everlasting love and appreciation of music it is her. So I conclude with a huge thank you to the greatest Big in the universe. Thank you for your guidance and continuous love. I would not be where I am today without you, and it all began with summer band.

Cody Wyatt - K K Ψ



## Uniform Management

Fitting a 200 member marching band is no joke, but it is possible if you have the right people to do it. Here at Texas A&M University-Commerce, the Epsilon Beta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma is tasked every year with the organization of uniforms. This includes tasks like issuing, inventorying and dry cleaning them. We have a specific crew who takes over this, and I have had the privilege to be Uniform Committee head for the fourth year in a row. I have taken a sense of pride over the past four years when it comes to this position. From early mornings to late nights with our chapter, we have been able to provide the assistance needed to keep uniform management at a high. The past four and a half years half taught me many organizational and communicative skills that will be needed with any job or task placed in front of me. Every year I learn new ways to help the upcoming seasons be more productive, as well as find ways of how not to do things. Uniform management is such an important part of making a band program successful and I am so happy to be a part of it.

MLITB

## Melissa Rodriguez - TBS



I love my new home with the Alpha Tau Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at the University of Texas at Austin. The longhorns let me join them at their football game and I had an amazing time! The Alpha Tau chapter has been serving the Longhorn Band since 1940. You can learn more about Alpha Tau at [texaskky.org](http://texaskky.org) and you can follow along with my adventures on my facebook page, @SWDAndytheArmadillo! Here's a picture of me with Big Bertha the drum and some of the brothers of Alpha Tau.

AEA,

Andy the Armadillo - K K Ψ



Last fall before I started college, I always told myself that I would never join any Greek organization on campus. When I arrived at UCA, one of the first campus events I witnessed was bid day for the campus sororities on my way to the library during my first weekend on campus. I was so grateful that I would not be associated with any of those girls that I saw screaming and running to tackle someone before they pledged to their new organization. What I didn't realize was the enormous amount of other Greek organizations that were nothing at all like the stereotypical ones I had seen outside the library. And the more important thing I would later realize is that there is an organization that suits almost everyone's ideals and desires.

When I got to band camp last fall, I had just moved from Kansas, and the only other person here from my hometown was a baseball player. I was so intimidated by the thought of having to make new friends and start from scratch. Thankfully, our band program does a band buddy system. You get paired with an upperclassman from your section, and they are there to answer any questions, show you around, and help with anything you may need. We were only given their name and a picture of them before the rehearsal. I am not good at introducing myself or talking to new people, so I was horrified to go up and introduce myself to an upperclassman. Once I finally found my band buddy and went up to her, she grabbed me and said, "Oh my gosh! You're my band buddy! I'm Payton Turner." She gave me a hug and invited me out to lunch with one of her friends that day after rehearsal.

During that lunch, I heard Payton say that she was in a fraternity, and I gave her a very confused look. She explained to me that she was in Kappa Kappa Psi and what it was. I was so baffled because I had no idea that there were Greek organizations that were founded on service and volunteer work, and that girls could be part of them as well. Her friend that was at lunch with us, Hannah Wilson, explained to me about Tau Beta Sigma and how it was essentially the same thing, just with a different name. I was so excited about this because all through high school I did as much as I could to help my band program, and I was so excited that I may have found a way to continue that in college.

Through the course of the semester, I went to as many recruitment events as I could and ended up receiving bids from both organizations – I choose Kappa Kappa Psi. Just before winter break, we got to do our big little reveals. My big brother ended up being Payton Turner, and my big sister is Hannah Wilson – the two that took me to lunch after my very first rehearsal.

The entire time I've been in college, Payton and Hannah have always been there for me in anything I need help with – whether it be school, music, KKPsi, or life. Along with them, I now have a whole chapter of brothers willing to support me and help me through whatever I'm going through. I started last fall as the new girl from Kansas who swore off all Greek organizations, and now I'm Vice President of Projects in my KKPsi chapter, and I'm so grateful for the decisions I've made and the amazing people I've met along the way.

Emily Copeland - K K Ψ





# SWD Word Search

E B S G M O O N Q O A J U L B U J V U G K O H Y G  
 R G Z T X L C W D J N R J O G O T E Q C K E H L N  
 N Q D G E Y C Y P Q D B H U H L C R Q L A H G Q W  
 G O P E Y V Z F F Z Y T O I L T E E A D D C Y U V  
 X E T I P K E Y X G T B W S N O A H Q Q X S S E N  
 N Q U S V P M N Q F H U A I G V O U W H G T M H U  
 Q S M Q A A O N S Y E G T A T M A S A S N A K R A  
 R P C D R H Z C E N A S U N A R N O S L E N T E N  
 S X Z T P E Z W H W R I V A T J X M W K W N Z J O  
 H D I P O R U M B U M W R E X S F T G Y D W Z D S  
 A N Q X E T H Q H V A E R K C I T S T I R I P S K  
 N C B T U L L G U M D S X J N B B I B N X M Q V C  
 N G B X G T J D U B I E I I S A A P M A Q W T Q I  
 O U O O Q M E R F W L G E Q C D X Y K Y Y F X T R  
 N H O G H S D E A N L A Y K Q O C I G D K N P B D  
 G X P Z O T Y R Z Y O A Q L O G A L L I S W V R N  
 O S D O I Q J K S Y L K M V T Y O M D X V P A Z E  
 N W B R I B O Z K X W Q X E V T X J G V O T S R H  
 L A I P M P B S K F G I J G V R G D Q D K K J F X  
 C P S O U L E V E Y R S O U T H W E S T A Z K I R  
 S C R U G G S V Q Q X W Q S S Q X A M P M S Z R S  
 U A Q E G C I R J A W N S P V T S N F H G U E M A  
 T G C X C Q A I N N D V W O F T R Q Z W Q A A H X  
 Q J H C W C C Q N Q F G U O S K W F G N M Q Q W E  
 J M N X J O N L H F K U R E O E Z V Y N Y G W H T

Andres Cifuentes -  
 K K Ψ , SWD  
 Member-At-Large



ALBUQUERQUE  
 BOH  
 HASTON  
 HURST  
 MARTIN  
 OKLAHOMA  
 SOULE  
 SPIRITSTICK

ANDYTHEARMADILLO  
 CABOOSE  
 HEADQUARTERS  
 LOUISIANA  
 NELSON  
 SCRUGGS  
 SOUTHWEST  
 STEVENS

ARKANSAS  
 COPPEDGE  
 HENDRICKSON  
 MAKOVSKY  
 NEWMEXICO  
 SHANNON  
 SPIRITDRUM  
 TEXAS



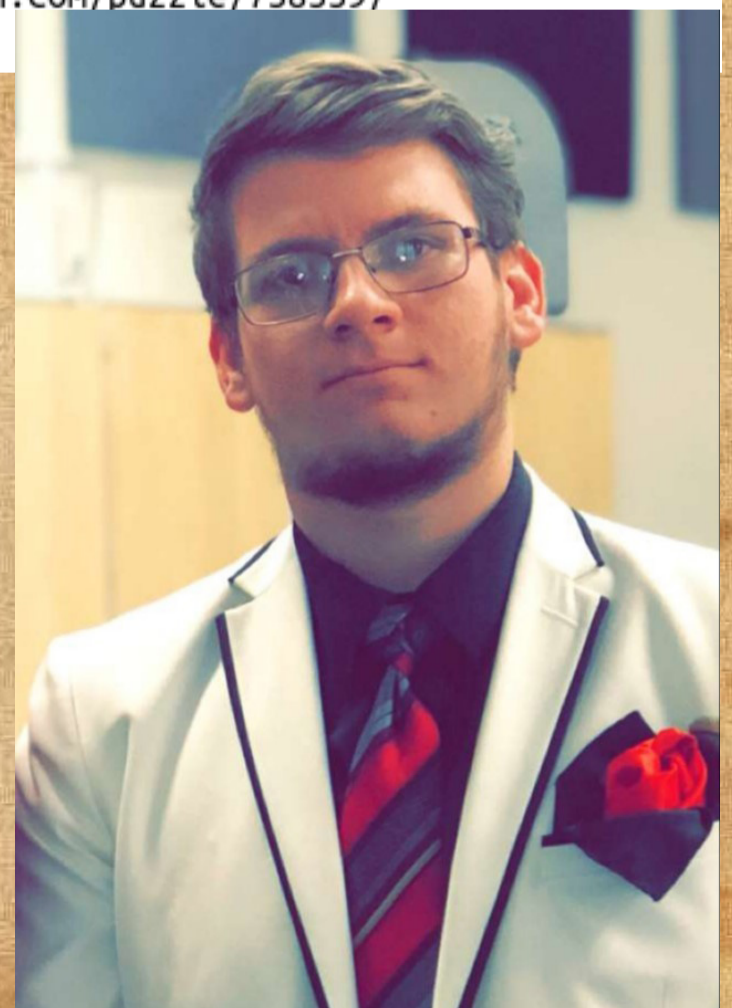
# Kappa Kappa Psi

A	E	N	L	R	E	T	A	W	L	L	I	T	S
E	A	A	I	O	P	A	O	S	A	T	H	A	P
H	P	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	H	O	O	D	U
B	R	A	I	T	R	L	L	A	U	O	E	S	L
A	O	O	H	P	E	L	O	O	V	B	O	Y	E
N	M	U	T	L	O	A	U	A	Y	O	O	M	V
D	U	E	G	L	A	A	H	P	L	A	O	H	O
U	L	A	T	O	M	R	P	A	E	O	L	T	L
E	G	B	C	D	T	O	T	T	B	L	A	T	E
G	A	V	T	A	R	T	T	S	A	T	R	T	Y
L	T	P	I	H	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	E	A
A	E	M	U	S	I	C	B	O	H	Y	M	N	R
Y	T	D	P	M	R	N	E	W	A	L	T	O	Y
O	T	T	M	G	A	M	M	A	T	H	E	T	A

BROTHERHOOD  
 GAMMA THETA  
 MUSIC  
 OSU  
 NEW ALTO  
 BAND  
 LOVE  
 BOH  
 AEA  
 STILLWATER  
 HYMN  
 ARTS  
 PROMULGATE  
 LEADERSHIP  
 LOYALTY  
 ALPHA

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/738559/>

Tyler Macon - K K Ψ





I.  
Kappa Kappa Psi  
Brotherhood of band members  
Here to serve others

VII.  
Even with success  
We still strive to be better  
Help one another

Tara Lopez - K K Ψ

II.  
Invididuals  
All united by music  
Alike yet diverse



VI.  
Lovely brotherhood  
The backbone of everything  
Support for us all

III.  
Together we strive  
For the growth and better-  
ment  
Of our bands and chapter

V.  
Driven leadership  
Loyalty, respect, honor  
And integrity

IV.  
Gamma Iota  
Setting an example for  
leadership values



## Where I Began

Growing up, I didn't have a clear idea of who I was, but who did? I kind of just went through the motions of things: go to school, go to band, go home, repeat. I applied for college as a biology pre-med major. In February of my senior year, I auditioned to be a music education major at UCA. I knew that music was the one thing that I could be myself with, something that I could use to communicate my feelings.

When I got to UCA, things weren't great, but my section leader, Brittany, helped me adjust, along with my band buddy, Mackenzie. I got introduced to Kappa Kappa Psi through them since they were both Brothers. I started meeting the rest of the Brothers (our chapter wasn't very big at the time, maybe around twelve people). They started becoming my closest friends. I eventually got a bid and, thankfully, fortune favored and I became a Brother, with Mackenzie and Keegan as my big brothers. This is where I think that the best chapter of my life so far began.

My Brothers were my stronghold. They were what got me through some of the hardest things I've gotten through. Then, in the Fall of 2018, I became section leader and I met two of my favorite people, Emma and Matt. Emma was actually in my section and Matt was in the clarinet section. These two eventually became my two little Brothers, and our chapter grew to a strong 17 members. My two sweet littles have been there for me through thick and thin, and sometimes I feel like I'm not good enough for them, but I think that that's the beauty of our chapter. No matter what happens, we're always there for each other. We grow through our pain to strive for the highest and be the best we can be. We fight through our growing pains to be the best chapter and serve our band the best we can. The Epsilon Beta chapter has been everything I've wanted when it comes to friends - they're family. This year has been hard, but we have had the ability to overcome, every single one of us. That's what it means to strive, and that's where I began.

### McKenzie Kelley - K K Ψ

My little's initiation -  
Spring '19:  
Matt (left),  
me (middle),  
Emma (right)





## Where It All Began For Me

My journey in Tau Beta Sigma was something I never expected. When I came to the University of Central Arkansas, I did not know anyone in band with me. I was completely starting over as far as friendships and a social life goes. Half the semester went by and I still didn't have any friends. I began struggling with depression and anxiety as I battled starting college and a few personal circumstances. This was the hardest semester of my college career.

My section leader, Nicole Grover, began reaching out to me. She would casually talk to me during rehearsal because our drill sets were next to each other. One small thing I remember noticing were her chips she used to mark her spots. On one of the sides she had written "Rush TBS." She began talking to me about the upcoming events and what TBS was. It felt really nice to have someone actually interested in me and inviting me to events. Somehow I ended up going to one of the events halfway through the semester. I continued to attend the rush events and eventually ended up at Formal Rush. I remember being so nervous about my interview and the bid process. I kept thinking about not getting a bid or no one wanting to be my big sis. Roughly a week later I received a bid from Gamma Tau, and I immediately accepted. I knew this was something I wanted to do, and it only took someone taking genuine interest in me.

