



# Samantha Whitaker

For Southwest District  
**Member at Large**

Candidacy Packet  
2025-2026



Brothers of the Southwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi,

It is with great excitement that I, Samantha Whitaker, announce my desire to run for the office of Member at Large for the 2025-2026 term.

I was graciously extended an invitation to the Zeta Beta Chapter at Howard Payne University and completed my membership education process in the spring of 2024; since my induction date, I have served as both my chapter's Historian and Alumni Relations Officer. Being a brother of Zeta Beta has impacted the trajectory of my life greatly. Not only has it caused me to pursue a future in music education, but it has also allowed me to make lasting friendships and connections both within my chapter and nationally through other chapters of Kappa Kappa Psi. Now, I feel that it is due time I pour into an organization that has given me so much in return. My experiences at Howard Payne University and position within my chapter have better prepared me for greater things, and my fellow brothers continue to push me to strive for the highest. It is with these skills and the support of my chapter that I feel I will be able to fulfill the necessary demands of the role of Member at Large.

If elected for the role of Member at Large, I would work towards ensuring each chapter is equally represented to the rest of the district, chapter and district history is preserved and shared amongst chapters, and continue to encourage effective communication on all levels of the fraternity. It would be an honor and my pleasure to serve the Southwest District this upcoming term. I am open and welcome to discussing my platform and qualifications with you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

AEA,

*Samantha Whitaker*

Samantha Whitaker

Historian/Alumni Relations Officer of Kappa Kappa Psi Zeta Beta

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# Samantha Whitaker

## Music Education - Instrumental Major

#3067 1000 Center Ave  
Brownwood, TX, 76801  
samantha.whitaker@hputx.edu

### COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

**Kappa Kappa Psi, Zeta Beta Chapter** - *National Honorary Band Fraternity (Spring 2024-Present)*

**Yellow Jacket Band** - *Howard Payne University Band/Symphonic Band (Fall 2023-Present)*

**Jazz Ensemble** - *Howard Payne University Jazz Band (Fall 2024)*

**Concert Choir** - *Howard Payne University Concert Choir (Fall 2024-Present)*

**Heritage Worship Band** - *Howard Payne Heritage Chapel Band (Fall 2024-Present)*

**Percussion Ensemble** - *Howard Payne University Percussion Ensemble (Spring 2025)*

**Anastasia the Musical** - *Howard Payne University Theatre Department (Spring 2025)*

**Gamma Beta Phi Society, Howard Payne University Chapter** - *National Honors and Service Society (Spring 2024-Present)*

### EXPERIENCE

**Brownwood Community Library, Brownwood, Texas** - *Library Aide*

September 2023 - PRESENT

- Communicating with patrons of all social and economic backgrounds within the Brownwood community to assist their needs.
- Sort, shelve, and organize books according to the Dewey Decimal System.
- Create displays and assist with promoting different services and/or programs the library offers.

**The Rock Church, Bridgeport, Texas** - *Childcare Teacher*

February 2023 - August 2023

- Multitask to provide proper care and attention to multiple children.

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- Communicate with helpers and supervisors to ensure each room was supervised and children were fed meals.
  - Provide a safe, fun environment for children to develop.

## EDUCATION

**Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas** - *Music Education - Instrumental*

August 2023 - Present

**Paradise High School, Paradise, Texas** - *High School Diploma*

August 2019 - May 2023

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**President's List** - *HPU Spring 2024*

**Dean's List** - *HPU Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2025*

**Kappa Kappa Psi Membership/Officer Status** - *Member since Spring 2024, Zeta Beta Historian/Alumni Relations Officer (since Spring 2024)*

**Gamma Beta Phi Membership Status** - *As of Spring 2024*

**Salutatorian and Top 10 Percent** - *Paradise High School Class of 2023*

**National Honor Society Membership/Officer Status** - *PHS Member since Fall 2020, Historian 2021-2022 School Year*

**Panther Band Leadership** - *PHS Drum Major 2021-2022 Marching Seasons, Trumpet Section Leader 2020-2023 Seasons*

## KAPPA KAPPA PSI INVOLVEMENT

**Chapter Activity** - *Revived Social Media Presence, assist ME Process, Fish Fry Committee member*

**Conventions** - *Southwest District 2024 Attendee and Proxy for the Nu Delta Chapter 2024, 2025 Jurisdiction Committee member*

**Workshops** - *Southwest District Area Workshop (Texas) Attendee 2025, Southwest District Leadership Conference 2024*

**Other** - *Southwest District Instagram Takeovers (June 17, 2024 and September 7, 2024)*

## Samantha Whitaker's Platform

### **Representation**

I have always found it important that each chapter in our district is represented equally and feels included on a district level. Numerous chapters are involved throughout the district, from serving on various committees and attending events, but there are still chapters that have not been involved within the Southwest District in some time. If we allow chapters to go unnoticed like this, it is easy for them to fall by the wayside and go inactive. This has happened to some of Zeta Beta's little brother chapters; keeping all of our chapters highlighted and involved on a district level will be able to prevent the worst from happening. In order to fulfill this goal, I will:

- Work alongside my fellow district officers to ensure every chapter is reached. Through checking on each chapter, we can see if they need assistance or guidance in things such as paperwork, or just general advice on a chapter-basis. We can also encourage big brother chapters to reach out to their little brother chapters to ensure they are continuing to strive for the highest.
- Encourage chapters to partake in the Southwest District Instagram and Facebook, whether it be in the form of commenting, sharing posts, or hosting Instagram takeovers. I also plan to involve more brothers in the Southwest District Discord server.
- Highlight chapters on our social media feed (in addition to the New ALTO) to see more of what our chapters do so we are able to share traditions and history with one another. Each of our chapters do numerous things that support and uplift each of our four pillars, or celebrate one of our Kappa Kappa Psi national months. Our social media platforms are an excellent place to showcase our amazing chapters that might not make the feature page on the New ALTO. This could become possible by mentioning the Southwest District social media account on individual chapter's posts or stories, or submitting pictures and descriptions of each event for the Southwest District to post on the social media platforms.

### **History**

The Member at Large also serves as the District Historian; as the Zeta Beta Historian, I have a passion for capturing events pictorially and through writing. My own chapter's traditions and history have become unclear, so my chapter goal has been to find out origins of our traditions and inform current brothers of our history. It would be an honor to do this not only for my chapter, but for the district as well. I will seek out opportunities to preserve our history and traditions by the following:

- Conduct research of each of our district traditions to discover their origins and how they have developed to what they are now known as. I also plan to publicize this information on the social media and discord server so that more brothers are enlightened by our rich history as a fraternity. This would also help them with knowing what each award or tradition entails so chapters know what they are eligible for. Chapters are able to continue promoting these awards by applying for them and completing the Strive for Five goals.
- Keep a written and/or posted history of the district's events throughout the term. Numerous events take place within the Southwest District in the span of a year, including Convention(s), Leadership Conferences, and Area Workshops. I would plan to create posts for the social media pages that give an overview of the bonding and lessons from each event. I would also plan to keep a written record of events alongside pictures.
- Encourage chapters to collaborate with their campus libraries and/or band programs in order to archive or display KKPsi events and history so that it is better preserved. So much chapter history is easily lost because no one takes the time or knows of a way to preserve records of events. My goal is to change that so chapters know where they have come from to be the current version of their respective chapters.

### **Communication**

It is vital for any member of Kappa Kappa Psi to be able to communicate effectively. A mere lack of communication can be the reason for a dispute amongst individuals, or even the reason an entire chapter goes inactive. I have seen firsthand how communication can strengthen organizations, both inside my own chapter and the Howard Payne band program as a whole. One

of my goals as Member at Large would be to strengthen communication on all levels of this fraternity. This would include:

- Have seminars or posts encouraging and providing ideas for the basis of good communication between brothers from the same chapter. This would also be effective to have regarding communications with other chapters, Tau Beta Sigma (or the other music organizations some chapters may interact with), and even from district to district. To me, good communication involves a basis of proper preparation; one must prepare what they are going to say so that it can be effective. When communicating, it is important to be concise, clear, and provide all the information necessary. It is vital to be open to feedback and criticism and be able to work with other people to come to compromises.
- Encourage an improvement in communication between district officers and the chapters they are from and represent. It is important for brothers of the Southwest District to be informed and up-to-date on the occurrences of the district council that affect them.
- Building connections between chapters and individuals that can create lasting friendships or lead to great opportunities in the future through Kappa Kappa Psi. A connection could be made between chapters or individuals within chapters simply by meeting at district-wide events (like Conventions or workshops) or simply through social media platforms or the Southwest District Discord. I have been a part of starting a pen pal program with a few other chapters, which has been a great way to make connections with other students in different chapters; I would love to implement this district-wide. I have made many lifelong friends through this fraternity and built connections with alumni and band directors that could impact my future career, and I feel that everyone deserves the same positive experience in Kappa Kappa Psi that I have.

To the Brothers of the Southwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi,

It is with great honor and happiness that I am writing this letter of recommendation for Samantha Whitaker for the district position of Member-at-Large (MAL).

Samantha joined the Zeta Beta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi in the spring of 2024, and in her time with us, she has shown an amazing ability for outreach inside and outside of our chapter. As chapter historian, she has taken our almost entirely dormant Instagram page and Facebook page and revitalized them, putting them to the forefront amongst our fellow chapters, and pushing the chapter to be more involved on a district level.

Samantha has shown great leadership qualities in her time in the Yellow Jacket Band and is never afraid to take up any task that is asked of her. She displays many qualities of service leadership, something that would do her a great justice in her position of MAL. She has a sincere concern and desire to connect with her fellow brothers, which is shown in her every day activities with the band, brotherhood and previous district involvement.

Without Samantha's involvement, it is very likely that the Zeta Beta chapter would not be as