I have had so many wonderful experiences and opportunities throughout my time in Tau Beta Sigma. I have gained so many life-long friends, grown as a leader, and made countless memories. Tau Beta Sigma has been the best part of my college experience, and I know it will always be there.

Please know that what we are doing matters. Our service matters. Our friendships matter. Taking genuine interest and encouraging others matters. Extending a bid to someone can be life changing, and I hope my journey shows you just important it truly is.

Hannah Wilson - TBS, SWD VPM





## An Open Letter to the Brothers of Theta Nu and the Sisters of Eta Pi

A forever family. It is a typical phrase that tends to be over-used. In every sense of the word, the phrase can be categorized as 'cliche.' However, in my rummaging through my mind, it's really the only thing that can be dug up. It's all I can use to describe the family I have found in the Kappa Kappa Psi chapter of Theta Nu and the Tau Beta Sigma chapter of Eta Pi at Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

Every time I think of the family that I have acquired at this university, I can't help but gush over the beautiful community, the amazing love for one another, and the caring nature of each of my brothers and sisters. The love in the halls of the Creative and Performing Arts Center (CAPA) flows over. When petty squabbles come, they're immediately drowned by the sounds of forgiveness. I have a family in everyone and while it may not always be easy, it's always in love. I must address a few individuals in hopes they will read and feel joy.

To my amazing dad, Zach Hevron, I appreciate every moment of your guidance. From tears to laughter and everything in between, I couldn't have asked for a better mentor. I wouldn't be the brother or secretary that I am today if it wasn't for your advice. Thank you.

To my awesome mom, Kylie Spivey, thank you for oozing MLITB with the treatment of each of your kids, Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi alike. You opened my heart and relations to the sisters of Eta Pi and I'm so appreciative of all of my sisters.

Richard Brumbelow - K K Ψ

To my big brother, Cody James, thank you for being an amazing friend and roommate. While you may not feel as though you've done enough for me, I'm forever grateful for all the advice you've given me and especially the losses you've taken in Madden. You are going to be a great Vice President of Membership and dad.

To my big sister, Kelsy Baker, thank you for all the time you've spent with me. Thank you for entrusting my goofy personality to be your first little. I am honored to be chosen by you and I look forward to more memories.

To my little sister, Holly Crosby, I couldn't have chosen a better first little. You are incredible in every way and you are going to do amazing things in your chapter. Your love for service and Tau Beta Sigma tells me all I need to know about the future of Eta Pi.

Finally, to my chapter of Theta Nu, let's keep striving! 100 years strong and there's no stopping us now. Here's to another 100 years of service to the Spirit of Northwestern marching band. Each one of you is important to me in many ways. All of you have impacted my life in such a way that I will never be the same.





## As We Go

It began with me as it did with many of you; with music. There's something about music that touches and changes people in an indescribable way. Music, though not my career, is my passion. Singing and playing trumpet have been my outlets since middle school. When I came to college, it was unquestionable that I would stay in musical ensembles, despite my several other time commitments. After I learned about Kappa Kappa Psi, an organization dedicated to serving the art I love, I knew I had found the place for me.

One of the most impactful parts of my membership candidacy was the first time I heard the active brothers of my chapter sing our Fraternity Hymn. It gave me chills. To witness a group of people so deeply passionate about music sing something so beautiful is one of my most treasured memories. Following my initiation, we sang the hymn for the first time with all our brothers and I'll admit I was brought to tears. The Fraternity Hymn encapsulates our love for music with our love for this organization. In my chapter this year there have been two unforgettable instances of the capabilities of our Fraternity Hymn.

This past summer I had the incredible experience of studying abroad in London alongside one of my brothers, Landan Stocker. Another of our brothers, Cate McGaughey, was on her way to study abroad in Germany and spent a few hours in London with us. We met up underneath the London Eye and sang the Fraternity Hymn there on the shore of the Thames River. Though there were only three of us, it was a very emotional experience. Our Fraternity Hymn is already an impactful piece of music and singing it over 4,000 miles from home in a country that doesn't have chapters of Kappa Kappa Psi is something I'll never forget.

While we were in London, another brother from our chapter, Catherine Logsdon, had a beautiful wedding. All the brothers that were there sang our Fraternity Hymn. I've seen the video of it, and it was a powerful moment. Both of these instances show the power of our music and our fraternity. Though we don't know what the future holds for us, wherever we go our brothers and our music will always be there.

Ever Striving,

Megan Cross - K K Ψ , New ALTO Copy Editor





Chloe Methany Morris - TBS



FALL SEMESTER 2019

# TAU BETA SIGMA ~ PSI CHAPTER

MLITB, MOTS & WOO PIG



Ame Mixon - TBS



## Sistaus

S	E	F	D	I	U	T	T	M	L	M	L	S	S
I	A	S	I	L	A	H	U	D	I	D	L	D	I
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M	F	U	N	S	E	S	O	R	H	B	U	L	S
A	I	R	I	O	D	O	A	V	A	W	B	M	I
Y	R	B	O	U	E	N	T	E	O	S	S	E	S
E	M	T	R	T	L	I	A	T	W	E	L	M	T
A	A	D	R	H	A	O	A	B	R	T	U	S	E
A	T	T	E	W	M	H	U	V	R	S	C	P	R
T	I	W	P	E	I	I	I	U	I	A	I	I	H
D	O	E	S	S	D	C	T	C	T	V	E	C	O
D	N	E	E	T	E	H	N	P	I	E	S	Y	O
T	L	E	A	D	E	R	S	H	I	P	V	S	D
S	E	U	L	B	Y	T	L	A	R	I	M	D	A

- LEADERSHIP
- ROSE
- SOUTHWEST
- ADMIRALTY BLUE
- SERVICE
- MUSIC
- AFFIRMATION
- TAU
- SPICY
- SISTERHOOD
- BAND
- BETA
- WAVA
- TURTLE
- SIGMA

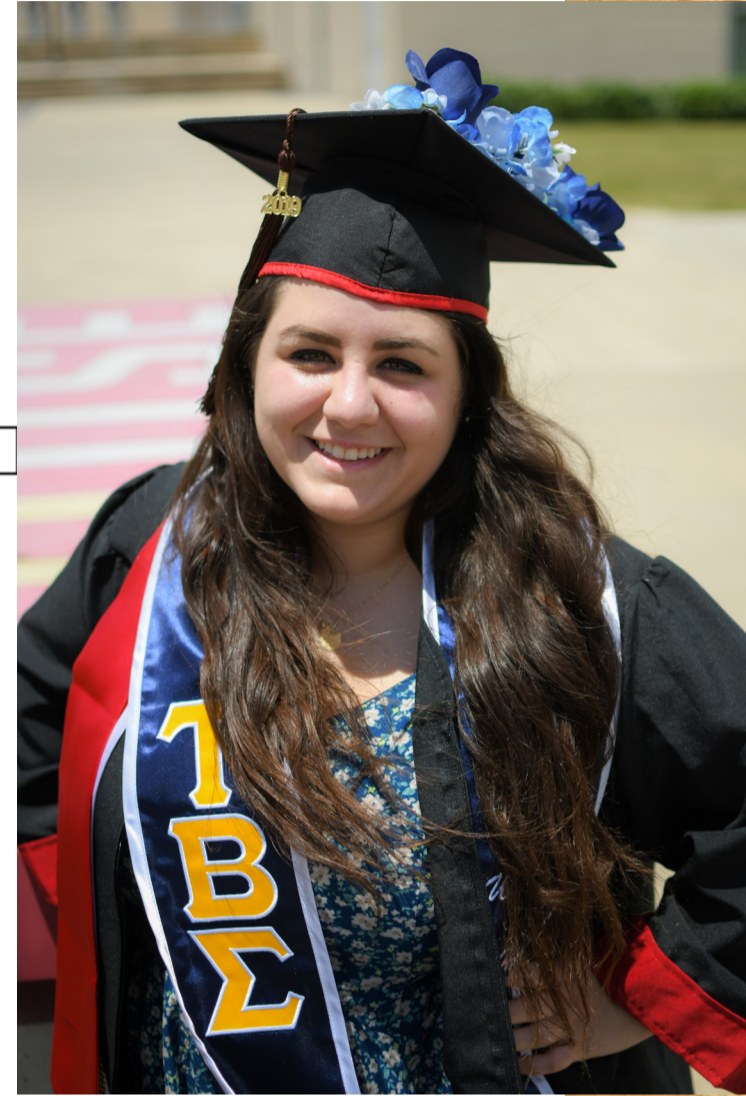
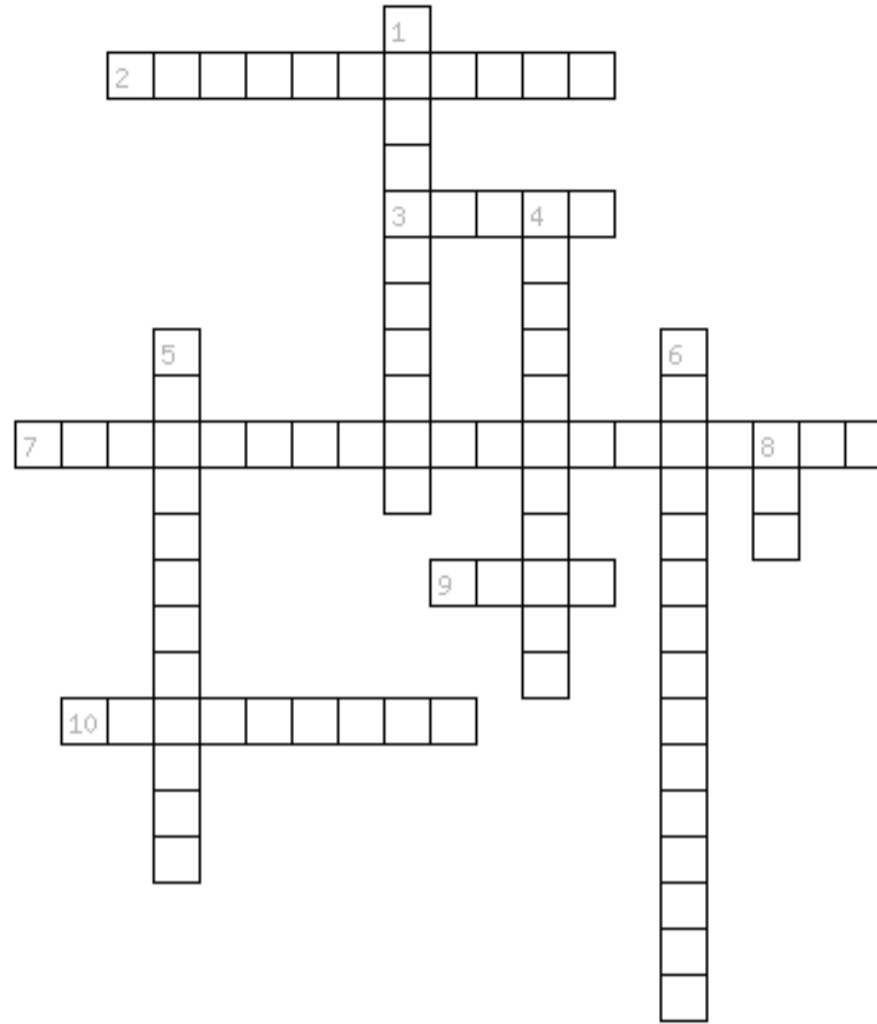
Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/743934/>



# Crossword

MES-English.com

Tools for Educators



Down

Across

- 1. "Patterns in Motion" pilot and former UH director of bands
- 4. Former SWD Secretary/Treasurer and current chairperson of the TBSAA
- 5. Current UH director of bands
- 6. Famous "sonic meditations" composer who was a founding member of Tau
- 8. This greek letter is the 19th letter of the greek alphabet

- 2. This chapter, located just down the street from UH, is Tau's Little Sister Chapter
- 3. Tau Chapter was chartered in the month of \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. The University that Tau is associated with
- 9. This chapter located in Waco, TX is Tau's Big Sister Chapter
- 10. The Kappa Kappa Psi chapter located at the University of Houston is



## How Did I Get Here?

Music has made an impression on all of us. In one way or another, our love for it has gravitated every single one of us into this fraternity. Some of us knew at a very young age that music was our passion; meanwhile, others had an appreciation of music but didn't know how to fit in their lives. I fell into the latter, but for most of my life, I had no idea just how much music really meant to me. It wasn't until I had an option to give it up forever that I realized I could not live without it in my life. This is what led me to Kappa Kappa Psi.

I have known how to play the trumpet for years, but my musical journey didn't begin until three years ago when I started college. Prior to college, I was never in a marching band. Instead, I was a football player. Football was never something I enjoyed. I was belittled by both my teammates and my coaches for simply being myself and not behaving like everyone around me. I wanted to quit, but my family and the people I wanted to impress the most at the time loved that I was on a varsity team that won championships and produced college athletes. Nobody cared about my recitals or that I even played a musical instrument, and eventually, I stopped telling people altogether that I was even in band. My desire to fit in trapped me into a corner where I hung out with people who would bully my real friends in front of me when they weren't trying to beat me up.



Jacob Chavez - K K Ψ

Worst of all, I isolated myself from the rest of the musicians at my school and I felt that I wasn't taken seriously, which made me feel like maybe I wasn't meant to be in band. I felt like I didn't belong anywhere. Once I left for college, I was prepared to leave everything behind: sports, toxic relationships, and even the trumpet. Leaving everything behind ended up being just what I needed. That summer before college, I felt liberated and finally free to be myself. My friend group of about fifty was reduced to the six people who still mean the world to me. I was finally my own person.

Nonetheless, there was still something I couldn't seem to let go. I would find myself taking out my trumpet and having mini recitals of old music I could barely remember for my dog. It occurred to me that there was nothing holding me back anymore from being in marching band. I didn't have to pretend to be someone I wasn't. I could finally be with people who shared the interests and passions as I did. It was something that I wanted and still want to be a part of for the rest of my life.

Cut to now, I'm happier than I ever could be when I'm marching. I've met people who helped me as I struggled to learn to march for the first time. Those same people encouraged me to go to their recruitment event for a service fraternity that became my second home. I finally have brothers who share the same love of music that I do and never have to feel ashamed for it. The service I do is for something I whole-heartedly believe in. I am inspired every day to continue music because of Kappa, and I couldn't be happier. I may have been a little late in my musical journey, but now I truly know what music means to me and I wouldn't give it up for the world.



Where it all began. Where it all began? Sometime in August of last year. I was fresh out of high school and terrified of the giant, drinking, partying young adults that I pictured. I was quiet and inexperienced and really didn't want to be there. So unconfident in who I was and what I was going to turn into.

I walked into the room on the first morning of pre season marching band and this very pink, very happy face smiled back at me. "You're baby Spyres, aren't you? We're so glad you're here." He handed me a health form and stared expectantly. I'm not even sure I gave a response to him before walking on to the next table. Continuing on with the introduction of what seemed like hundreds of eccentric band nerds, we ended the opening meeting. I had survived all the way to lunch.

It was a pulled pork sandwich. Nothing special about it but for one of the mellophone leadership team to lock eyes with me and say "You! We're gonna be best friends!". That set off the stranger danger alarm in my brain. "This kid is nuts," I thought. I spent the rest of pre season just trying to do everything right. I kept my legs straight and learned how to high march. I memorized so much music that month that I wondered what I had kicked out of my head to make it all fit. Calculus was the answer, by the way. All along the way I had begun to take notice of a specific group of people. Some of them were bringing out water for every marching practice, others were moving front ensemble equipment. What made them special? Turns out, quite a bit.

I never knew what the greek letters they wore stood for. I never asked. I almost didn't have to. Their motto? I didn't know it either, but as soon as I heard it, I knew that no other phrase would come close to explaining them than it did. Turns out those two whack-jobs that I had met my first day were two of the most hard-working individuals that I would meet in my time here. Kappa Kappa Psi has given me a lot over the past year and half. A family of 36 within a group of 350 friends, my best friend, the ones I complain to, cry with, and laugh at (all in good fun). It's taught me a greater sense of time management, communication, and an honorable set of standards to be upheld by a group of college band students. KKPsi defies the characterization of a fraternity, and in its place presents to the world people who care. I only hope that I can give back half of what my home chapter has given to me.

Thanks guys.

## Mikah Spyres - Κ Κ Ψ





## Where It All Began

When I began college August of 2016, I was a Music Education major and in color guard. The only way I knew any of the band kids was through my piano and theory classes. I saw how the members of KKPsi were close and seemed to be a central part of the band program. I became interested in what this organization did. Once the recruitment week posters went up I already knew that I wanted to go to a few of them. I ended up only getting to go to one of them and I didn't really have a good time. Late the next week a brother named Flora Knight approached me asking how interested I was in KKPsi, and I told her that I was interested but I was confused as to what exactly Kappa Kappa Psi is. She explained to me how they serve the band and grow closer together through the brotherhood. Being in KKPsi helped her not only grow her sense of self but her sense of musicianship. I went from not being interested due to not enjoying the recruitment week to being very interested because I wanted to feel like I was a part of something bigger than myself. Band banquet rolled around and I received a bid. I had to really think about if I actually wanted to accept my bid or not. I asked more from the brothers of the fraternity what Kappa Kappa Psi meant to them. As the bid acceptance day came around I thought why the heck not and accepted my bid. Through the Membership process I really grew to love it. My class worked together and became a family. I was actually elected as my Membership Class president. My big was Flora and I was really grateful for that because she is the reason why I decided to accept my bid. Ever since joining I have been a historian, a regular member, and now the alumni secretary. I am also now the Public Relations officer for The New ALTO. I have grown so much over the years being in this fraternity and I have loved every step of the way. I want to continue to grow and help my chapter and other chapters grow. I am very happy that the year I was initiated, the chapter gave a person who didn't seem the most interested a chance. Without Kappa Kappa Psi I don't think my college experience would have been as memorable or happy.

I am a brother for now and always.

Kelly Jane Gage - K K Ψ,  
New ALTO Public Relations





## Jacob Chavez - K K Ψ

Here you are witnessing a collage of Snapchat stickers of all the brothers of the Gamma Iota chapter in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I have no explanation for making this. Do I have regrets making this? Maybe. Will this image give me nightmares? It already does. Do I love all of my brothers and consider them to be some of the greatest people I've ever met? No question about it!

### The Worth

Endless studying,  
Countless hours,  
The minutes of class time ticking by,  
It seemed never ending until I heard that cry.  
Those last few words  
Of the known Affirmation Hymn,  
Sent my heart into a frenzy filled ride.

Flat notes,  
Big smiles,  
We had lost games,  
Even after going the extra mile.  
We were something new, something different.  
We became a little more legendary in an instant.

I felt fingers wrapping into mine,  
My brothers stood close as we interlocked eyes.  
No bickering,  
No confusion,  
Only a bond that kept us all tied.

Constant service,  
Socializing on the side,  
Over the semesters,  
I have learned Tau Beta Pride.

We're something more than honorary Greek letters,  
We're the backbone of a music organization,  
And that's even better.

With our passion at full throttle,  
We'll live forever in this existing band model.  
I know we will stand time's test,  
For with my sisters, I am best.

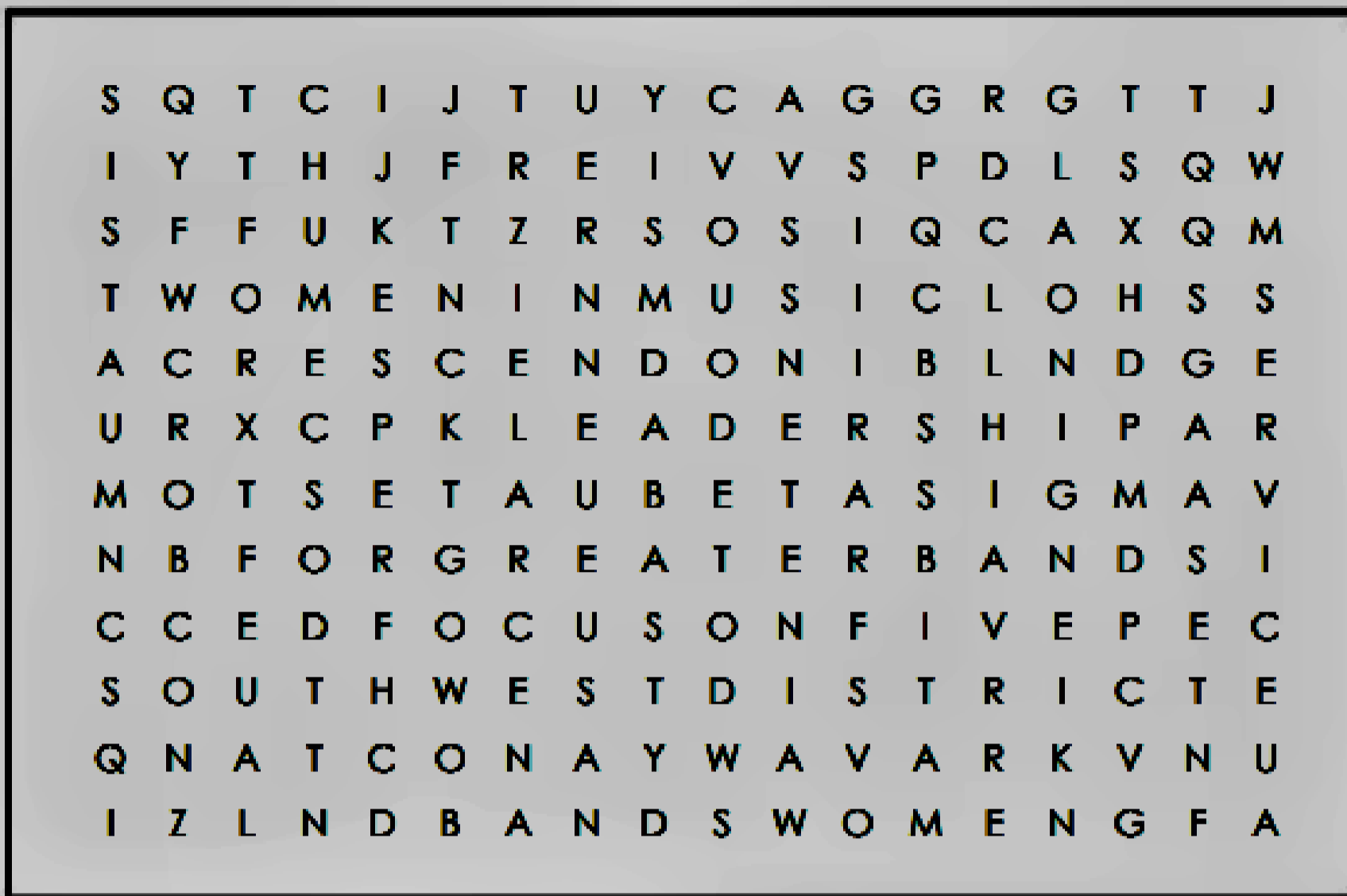


## Madelyn Arender - TBS





# #MLITB



Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

BANDSWOMEN

CODA

CRESCENDO

FOCUSONFIVE

FORGREATERBANDS

LEADERSHIP

MOTS

NATCON

NIB

SERVICE

SISTAU

SOUTHWESTDISTRICT

TAUBETASIGMA

WAVA

WOMENINMUSIC



Maddie Schram - TBS



## A Letter to Myself

I hope that you have achieved your wildest dreams of initiating critical changes to our education system. I hope that you oversee a fantastic group of musicians who share your passion for music. I hope that you have kept in touch with your peers from college. I hope that you interact with your family daily. I hope that you have not forgotten the brothers and sisters that helped you get to this point. Throughout all the highs and lows of college so far, there have always been brothers and sisters there to pick me up and help me achieve greatness. I hope that hasn't changed and that you've continued to be a mentor for the brothers and sisters that have succeeded you. I hope that you have continued to give back to Tau Beta Sigma for everything it has given you. I hope that you still cheer on the Hogs from near or far, and participate in all alumni events. I hope that you instill what it means to truly be a leader to your students. I hope that you still put your all into everything that you do. I hope you live, laugh and learn from those around you. Most importantly, I hope you never forget where it all began.

From the moment that you first played an instrument, the moment you applied to college, the moment you auditioned for band, the moment you accepted your bid, the moment you finished the journey, the moment you became a local officer, the moment you became a big, the moment you almost gave up, the moment you became a grand-big, the moment you decided to run for a district office, to the moment you are currently in. All these moments have shaped you into the sister that you are today. I hope you haven't lost yourself along the way. Throughout these past several years since graduating from college, I hope you haven't forgotten what sparked the beginning of these moments. Wendy, I hope you have continued to see ideals, seize upon them, and follow them wherever they may have led you in Tau Beta Sigma (and beyond).

## Wendy Stewart - TBS, SWD VPSP



## Scout Johnson - TBS



\*knock\* \*knock\* \*knock\*

I felt my heart beat out of my chest.

The president's voice echoed in my ears.

"I would like to open up nominations for chapter secretary."  
Memories flashed before me.

Tears streamed down my face as the last note was held in the Affirmation Hymn.

I was an active member, considered part of the best line to have ever crossed our chapter.

My best friends squeezed my hands. Our hard work had finally paid off.

My fingers ached as I finished the Symphonic Band concert. The applause rattled the mallets on my drum. My membership pin glittered in the spotlights.

My stomach growled at the sight of 50 pounds of crawfish, cooked by my favorite Kappa Kappa

Psi brother. We sat together as if it were a Thanksgiving Feast. We shouted and laughed away

our semester troubles over crawfish and moon pies.

"I nominate Scout Johnson."

I came back into focus as my name was heard.

My SisTAUs stared at me, waiting for a response. I smiled, "I accept."

Today, I sit before the chapter, fingers typing away.

As I listen to their words and see their emotions,

I realize that this was made just for me.

I found my true home in TBS and it will always be a part of me.

\*knock\* \*knock\* \*knock\*



## Where it all began: Officers and their mental health

I consider my first year in the chapter as VPM as a real beginning in many journeys for me. It was the beginning of my interest in the Southwest District and becoming a part of Kappa Kappa Psi as a national organization. However, it was also the beginning of a time when I needed to seek help because of the strain I was put through. I currently love being SWD VPM and part of the curriculum committee, but my chapter positions tend to take a real toll on my mental health. Over the past few years I've been VPM, Historian/Ritual Chair, and Alumni Relations Officer for my chapter. So far, the least draining has been my current chapter position as ARO, but other positions where I directly interact and serve the chapter have made me seek help and counseling through my university. I write about this not to complain and vent, but to encourage other chapter officers to seek help when needed and for chapters to be grateful for all the work their officers do. It's hard for chapter officers to feel appreciated when they have people upset at them for whatever reason every week when they're the ones putting in extra hours each week on top of ensembles, academics, and just trying to take care of themselves. It's even harder when those are the same people not showing up to chapter and complaining that meetings are too long.

A common saying is "You're not here to major in Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma" but I notice that very few people hold their chapter officers to this standard. While you should hold your officer accountable to do at least their bare minimum duties, expecting too much from officers can really take a toll on them when there may be so much else happening in their life. If you notice an officer struggling to fulfill their role, ask them if they need help. Maybe even getting them a cup of coffee and listening to them vent can help them be motivated and feel less alone in the chapter. I had a whole army of amazing people on my committee when I was chapter VPM, but I definitely still felt alone when I had to tell people things like they didn't get the little they wanted or that I can't change the constitution to give their friend another chance at a bid this semester. If you are considering running for an office, definitely pursue it. However, I suggest talking to the previous officer about the issues they've run into and assessing what support you may need when/if you take on this position. Having the support you need readily available throughout your term is something that you can prepare beforehand and may prevent a decline in mental health!

If you do become a chapter officer, especially one with a lot of responsibility, I suggest having a counseling appointment (or other mental health service that's appropriate for you) once a week or once every other week to ensure that you have the validation you need, healthy coping techniques and someone to help you process feedback. A counseling session may even be worth it to those who don't yet have mental health concerns because of the support and benefits it can provide to people. Also, it can be beneficial to have a counselor that you already know and like if you do need to reach out for support. Every person is different and this is not a one size fits all solution by any means, but I strongly believe that if we all encouraged our officers to take care of their mental health and went out of our way to help and support them, our fraternity and sorority would all have stronger chapters as a result. It's important that we don't make anyone feel lesser than others because of anxiety, bipolar disorder, depression, or any other mental health condition. We need to ensure that these people feel supported enough to hold an office because we as brothers and sisters need to practice what we preach about love, inclusion, and leadership.





## Where it all began...

...in Fall 2016, I was initiated into Kappa Kappa Psi. It was during a semester that I was uncertain on where I belonged in a college setting but let me backtrack some.

I was a freshman at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in the Fall of 2015. I joined a social sorority, managed a brand-new student organization, working full time as a barista, and balanced 18 credit hours. I didn't dip my toe into college, I fell in. I don't regret a single part of my journey freshman year, but with everything I endured, I transferred into Arizona State University online and took a semester away.

Although I was online and working full time, I was a part of UNM's marching band, symphonic band, and basketball pep band. This led me to the Gamma Iota chapter. I participated in the recruitment week as much as my schedule could allow and was initiated in November of 2016. My membership program was pre-Road to Wisdom, but to this day, I am still so grateful for my Educator. They inspired me to be passionate and be curious about this fraternity.

My class, Alpha Beta, has a very special place in my heart. We were a group of eight when we were initiated. Currently, three of us remain. I could not be prouder of my class. While five of us have moved towards big life events such as military or college changes, we've all done some incredible things. For the three of us who are active, one of us is president for the second year in a row, one of us is a district officer, and the other has designed our convention site images. These are big roles to varying degrees, but when I first started, I never saw myself being here today.

When I joined Kappa Kappa Psi, I was looking for a group who shared a passion for music, a group who wanted to give back to an art that meant the world to them, and a group who genuinely cared for one another. Overall, I was looking to just belong and be a part of something greater than myself. I joined and I thought I was going to work really hard on being an exceptional active member.

But, I was inspired.

I was inspired to do more. I quickly ran for treasurer. I offered new fundraisers. I went to my first and second convention. I was inspired again. I ran for Vice President for Membership. I fell in love with this fraternity more than I thought possible. I went to three workshops last year and my third convention. At this convention, I ran to be a district officer and my amazing chapter submitted a convention bid.

I never imagined being here, but I was inspired constantly by my brothers at the local, district and national level. We are a force to be reckoned with as a group. I am beyond grateful to be a part of an organization that is constantly growing and inspiring those in it.

To those who just joined us this centennial:

Prepare to be inspired, Brothers.

Ashley Nowikowski - K K Ψ,  
SWD Secretary/Treasurer





## Looking Back

Usually when I think about what to write for a themed prompt like “where it all began,” I try to think of an interesting take I could bring to the table. Unfortunately, I’m no creative writing major, so after some thought I decided that the best contribution I could make is to stick to the prompt and write an article that hopefully any brother or sister could read and smile to themselves as they remember their history with band and the fraternity.

For me, my band experience started in 6 th grade. I always loved music and thought that being in band would be fun. Not to mention that a third of the people in the school joined band in that first year (hence the 14 new French horn players we had that year). Throughout my time in middle school, I slowly started to appreciate more and more what band could be for me.

In 7 th grade, I would get a sense of self-esteem and confidence from scales test and chair tests. The feeling that I could succeed when I put my mind to something was awesome. In 8 th grade, the band started going to junior high football games, and even though all we played was “The Hey Song,” “Land of 1000 dances,” and our fight song (aka “On Wisconsin”), it was a blast.

Going into high school, I started marching band, and I was absolutely in love with it. The summer band, the ridiculous humor, and insane band kids were all so awesome to my 9 th grade self. Over the next 4 years, I made some great friends, had a lot of long rehearsals, and played some truly fantastic music. By the time my senior year came I knew that I would continue band into my college career.

Throughout high school I had helped out a lot, be it with lining the field, unloading and loading uniforms, loading the truck, setting up water for practice, or anything else that the director needed. I made most of my friends in this group of people who helped out and had a lot of good times joking around while serving.

When I got to college, I saw that same spirit of enthusiasm and service in KKPsi and TBS. And although I was hesitant to join a fraternity, I eventually went with KKPsi. My experience in the Education Process was a great time, and ever since I have gotten in, I’ve made lifelong friends and memories.

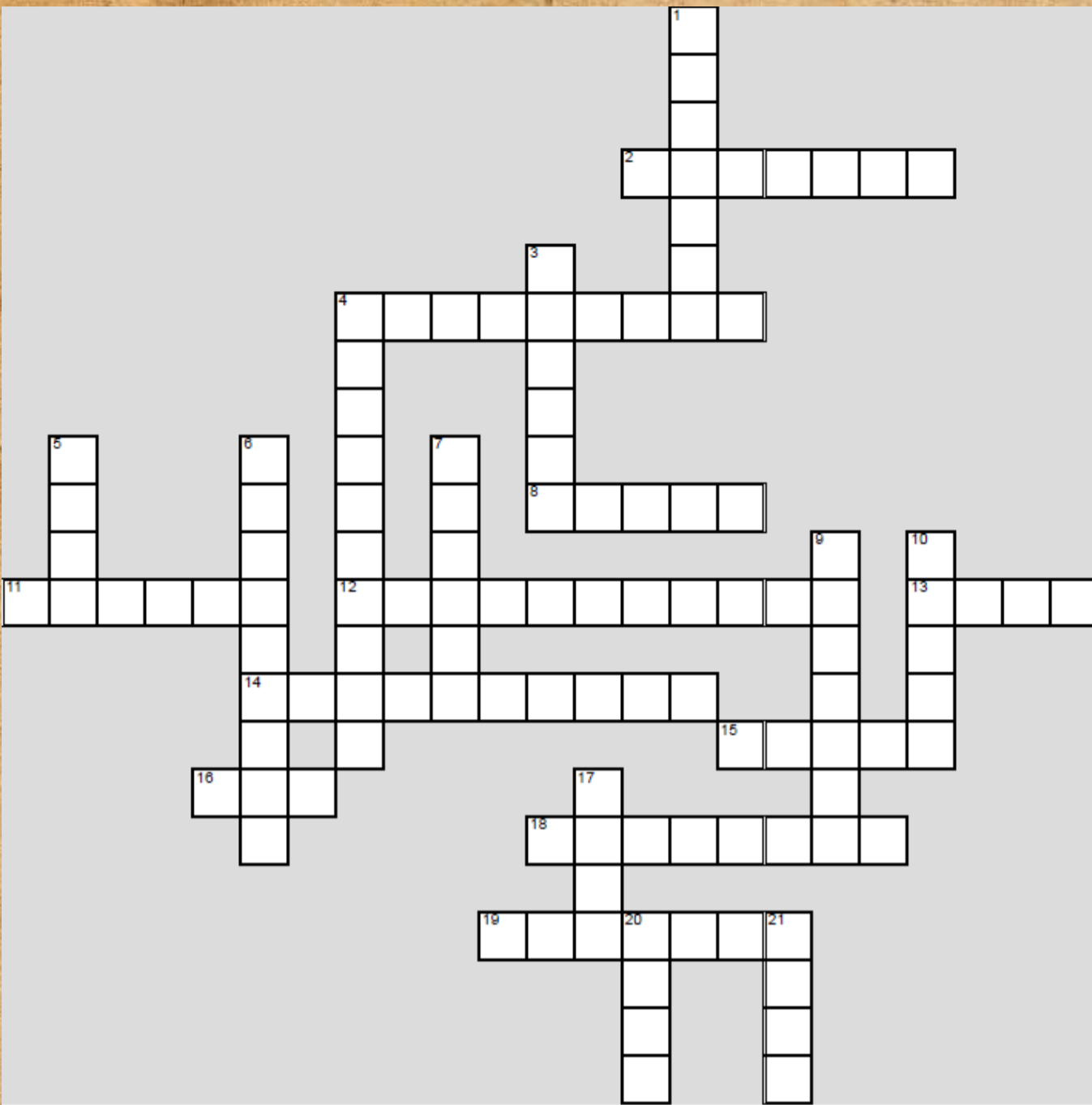
As I said at the beginning, I hope that any brother or sister who reads this thinks back to their experiences with band and their organization. I hope it brings a smile to your face as you think about all the good times you’ve had, and I hope it inspires you to keep your enthusiasm for band and service alive and well.

AEA,

Trace Rhode - K K Ψ







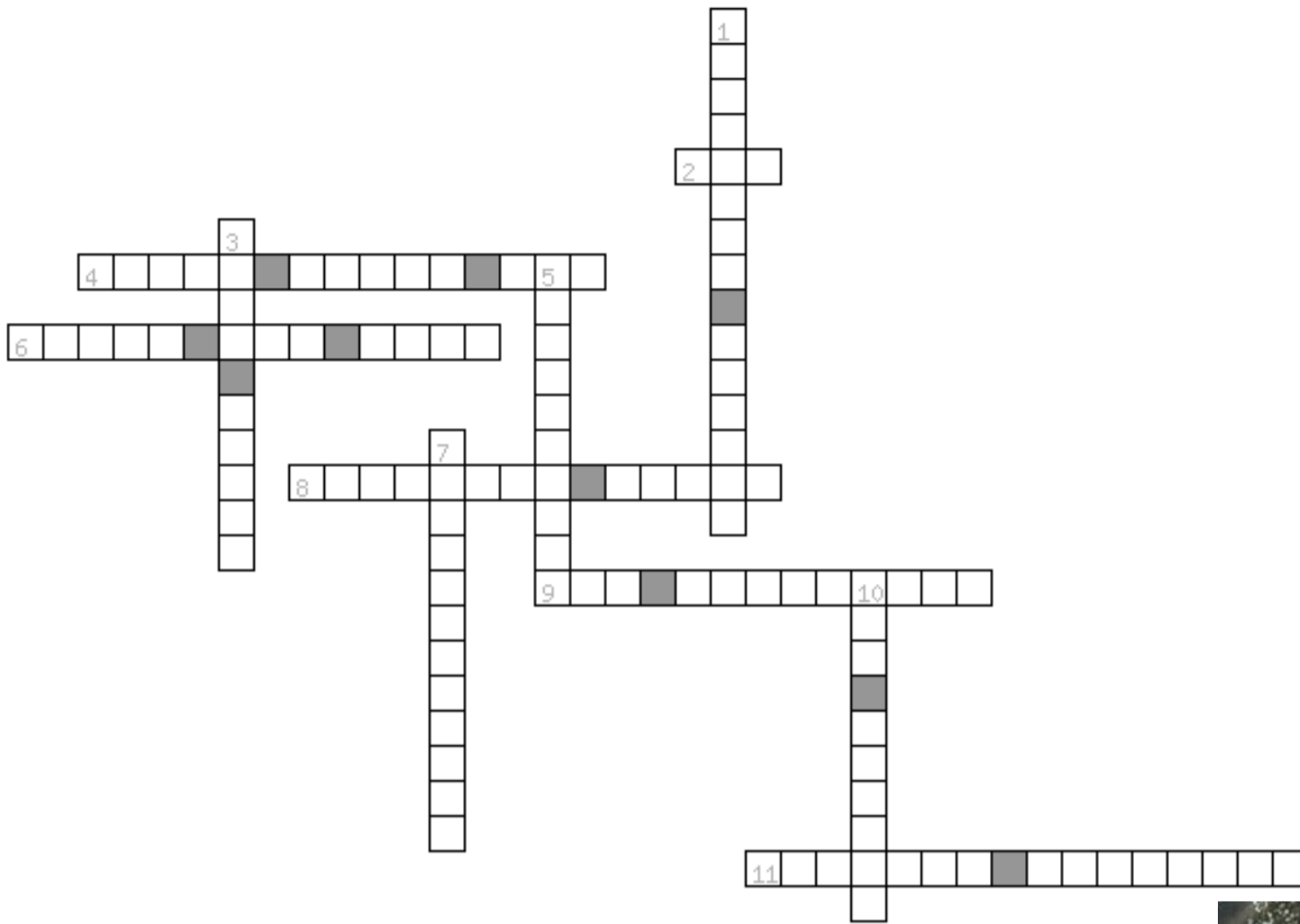
**Across**

- 2 Wava's Band Director who helped Tau Beta Sigma become a National Organization
- 4 Largest Joint District, founded in 1987
- 8 Chapter of our current Tau Beta Sigma SWD President
- 11 Wrote Both Rituals
- 12 Site of 2020 District Convention
- 14 Finish this line: "We will always remember that our \_\_\_\_\_ will never die"
- 15 Chapter of Origin of our newest Tau Beta Sigma District Counselor
- 16 Chapter of Origin of our newest Kappa Kappa Psi District Governor
- 18 Guiding Spirit of Kappa Kappa Psi State-wide pre-convention meetup
- 19 Original Name for The New ALTO

**Down**

- 1 Founded Kappa Kappa Psi
- 3 What if we kissed at the National Headquarters
- 4 National Headquarters Location
- 5 Founder of Tau Beta Sigma
- 6 Kappa Kappa Psi Official Flower
- 7 Chapter of our current Kappa Kappa Psi SWD President
- 9 Official District Publication
- 10 Oklahoma State University
- 17 Tau Beta Sigma Official Flower
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ the Armadillo
- 21 National Form Submission Website





### Down

- 1. Official Flower of Tau Beta Sigma
- 3. Founding Mother of Tau Beta Sigma
- 5. where national headquarters is located
- 7. Holiday on which KKPsi was founded
- 10. National Publication

### Across

- 2. Number of Districts
- 4. What TBS is patterned from
- 6. Official Colors
- 8. Alpha Chapter of KKPsi and TBS
- 9. Official Flower of KKPsi
- 11. Guiding spirit of KKPsi



Lainé N Rogers - TBS



# An Article of a Delta Chapter Dude

Good mornin' boys and girls, my name is Mike and I'm a junior here at OU who plays clarinet in the marching band and baritone in the basketball band. I'm majoring in aviation because I really like planes (duh) and today I'm going to be asking questions about myself and answering said questions about myself.

Q: So how do you feel about the final call of the Kansas State game?

A: It wouldn't be Oklahoma football without our yearly upset. I'd imagine it's like getting stood up at prom every year of your life.

Q: HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE YOUR CAPS LOCK KEY BREAK WHILE WRITING THIS ARTICLE?

A: IT'S NOT THE WORST THING THAT HAPPENED THIS WEEKEND.

Q: SO HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT DELTA CHAPTER OVERALL?

A: DELTA'S A PRETTY GOOD PLACE TO BE. I GOT BIGS WHO WILL BUY ME OREOS AND PRE-WORK-OUT, RETIREMENT HOME PEP GIGS THAT SLAP, A PLETHORA OF SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES, BUDDIES THAT WILL SNEAK OREOS INTO THE STADIUM, CHEESE FRIES, AND BUS MICROPHON PRIVILEGES.

Q: HOW HARD WAS IT TO SNEAK OREOS INTO THE ORANGE BOWL GAME LAST YEAR WHEN YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO BRING BAGS INTO THE STADIUM?

A: WELL SOMETIMES SECURITY DOESN'T LIKE SNACKS, SO YOU GOTTA IMPROVISE AND PUT SMALL PACKAGES OF OREOS IN YOUR SHAKO AND MARCH ALL OF PREGAME WITH IT.

Q: WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OF RUSHING TAU BETA SIGMA?

A: WE HAD A LOCK-IN WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE DELTA ZETAS (MY RUSH CLASS) SPENT THE NIGHT INSIDE THE MUSIC BUILDING HERE AT OU. A LOT OF SHENANIGANS HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.

Q: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF COLLEGE?

A: MAKING -\$11.67 AN HOUR.

Q: WHY THE SWITCH TO BARITONE?

A: I'D LIKE TO MARCH DRUM CORPS SINCE THIS IS MY AGE-OUT YEAR.

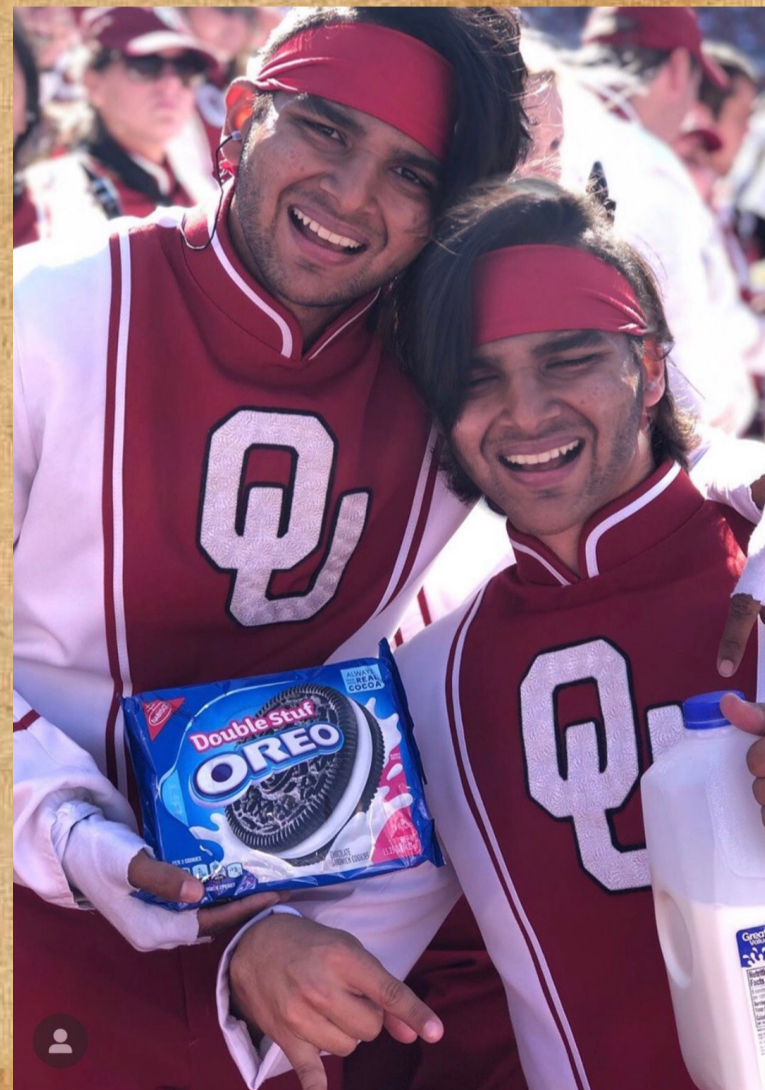
Q: MONSTER ZERO OR BANG?

A: BANG TASTES BETTER.

Q: FINAL QUESTION. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO SISTERS IN THE SPICY SOUTHWEST?

A: TBS IS WITHOUT A DOUBT ONE OF MY FAVORITE ORGANIZATIONS ON CAMPUS. SINCE I'VE BEEN SWAMPED WITH CLASSES AND MILDLY BRUISED MY BRAIN IN A CAR ACCIDENT THIS SCHOOL YEAR, I'VE BEEN SLEEP DEPRIVED TRYING TO MAINTAIN MY GPA. YOU WOULD THINK THAT CHAPTER AND REHEARSAL WOULD BE A HINDRANCE, BUT IN REALITY, IT'S REALLY THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY DAY.

Michael Ramdeo - TBS





## The Bond of Tau Beta Sigma

This marching season has been rough, to say the least. A new Athletic Bands Director means growing pains in rehearsals. Record high heats for record lengths of time leads to short tempers on the field. A record size of incoming freshmen means even more people to work with than ever.

My name is Matt Harris, and I'm a Junior Music Education Major at Southern Arkansas University. I rushed TBS in Fall of 2017, my first semester at the university. While this may seem quick, it didn't take long for me to figure out exactly why I wanted to be a part of the organization.

When I first arrived in Mulerider Nation, I was immediately enraptured with the organizations. They both had their own roles and filled the jobs that needed to be filled. Then, after attending a few informals, I could immediately feel the acceptance of myself from Tau Beta Sigma. So, I made the decision to try and join.

Looking at it now, I would LIKE to say that I'm in the sorority for the work we do, like taping the field every day, setting up inside rehearsals, and other stuff that needs to get done. The service that we do is what keeps the bands running. As much as I love helping be a part of making the Marching Mulerider Band function, that's not the reason.

I'm in Tau Beta Sigma for the Bond. I love singing the Hymn after a successful halftime performance. I love the sisterhood events that let us just be the college kids we are. I love the inside jokes with each other. While I love service events, it's not because of what we're doing. I love service events because I'm doing them WITH my sisters.

Like I said, this season has been tough. But even through all the stress, sweat and heat, it's with my Sisters that I am best.

MLITB, (and go Riders!)

Matthew Harris - TBS





## Krysalis

When I was in high school, I discovered my capabilities as a leader. There was something about guiding others and instilling a sense of pride and dependability into the members of the marching band's clarinet section that made me feel like I was doing something significant with my time. Coming into college, it felt like I had forgotten what any of that felt like. Going to school twelve hours away from home almost made me forget who I was as a person. People talk about using college as an opportunity to reinvent themselves, but I had completely lost myself to homesickness. I cried. A LOT. I'm the oldest in my family with a lot of younger sisters and I had a million and one fears about missing milestones or being too far from home if something horrible happened to them. I was terrified and spent a lot of time by myself during the summer band rehearsals prior to the beginning of my first semester of college. The turning point for me came as I was sitting outside, crying, in the hall before sectionals were scheduled to begin. I was approached by a few of the older girls in my section. I didn't know it at the time, but they were sisters of Tau Beta Sigma. At that time, all I knew was that I suddenly mattered. I wasn't the weepy kid who sat by themselves for no reason. I was Krystal and I was terribly homesick, but I was going to be okay because those girls reached out to me, lifted me up, and offered their sisterly love, affection, and support.

It took a while, but I was coming out of my shell again. I was making friends and I made the decision to join Tau Beta Sigma with a handful of these new friends. I was still a shy ghost of my former self as I was still struggling to find myself somewhere between mountains of homework, sectionals, football games, rehearsals, and the membership education process. Krystal was in there somewhere-eager to prove herself, eager to serve and to make a difference, but she didn't burst out of my chest until the spring semester of my Freshman year.

Having gone through third degree right after Thanksgiving, this was going to be my first full semester as a full-fledged sister of Tau Beta Sigma and I was ready to make a difference. Maybe I was just feeling better this time around after having spent all winter with my family while realizing I really did miss my friends and the community back at college, but I came back in the spring with renewed vigor. I helped my sisters anywhere I could. Like Ridley Scott's Alien, the real Krystal had suddenly burst out of my chest in all her gruesome glory. Or maybe she had just retreated into a cocoon (a Krysalis\*, if you will) all of that first semester just to emerge as the servant/leader butterfly she was always meant to be. I had spent so much time wondering where my old self had gone, but through my time in Tau Beta Sigma I found who I was destined to become.

\*A portmanteau of the word Chrysalis and my own name. Please humor me.

Krystal Munoz - TBS





## My Top 5 memories in TBS

This is my last year as an active member in TBS, so I've spent quite a bit of time reflecting on all the memories I've made in the organization. Here's a list of my top five memories in Tau Beta Sigma!

### 1. National Convention in Orlando, Florida

This convention was my first Natcon as an active, so naturally it holds a special place in my heart. My chapter drove to the convention all the way from Norman, Oklahoma so we spent a lot of time together! I got super close with my chapter and even made friends I still talk to today from across the country!

### 2. Meeting my big, Millie

As an MC, I did my fair share of overanalyzing everything to figure out who my big was. I REALLY wanted it to be this girl named Millie, because I thought she was just so cool! Going up to the front of the room after second degree, listening to the poem my big Millie wrote about me, and running to hug her was a memory that will last me a lifetime. I would not be where I am today without her guidance!

### 3. Serving on my chapter's executive council

I served as my chapter's Member at Large during the 2018-2019 school year. There are just too many memories to count from that year, but getting to serve alongside such powerful women was absolutely amazing. I became so close with my fellow exec members (we still have an active GroupMe to this day!). It's so great to know I have such an amazing support team that will hype me up each and every day!

### 4. Sisterhood Retreat 2019

One of my executive duties was to plan our annual sisterhood retreat. I reserved an Airbnb in the middle of Oklahoma and planned tons of games and bonding activities for our chapter! Watching my months of planning go smoothly and getting to listen to all the wonderful comments about how much fun everyone had was extremely heartwarming!

### 5. Serving the chapter at district and national events

I was elected to serve as my chapter's district delegate for the 2017 district convention and as the national delegate for the 2019 national convention. I have always been so interested in how TBS works at a district and national level and I had so much fun representing my chapter!



Juliana Mitchell - TBS



## Small Starts

There has been a lot of change over the past year within the Epsilon Beta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at the University of Central Arkansas. There has been a significant influx of people to our chapter this past year which has begun a time of change within our chapter.

In the fall of 2018, our chapter had only seven people. This was the smallest we'd been in a while, but we were used to having fewer members than many other chapters. UCA has a smaller band program than several other Southwest District schools, but what we lacked in numbers we made up for in service. Then came the spring of 2019, with fourteen membership candidates eager to join the brotherhood at the start and having ten new brothers by the end of the education period, overwhelming the brothers a little at first by our numbers. The new MCs were so full of energy about service and the band that it started to increase morale in the chapter. After the new brothers had become a part of this wonderful brotherhood they took no time in getting down to business. Four of the new brothers are already serving as officers for our chapter currently in the positions of Vice President of Projects, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Alumni Secretary, and Historian.

But with serving more, being more involved, doing more recruitment and joint events there is a drawback: time. Due to the normally small size of our chapter, all of our members have been required to attend almost every event of any kind. However, after suddenly shooting up from seven to seventeen people, it's gotten significantly harder to set up events that everyone can attend. In addition to that, the sheer amount we were doing began to wear on the brothers and it was becoming evident. Most of us barely had any time to do our schoolwork, practice and work on top of doing Kappa Kappa Psi things.

To combat this we tried implementing personal days, times when you decide to miss certain KKPsi events. At first, it went over pretty well but soon enough it just kind of broke down. Through this breakdown, it also became evident that our skills in communicating clearly and effectively were... lacking, to say the least. We managed to have overcome that through a lot of open and honest communication. We always put a lot of effort into growing closer together, and it's expected that with this many people there would be some miscommunications and misunderstandings. We are so glad our reaction to the setbacks were positive, so that we may grow from these experiences with a better understanding of each other. In light of our recent growth and the growing pains that came with it, we created new attendance policy that should work better for everyone. This may not be much in comparison to larger chapters, but for us, this is something we haven't had to deal with in many years and we're figuring it out as we go. No matter how complicated our internal affairs get, we always make sure that our mindset stays focused on our purposes: serve the band and strive for the highest.



Kathryn Villarreal - K K Ψ



Many people believe that their birth is when their lives begin. This makes sense, but some people believe their lives truly begin at another point later in life. The day I got married is when my life began, and there's no one else I would rather have by my side than my brothers.

Let's do a quick rundown of what happened before the wedding, because it was one of the most stressful times of my life. The day before, my venue cancelled on me, the top part of my wedding cake melted and fell off, and the lilies in my bouquet died so I had to go all over Conway, Arkansas to find three lilies. It was an awful time. I was in a constant state of stress and tears. I did not believe that it was going to go well. However, to my disbelief, it got better. Slowly but surely, my brothers and sisters started to show up.

Between both my husband's wedding party and mine, we had a total of 5 brothers and 1 sister out of 10 people. On top of that, another brother officiated my ceremony for me. I do not have many family members in the states and only 5 of them showed up to my wedding. My brothers and sisters are basically my only family. They mean the world to me. Just having them there was one of the best parts of my wedding. I couldn't be more grateful for their presence and support.

Funnily enough, a brother was almost late to the main ceremony. The starting time was 4, and he pulled up and was walking to the door at 3:56. I saw him and I had a brief moment of panic. My dad and I were standing on the side of the building to avoid my husband from seeing me, and I couldn't stop laughing while telling him to hurry up. My dad was so confused about what had just happened. I later found out that he didn't know that you are supposed to get to a wedding way earlier than a few minutes beforehand.

After we exchanged vows, one of my favorite things was the uproar and support that I got from my brothers as I was walking back down the aisle. It brought the biggest smile to my face. It helped confirm that I was surrounded by the right people.

The most memorable moment by far, however, was after we were finished taking pictures. We all went outside and sang the Fraternity Hymn. The amount of love and brotherhood I felt while singing was overwhelming. It brought me to tears of joy as we all looked at each other with love. The music was so moving and intense in the best ways possible. This really made all of the hardship and strife I experienced before the wedding worth it. Everything led to the moment where I was at peace in the presence of my family and brothers, whose love was a blessing. It was this moment when I knew for sure that these people, my brothers, would be with me for the rest of my life. They were there at the start of my new life with my husband and will be there until the end. This was the moment where it all began.



Catherine Logsdon - K K Ψ



## Leadership through and beyond Undergraduate

Six Months into my Adulthood degree, I keep looking back to how lucky I was to be given a bid to this weird Fraternity that, at the time, I thought just had people with screws loose that liked running around like hooligans and setting up the ladders.. Okay so most of those things are true, but (boi) was I for a world of an awakening of a bohtiful amount of knowledge, experience, and friendship that would prepare me for life.

I didn't really understand how much it impacted till I left it all. My first job out of college caused me to journey to Los Angeles, California, for the time being, and I only get to go home to visit my friends and family every few weeks. This really has been the first time I've been away from brothers ever since I became one. It was the start of a new beginning. I knew this was coming and so during the summer, I started planning what I wanted to do to stay involved with the Fraternity without being able to come to chapter every day.

I knew I wanted to stay local in my efforts. I started talking with my friends and fellow alumni that I was close to, and after talking to some people, we discovered Local Alumni Associations! This allows you to form a smaller organization under the National Alumni Association that has their own smaller governance that devote more closely to the school and chapter they went to similar to the District Local Alumni Associations like SWDAA!(Which you should all join!) I immediately began doing research to figure out what we needed to do to start forming one for the Lambda Chapter!

I reached out to all the people that I look up to in life and started bringing everyone together for our first meeting. It was super successful and everyone had such good ideas on how we could help increase alumni engagement, support our home chapter, and support the University of Arkansas bands! I knew our future was going to be incredibly bright!

It's now November and we have already had two great events. We used our competitive brotherly spirit to host an Alumni Pick em game with College Football. Brothers could guess which games they thought would go what way and gives you a total at the end of the year to see who one! We also did an Alumni family dinner the day before homecoming and ended up over doubling the amount of people who RSVP'd and had a great time talking about our times at the University and what we are doing now before we played together with the band the next day for Alumni Band Day!

It has really been a great experience starting a LAA, and I would encourage every alumni that has brothers from their chapter willing to give back and do something fun together to research into forming one! Because if this is where it started, I'm so excited to see where will be in the future as we continually strive for the highest!

AEA and Go Hogs

Brady James "WYN"  
"BOF" "DD" "TT"  
Gilleran - K K Ψ





## Where it all began..

The thoughts and musings of one Jaren Nickerson  
(but in an odd sort rhyme scheme)

I often think back to where it all began,  
back to when I was a freshman, new to college band.  
I often wonder if I ever could imagine I'd be where I am now.  
I often wonder if that makes any difference, anyhow.  
I think back to my days, before becoming a Brother,  
back to before, when service meant little.  
I think back to when I used to strive for the middle.  
Back to when my pursuits were indistinguishable from others.

I was happy back then, and I'm happier now,  
With the help of my Brothers and Sisters to wipe the sweat from my brow.

With a slight twang of fear upon realizing my initiation,  
I recall the inundation of my situations realization.  
Thoughts of "I'm not good enough" and "I'll make mistakes!" filled my head,  
but through time spent with Brothers I've realized instead,  
we're here to build each other up, to help each other get ahead,  
to work together and promote harmony, for in the service of the band we tread.

I often think back to where it all began,  
about my path to the Brotherhood in which I currently stand.

I often wonder, what would my life be without?

What if I had listened to all my past doubts?

But then I think of all the folks we've served, and the friends I've met,  
and I know in my heart of hearts, that joining was my greatest choice yet.

I often think back to where it all began,

and I know I wouldn't change anything that got me where I am.

I know I'll never regret my decisions from..

## Where it all began..

Jaren Nickerson - K K Ψ





## Pizza My Heart

I remember being a high school senior telling myself that I would never join a Sorority if it was the last thing I did. Well, in a way, I was right. Instead of a sorority like Alpha Kappa Alpha or Alpha Sigma Tau, I joined Kappa Kappa Psi. A fraternity. I couldn't imagine myself in Greek life back then but now, it's the exact opposite. I always wonder how I ever got here. Two things come to mind every time: Payton Turner and pizza.

Now you're probably wondering who this random person is and how pizza brought me to this band fraternity. I know exactly where to start.

I'm a shy extrovert. If I feel comfortable and know people well, I am super outgoing and very talkative. All the people that came from my high school were in different sections, so when I came to college I had to start from scratch. I didn't really talk much in rehearsal and after band I would immediately go to my dorm. There were a couple of people who I was acquaintances with but I didn't really talk to them. Then the first game happened. My first ever college game was an away game. A game that would take us from Conway, Arkansas, to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Yay...

Every band member had to find three others to room with, or else they'd be randomly assigned. I only knew one other clarinet at the time, and the others I barely knew by name. So, she asked around the section and lots of people said they'd already found their roommates. She then asked two other clarinets: Payton Turner and Emily Copeland. Payton was one of the senior members of the section and Emily was her freshman band buddy. I talked to Emily occasionally and had rarely done so with Payton. They seemed nice, however, so I was fine with it.

We left for Tulsa early Friday morning, and the bus ride was fairly uneventful (just the usual chaos). However, after a long day of travel, practice, and an exhibition, by the time night arrived we were hungry. So, we decided to order pizza. One of our roommates, my friend that I talked to the most, decided to stay in the room because she wasn't feeling good and the rest of us went down to the lobby to wait for the pizza. We sat on the floor of the lobby and looked up to the ceiling as we just talked about life. We wound up waiting for over two hours for the pizza, that eventually arrived at one in the morning.

After that, I got closer to the two of them and found myself hanging around them more often. It turned out that Payton was a brother of this fraternity called "Kappa Kappa Psi." It was weird to me that a girl could be in a fraternity and for that reason, it gained my interest. What interested me more was that it's a fraternity that solely focused on serving the band and music community. As I learned more about it, I found that Kappa Kappa Psi was doing some of the same stuff that I'd been doing during high school. But there was one problem. I had to meet people to get anywhere near this fraternity, which I was nervous to do. Then the perfect opportunity presented itself: Payton invited me to the Pizza Cook-Off that they host every year. I was originally going to decline but then she really insisted on it. Like really insisted on it. So I decided to go.

There were so many people there. In addition to the seven or eight brothers, there was around fifteen to twenty non-brothers milling around the President and VP Membership's apartment. We were divided into several groups of three to four people and the two I met on my team were pretty cool, one of them a brother and the other a future Membership Candidate. So, we were tasked with designing a pizza and ours won the overall challenge! It was so much fun. I briefly met the president at the time, Keegan Turney, who gave off this very stern exterior (far from the truth, as I'm sure many of you know).

At some point during the event, I mumbled to Payton, "I want to be a part of this organization."

When I said that, Payton's eyes lit up and she was obviously beyond excited. From that point on, I helped the brothers the most that I could and tried to get to know them. I felt like I was at home with these people. We all wanted to do the same thing, which was to make the band better.

One day, I woke up to find a message from the Vice President of Membership, Trace Rhode, telling me that I got a bid from the Epsilon Beta chapter. I screamed, danced, and cried from the happiness and excitement that filled me.

I am so thankful for my big brother, Payton Turner. It was possible that I would have never gotten the chance to meet these wonderful brothers the way I did. They've become some of the most important people in my life and, despite our differences, I wouldn't change my decision for the world.

My journey to becoming the brother that I am today all started with Payton, who is a pizza my heart.



Kiara Penn - K K Ψ 47



## My Career Beginnings

Honestly, when I started my college career, I really didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I was headstrong on the path of becoming a pharmacist which, at the time, meant going to Chemistry 1 every morning and being surrounded by science at any given moment of the day. For some people, this would probably be a nice experience, but for me, it was literally the most exhausting and mentally draining experience of my college career. I found that the only joy I had in life was going to marching band. Music has always been an exciting part of my life and I could not imagine my life without it. However, I never imagined that it would become my career. This decision was honestly one of the hardest ones of my life, but it truly marks the start of my career as a music educator.

Back when I was applying to college, my parents were very persistent that I needed to make a lot of money and have a high status job and, at first, I agreed with them. So, I set my sights on getting a biochemistry degree to go into pharmacy school. This career path was something that I believed was manageable, while being very high paying and for the first semester, I was actually excited about becoming a pharmacist. Then reality hit. At the beginning of my second semester, I started to hate every second of going to class. I had a very hard time with the upper level chemistry and it made me feel like I was inadequate and unintelligent. This cycle of waking up, telling myself that I could make it through the day, then going to Chem. 2 and having all of my hopes and confidence dashed in a single test grade, was exhausting. I remember hitting a very low point of wondering why I was even in college. I obviously wasn't good enough to be there. At least that's what my brain was telling me.

About halfway through the semester, I sat down to examine my life and realized that I was happiest when I was around music. At the time it was only one class, three times a week, but I lived for marching band. I couldn't wait to go do the thing that I enjoyed: music. After this realization, I had a tough decision to make, one that I believed my parents would be devastated over. I knew that it needed to be done, but I couldn't bring myself to do it.

That was until I went to my first Area Workshop as a membership candidate for Tau Beta Sigma. The Workshop was at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and it was one of the best experiences of my life. One in particular was the workshop that I went to about self-care and doing what's best for you. It changed everything. For the first time in so long, everything was so clear. I knew exactly what I had to do. On the way back to Tech, I called my parents with tears in my eyes and told them how unhappy I was. I explained to them that I needed to change the direction that my life was going. It was the only way that I could change things for the better.

After listening to me for a couple of minutes, my parents greeted me with nothing but support and love. This was the complete opposite of how I thought they would react. It was very surprising and one of the best feelings in the world. They supported me unconditionally, just like my sister and brothers do. It was a great day.

Now I am in my junior year of becoming a Music Educator and I have never been more excited and fulfilled in my life. Doing what my heart wants has always been a struggle for me and looking back, there is very little chance I would have made it through a chemistry degree. This beginning for my career was the hardest decision I have ever had to make and it is one that I am constantly reminded of. I will never forget the weight that was lifted off my shoulders when I changed my major and how happy my heart is when I am teaching music.

Tyler Hern - TBS,  
SWD Secretary/  
Treasurer





I have had the privilege of hearing National VPCM Jessica Lee present at a workshop twice during my time in the fraternity. The first time was at National Convention 2019 in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and the second time was at home here at the University of Arkansas during a live chat online. This particular workshop is entitled “Honoring Outstanding Bandsmen.” It is focused on challenging brothers to engage in deep thought about what it means to be a brother, the nature of our values, and what that ultimately means for our membership selection process in order to ensure the honor of our fraternity is upheld.

The first time that I heard this workshop, it was an eye-opening experience for me. Not only was the subject matter of great value to me, but the passion that I could see in the way that Jessica was delivering this message to her fellow brothers was inspiring. One of the most memorable parts of the entire workshop was her analysis of The Sinek Circle and how it applies to Kappa Kappa Psi. Jessica shared with the room her life experiences that led to her joining the brotherhood, and how once she joined, her life was forever changed. She was genuine, honest, and open with her brothers, and that affected me in a powerful way that I was not anticipating.

Essentially, Jessica’s message is that Kappa Kappa Psi is about people, and people join our brotherhood because of people. That is not to say that we are a social fraternity. Rather, people join this brotherhood because of our display of an undeniable amount of passion for striving for the highest in everything that we do. Relaying the magic of what we do to people who share our ideals and values allows them to come to the realization that this organization is just what they have been looking for. The second time that I heard Jessica give this presentation, it still affected me, possibly even stronger than it did the first time. In all of the stress of life, it is sometimes easy to lose focus of what matters and hearing her share her sentiments with us for a second time hit it home for me. It helped me answer the big question that she poses to her brothers: What is your why?

For clarity, answering why you joined and remained in Kappa Kappa Psi is one of the most important moments in your time in the fraternity. To echo Jessica’s sentiments, people are here because of people. Sharing your personal story allows you to connect with others in a manner unmatched. Being genuine, honest, and forthright about who you are as a person and where you come from is one of the most influential things you will ever do in your life. Brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi come from all walks of life. This fraternity is about as diverse as it gets. However, there is one thing that binds us all together: our urge to lead, serve, and come together as brothers in the pursuit of music. We hold in our hearts the values of honor, integrity, respect, and loyalty. The feeling I get even just thinking about that is indescribable.

This is my why. I encourage you to think about your why, and relay it to others, inside or outside of our organization. Who knows, it might rekindle a lost spark, or it may bring you closer to someone you might one day call a brother. At the least, I hope it highlights the magic I see in Kappa Kappa Psi every single day.

Let’s go back to where it all began. When I entered the seventh grade, I thought I was “all grown up” since I was a junior high student. I was ready to fight the world. My first order of business was to figure out why I had been put in band class. “I didn’t sign up for band,” I thought to myself, or at least I didn’t remember signing up for band. I showed up to the class and told my teacher, Mr. Skinkle, that there must have been some mistake, and that I was going to talk to the counselor to get it fixed.

My counselor told me to give her a couple of days and she would see what she could do. I reluctantly went back to the band hall and just sat quietly as everyone was trying out instruments to see where their interests lie. Mr. Skinkle tells me, “You can try it out to see if you like it, just in case.” I wasn’t sure about it, so I declined. After a couple of days, however, I figured I might as well try to see if it’s something I would like. I tried out for percussion, flute, and low brass (trombone/baritone). I ended up on baritone, because he needed more low brass and the slide on the trombone scared me. At some point, I started to think that I might want to stay.

My counselor came to my science class around the end of that week and told me that she had fixed gotten me out. Here’s the kicker: I changed my mind. In front of my teacher and my whole class, I sat there and said, “Actually, I think I want to stay.” She made me swear that this is what I wanted, because she wouldn’t do this again. I told her that it was, and that was that.

At first, I didn’t take it very seriously. I would goof off more than I should have, but I was always decent at it. I started to take it more seriously in my second year after I tried out at all region just for fun and ended up making a band. After that, I became much more involved. I owe so much to my development as a person to band, because once I started to take it more seriously, band became my life. My band director taught me so many valuable life lessons, as well as helped me reach my potential as a musician.

Among the lessons Mr. Skinkle taught me was how to be a leader, being willing to put in extra effort, personal responsibility, how to work with a group... the list goes on. Many of the lessons I learned during the membership process for Kappa Kappa Psi, I learned from Mr. Skinkle first. It’s pretty telling that I later learned that he had been presented a bid from the Kappa Kappa Psi Chapter at his alma mater, which he (begrudgingly to me) declined.



Additionally, we had to help out the band program for our grade, such as loading instruments for away games and picking up trash after home games. Interestingly enough, though, I would always do more than I had to. It wasn't **just** for a grade; I genuinely wanted to help out and do more. I feel like I owe a lot of that to Mr. Skinkle, because while that feeling has to come from me, it seems like he was the one who helped me see that.

Suddenly, high school was over. I had been Drum Major, principle euphonium, went to numerous clinics, took lessons, and overall loved band. I hadn't been sure until my senior year of high school what I was going to study at college, but after I thought about it, it seemed pretty clear that I was meant to dedicate my life to music. I applied for the music program at the University of Arkansas, and luckily enough, I was accepted.

I got to the U of A to be a part of the Best in Sight and Sound, and the first thing I thought was, "Oh man, this is scary." I came from a town with population 2,000 people, and my graduating class was right around 80. Not considering the Fayetteville population, the university population alone was over 20,000. What a culture shock. So, once I started hearing whispers of some organization called "Kappa Kappa Psi," I wasn't having it. It was a fraternity, and I had heard about fraternities in high school. My section leaders had joked about it and kind of persuaded me not to join. I also just didn't know exactly what it was all about, so I didn't pay it much mind. Oddly enough, however, many of my friends happened to be members of the organization.

One of those friends was a member of my section, Alle Holcomb. She, and others, had asked me about Kappa Kappa Psi before, but I just wasn't interested. Luckily enough, they decided not to give up on me. Close to the end of my first semester, Alle called me in the morning and told me, "I have something I want to give you later. Can you meet me in the band hall?" I was kind of surprised, but I accepted. Later that day, she pulled me into one of our rehearsal halls and handed me an envelope. "I know you said you weren't interested, but Kappa Kappa Psi would really like for you to consider accepting a bid."

I was shocked. At that point, I knew at least a little bit about it through my friends, so I knew that they were an organization that supported band programs at the university. I consulted my family, my friends in Kappa Kappa Psi, a couple of friends from Tau Beta Sigma, and some friends from outside the organizations. I valued all types of opinions in this situation. At the end of it all, it seemed like it was worth it to at least try since they did so many things that I had done in high school in the name of bettering band programs. If I didn't like the fit, it had been made very clear to me that I could drop at any time, so I thought, "Why not?"

That was before Christmas break. Over the next few months, my life was a roller coaster ride, and honestly one of the hardest parts of my life. I had been in a car accident a few weeks before school let out. I wasn't as ready for the spring semester as I had been for fall. Although I had friends, I still didn't know anyone super well. Then, with all of that in mind, I had to deal with the hardest situation of my life: my parents' divorce. It finally hit me that my whole life was changing, and it wasn't waiting for me.

I came back for the spring, and Kappa Kappa Psi was there waiting for me. I joined the Epsilon Beta Membership Class of the Lambda Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, not really knowing what it would hold for me. However, despite all of my hardships, what transpired over the course of that semester is something I will never forget. I met people who I would one day call brothers and sisters, I experienced situations I would have never imagined, and I was given the privilege of joining a secure order that was composed of ideals and values that I had been passionate about my entire life. My brothers and sisters, as well as this fraternity have been such a powerful positive influence in my life, and I can't even really explain it all. All I know is that I would do literally anything for them. I trust them with my life.

My commitment to my brothers and sisters, as well as the overall fraternity, is something I do not take lightly. I have seen what we can do at our best, and honestly, it brings me to tears sometimes. They aren't sad tears, or even happy tears really. Just tears...

I don't know if I can explain it in words, but I'm going to try my hardest. It's the feeling you get when you see the wonder in a young child's eye as he watches us playing our instruments and, in that moment, he makes the decision to one day be a musician. The feeling you get when you see the hope and peace come over your elders as they see hope and security in future generations. The feeling you get when you see the pride in your directors and fellow bandsmen in the performances that you have worked tirelessly on. It all brings me that same potent feeling. I think if I had to describe it in one sentence, it would be this: It is seeing yourself make the world a better place, one person or one situation at a time.



The only reason I am able to do that is because of this amalgamation of crazy events one after another. Barely staying in band before I even started, and now I'm well on my way to becoming a band director. Being afraid to attend the University of Arkansas and coming to realize it's the only place I want to be. Not showing any interest in an organization which I am now fully committed to, which I see myself being committed to for the rest of my life. When I think about all of that, all I can do is be thankful that I'm right where I need to be. To quote someone I met recently, "My passion is to help other people find and fulfill their passion." I am more than content with that.

Hopefully now it's clear why I describe our organization as magical. The word "magic" may seem dramatic, but to me, that's exactly what it is. We have chapters full of people all across the United States of America, with the chance to be a positive influence in people's lives every single day. Even the smallest things to us could be the biggest things to someone else. We have the chance to lift people up and inspire them to be the best that they can be, and to me, that is magical. If you do not take anything else away from my story, remember this, because I will never forget it: no matter what we do or how much we get done, if people are not at the core of what we do, then it is all for nothing. We cannot lose the magic in what we do, lest we turn away from the purposes of our organization. There is a word that a brother used to describe our fraternity once that I will never forget. Simply put, she called Kappa Kappa Psi a "light." May our light shine even in the darkness. So, with all of this in mind, what is your why? I challenge you to find the answer to that question, because frankly, it might change your life.

AEA, brothers

Mason Thomas - K K Ψ





## HashtagCommsTeam

The National Communications Team was created by past National Vice President of Student Affairs and 2011 Southwest District Honorary member, Zachary T. Humphrey. The purpose of this committee was to facilitate the sustainability and growth of all communication tools at the disposal of the fraternity on a national level. This biennium the committee is made up of 18 members, six of which are from the Southwest District.

Vice President for Student Affairs Bang Co continues to strive for the continuance of this committee. The Team held their first meeting on September 15, 2019, with the committee leads to facilitate a game plan on the Fall 2019 Content Calendar.

“Communication is very similar to the music that we make. It entails different voices and various meanings and perspectives. More often than not, it requires a lot of listening to one another to ensure that we are on the same beat and in tune. We are very lucky to have a team that strives to uphold these standards and work towards our national communication goals.” - Bang Co, 2019 - 2021 National Vice President of Student Affairs.

Members of the National Communications Team include:

- Bang Co, National Vice President for Student Affairs, Life Member of Alpha Zeta
- Robert Bratcher, National Headquarters Publication Manager, Life Member of Iota Zeta
- **Chair, Dionicio “Dino” Cardenas, Life Member of Alpha Psi**
- Co-Chair, Karissa Longo, Life Member from Zeta Epsilon
- Dylan Abeles, Alumni of Alpha Eta
- **Seferina Baca, Active at Gamma Iota**
- Kathrine Boyer, Life Member of Gamma Pi
- Kyla Buettner, Alumni of Kappa Iota
- **Brady Gilleran, Life Member of Lambda**
- Emma Kilbreath, Alumni of Iota Lambda
- Alyssa Maher, Alumni of Iota Kappa
- **Andrew Morrow, Life Member of Gamma Iota**
- **Trace Rhode, Active at Epsilon Beta**
- **Isabella Rivera, Alumni of Gamma Iota**
- Kate Rohrich, Life Member of Mu Pi
- Joshua Schalk, Active at Beta Rho
- Ryan Smith, Life Member of Epsilon
- Emily Swope, Life Member of Eta Omicron
- Allison Whisnant, Alumni of Zeta Chi

“The 2019 - 2021 National Communications Team is filled with brothers from all over the United States. We continue the communication between all membership status and make sure to celebrate those days that are important to our organizations. I am extremely proud of my team and can’t wait to see the projects they create throughout this biennium”

- Dionicio “Dino”Cardenas (Chair)

“The National Communications Team meets once a month through the webchat service Zoom. Following an agenda, we update each other on the status of any current projects. The larger team is broken down into focus areas, allowing us to share the workload and focus on what we’re passionate about. Some sub-groups, such as the Podcast and Social Media, are ongoing, while other groups are formed as needed.” quote from The Podium Spring 2019: Communications Team Celebrates One-Year Milestone



Kappa Kappa Psi Presents has been a project that was in Zac's vision since day one. On October 9th, 2019, the team released Episode 1 (Season 3): Hispanic Heritage Month. This episode featured two members from Southwest District, Luis "Luigi" Bencom and Andy Cifuentes Jr. This episode shares the stories of those brothers that celebrate their Hispanic Heritage. All podcasts are available on iTunes, Spotify, or whatever podcast platform you use.

One of our special projects this semester includes #TriviaFriday coordinated by Seferina Baca. On October 11, 2019, Brother Baca kicked off our Season 2 Premier of Trivia Friday on Instagram featuring Women in the Fraternity. Questions included information about National Leadership, National Constitution, and the change of Kappa Kappa Psi going Co-Educational.

"Being Historian for the Gamma Iota Chapter at the University of New Mexico and one of the newest members of the National Communications Team for the 2019-2021 Biennium can be stressful. My biggest task on the Team is running the KKPsi #TriviaFriday! There will be a new one every two weeks and each will focus on a different aspect of the Fraternity, Band, and Music. I look forward to sharing my love and knowledge of Kappa Kappa Psi through my work this biennium."

-Seferina Baca

When the team was created back in 2017, we had two members of the Southwest District work closely with Zac Humphrey: Isabella Rivera and Trace Rhode. I distinctly remember watching them run around interviewing people to get content for the podcast throughout the 2017 National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Hello! My name is Isabella Rivera, and I am an alumna of the Gamma Iota chapter from the University of New Mexico. I first joined the Kappa Kappa Psi Communications Team back in 2017 when Zac Humphrey created it during his term as VPSA. When I started, the communications team was a podcast, so at the time we would interview past and current brothers during conventions. Later, we switched our focus towards our social medias, and I was put in charge of running the official Kappa Kappa Psi Facebook page. Something I am so grateful for is that I am given the opportunity to meet and get to know so many brothers and sisters of not only the Southwest District, but at the National level as well. AEA and MLITB!

"My time with the team began at National Convention 2017. Zach Humphrey had said that he wanted people to help with recording content for the podcast. I loved the podcast and couldn't think of a better way to spend some of my spare time. Once the team became official, I joined the team, eager to continue to contribute." said Trace. "Unfortunately, that same semester I decided to change my major, and I had to take extra hours to catch up and still graduate in a reasonable time frame. I was unable to keep up with my school work and the work of the committee, so I had to take a break. But a year later, my school load has gone back down, and I'm once again excited to work with this team of brothers from across the nation."

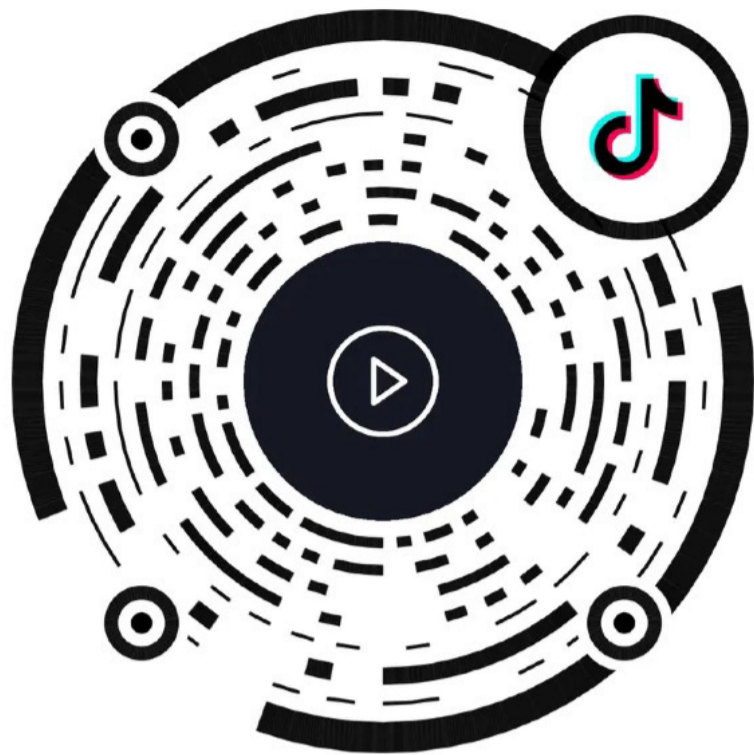
Overall, the National Communications Team would like to invite you to follow us on our Social Media platforms and check out the work this team is doing. Support your brothers and look out for our team at a District Convention near you!

- Facebook: Kappa Kappa Psi - National Honorary Band Fraternity
- Instagram: Kappa.Kappa.Psi
- Twitter: KappaKappaPsi.

By: Southwest District - National Communications Team Members







Will you accept this MC into your part...

TikTok video from Wheezy

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## The Delta Chapter

\*Continues on next page

The Delta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma has had quite the start to our fall semester. Before Pride Camp even started, the sisters of Delta TBS and the brothers of Delta KKY were on campus for work day. We helped clean the band hall, get our Nike gear ready for checkout, and set up the concert hall for camp.

Once the school year was in full swing, we kicked off recruitment season with a joint event with Delta KKY. It is colloquially called “Tau Beta Sporty/Kappa Kappa Pserve” and we play sand volleyball, eat popsicles, and play other yard games. It’s a great way to get a large group of the incoming freshman class to socialize with brothers and sisters!

Our semester only picked up from there. In September, the Delta Chapter of TBS hosted hundreds of high school students for OU Band and Spirit Day, one of our favorite events of the year. We also had five rush events, including a “Do-a-Ditty” spinning rush event where our color guard sisters helped teach non-guard members a short routine. This was new for us this year and was a smashing success!

October was also crazy for the Delta Chapter. Between several rush events, a full-band trip down to Dallas to beat Texas, and hosting hundreds of Pride alumni back at our annual homecoming game, October was just as hectic as September. Shout out to the sisters of Delta for handling all the craziness with patience and grace!

Our formal rush week takes place in November and we are super excited to see all the new membership candidates we get to add to our chapter. Follow us on social media @TBSDeltaChapter to keep up with all our chapter activities!



Kayla McCullough - TBS



Tau Beta Sporty



Pride Alumni at Homecoming



Photo Taken After Singing with Texas



Do-a-Ditty Spinning



# Happy Spooky Bandtober

## Crusader Marching Band Invitational

What a busy month it has been for the brothers and membership candidates of the Mu Lambda chapter. On Thursday, October 10, 2019, the chapter held its annual Crusader Marching Band Invitational, inviting a numerous amount of local bands to compete in a preliminary UIL contest setting. It allows the chapter to reach out to the high schools in the area and develop connections for recruitment and future career opportunities. The invitational not only benefits the programs competing but as well as the brothers as many gain the knowledge and skill it takes to run a marching contest. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, as well as one of our biggest events of the year. Although it started a little bumpy, the brothers and MCs came together and put on a successful invitational.

## Halloween Headquarters

October is the month of SPOOKY season! And the Mu Lambda loves to celebrate spooky season with our annual Halloween Headquarters! It is an event held in our music building every year. It is to provide a safe and fun environment to the students and community of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. The event includes: a haunted house, games, cosplay contest, and free food. This year was one of the biggest turn outs we have had with about 600 guests coming. The entire event is planned, designed, and run by the chapter members. This year was extremely special, as we had a special work day dedicated to building props for the event. As a result, membership candidates, brothers, and other members of the music program came together; turning it into a wonderful bonding experience.



Ronfled Espinoza - K K Ψ





## **TO MY SISTER(S)**

My dear sister(s),

I hope this letter finds you in good spirits. The purpose of this letter is simply to see how you're doing. This time of the semester can tend to be chaotic, and we can sometimes feel as if we are drowning throughout the day. This is the time that we must check in with one another, simply because asking the simple question "Are you okay?" can truly make a difference in one's day. As a Sister of Tau Beta Sigma, we have a duty to our organization, but also to our fellow sisters. Sisterhood is the biggest thing that truly makes the chapter, and it starts by truly caring for one another.

Tau Beta Sigma has shown me personally how a group of diverse people can come together and form a life-lasting bond through music and service. While we contribute to our communities, we also must contribute to our family (our chapter). So my challenge to you, my fellow sister, is to check in with your family (your chapter).

Go out to dinner, talk to someone you usually don't talk to within your family (chapter), and find ways to make the sisterhood stronger. Checking in with someone makes a world of difference. We must care for one another. Kindness is the strongest tool people often forget they have and it can truly make someone's day.

With that said my dear sister(s), I wish you the best in all of your endeavors, and I hope you surround yourself with people that bring out the best in you.

"With my sisters I am best"

MLITB

**Jasmine Aguilar - TBS**

## **Completing the Focus on Five Challenges – Our Journey**

The 2018-2019 year was a big one for the Delta Phi Chapter at Texas Lutheran University. This was the first year we officially completed all of the requirements for the Focus on Five challenge in our chapter's history!

This year we were able to hold two Women in Music speaker events! Both of the speakers were from a local area and were known by some of our chapter members, which made it even more exciting to have them out at our school. We were able to hear stories of struggle, gain both school and life advice, laugh together, tell stories, and ultimately receive a huge amount of encouragement from each speaker. Both events were truly fun and inspiring experiences that our chapter members will not soon forget.

Next, our chapter was fortunate enough to attend an elementary class to play each instrument for the kids. The sisters put together small ensembles, solos, duets and trios to play for them. We took turns explaining the differences between each instrument, what section they fell into, and playing! We even took some time after to say how each instrument produces a sound and gave a basic explanation of how each instrument works. The children were carefully listening and watching throughout the entire session and had lots of questions afterwards. Our sisters loved seeing their faces light up as all the different instruments sounded off and loved watching the children smile and laugh with their friends at the music that was played. We made sure to encourage them to try out for band next year, and told them to never give up, no matter what!

Immediately after visiting the elementary school, our sisters went to our local nursing home to perform for the residents. We also talked about what instrument we played, where we were attending school, and listed off our majors. Some tunes were even recognizable by the residents, and we met some people who used to be in band! They were really happy to see and hear their instrument again as well as share their stories from their time in band. The residents carefully listened and would smile so big and clap for us when we each finished. After we played, we took some time to sit with each of the residents to ask how they were doing and to talk with them briefly. They really enjoyed having us out and asked when we would return!

It was an honor to represent our chapter at National Convention in Oklahoma this year. Hearing our name be called across that loudspeaker because we had completed each challenge on time was a truly awesome experience. This was a first for our chapter, which was a pretty big deal for us all.

To my Delta Phi sisters: to say I am proud of each of you and of what our chapter accomplished is a bit of an understatement. I was honored to be your VPSP during this time.



Thank you for believing in me, having patience with me, helping with all the events, and ultimately trusting me with this task. Without each and every one of you, we could not have reached this goal. This is just the beginning for us!

MLITB,

Emma Hengst - TBS



TBS at a Small School

Most, if not all, chapters have faced challenges in the recruitment process. While there is a Guide to Membership, there is no penultimate way to recruit. All chapters and schools are diverse and what works for one school may not work for another. This article details recruitment processes and events that worked for the Delta Phi chapter at Texas Lutheran University.

Delta Phi had to completely revamp their MEP two years ago, but even more importantly, we had to revamp how we communicated and worked as a chapter. When we began this journey, the chapter had nine active members. At this point we looked at each other and had to ask two questions: “How do we make ourselves more present?” and “How do we maintain our bond?” We knew we needed to increase recruitment, but we wanted to recruit quality members, not just numbers (but that would be a plus).

The first, and possibly simplest step, was being visible. We wore letters as often as possible: on chapter meeting days; to any extra band events such as pep rehearsals or performances, equipment moves, sporting events, community outreach, and while working concessions. When a member or members had a professional opportunity that placed them in front of the band such as conducting, we would encourage them to wear their letters or active pin. We would take our letters to football games for tailgating and to sit alongside the football field during the game. We would sing and chant after almost every football game and band concert. Chapter members would post on social media anytime we did any kind of service or anytime we’d spend time together, and we started doing weekly member shout outs on social member to praise different members for their personal or academic achievements.

We placed an emphasis on being personable and approachable. It was important to befriend people without talking about the sorority to get to know people and to see if they upheld the essential factors and qualities that we embody. Our next focus was on hosting events, a mix between service and social (where we would proudly wear letters), as often as possible. Each member made a point to personally invite potential members to the events, as we were still working to be as personable as possible. We made sure to advertise two to three weeks in advance for every event: we created Facebook events and invited everyone in band, created posters, and made announcements after every rehearsal.

None of this would have been possible without every member stepping up and playing key roles in every event and activity. This was achieved through effective and open lines of communication, with fun and relaxing bonding with the active members, and every member passionately working to improve our chapter. We hope this helps improve your chapter’s recruitment and if you have any questions or want to know more specifics, direct message our Instagram or Twitter: @deltaphitbs

Robby Andrade & Kirsti O’Brien - TBS



## WHAT TAU BETA SIGMA SISTERHOOD MEANS TO ME

The Affirmation song of TBS is something that has always made me feel closer to my sisters. Everything that the song exemplifies in its lyrics hit in a very emotional way for me. My favorite lyrics are “When I wander, far from home, with my sisters I’m not alone.” These lyrics I hold the nearest and dearest to my heart because of how the Delta Phi sisterhood has carried me through my darkest times, as well as Tau Beta Sisterhood in itself.

This past school year, 2018-19, I decided that I wanted to pursue my dream of marching drum corps. I was incredibly nervous to commit to this dream as I had unfortunately had a bad experience with a previous corps and was overall hesitant to continue in the activity. During the preseason was when I began my new member process with the Delta Phi chapter. This was when I was first introduced to the Affirmation song. I’ll never forget holding hands with my new member candidate sisters as we sang and feeling the strength of our sisterhood. When every preseason camp came and went, no matter how nervous or anxious I was, I would turn to that moment, singing with my sisters and know that no matter what there are people cheering me on. On my worst days during spring training or tour, I would turn to the values that the Affirmation song expressed. As I was standing in the intense heat in the middle of who knows where, wondering how I was going to get through the rest of the day I would think to myself, “Tau Beta Sigma, for you I will hold strong.”

It wasn’t until the end of spring training that the true depth of TBS’s sisterhood really sunk in for me. There were several sisters in the drum corps that I had marched with this summer and they showed me the true meaning of sisterhood every day, but one of the days that stood out for me the most was toward the end of spring training. I had sprained my ankle and was going to be out of rehearsal for the last week of spring training, meaning that I would not get to learn the last movement of the show. I was horribly upset by this and didn’t know how to handle this distress on my own, being so far from my friends and family. I felt like I had no one to lean on in this time of weakness, but one day, before lights out, one of our mellophone players came and sat with me and talked to me about how I was doing and feeling. I got so emotional that I started to cry, but that girl scooped me up and gave me the biggest hug and comforted me well past lights out. As she calmed me down, she took my hand and gave me the TBS hand shake and told me “Don’t worry, I’ve got you. We’re sisters.” In that moment, I realized the full meaning our song and our sisterhood. When I wandered far from home, I was with my sisters, so I wasn’t alone. Thousands of miles from my home chapter of Delta Phi, I still had sisters by my side.

Tau Beta Sigma’s sisterhood has given me some of the most meaningful and caring friendships I’ve had in my entire life and I just cannot express how truly blessed I am to be a part of such an incredible sisterhood. Thank you, Tau Beta Sigma, and especially Delta Phi. With you, I am best

Jessica Martinez - TBS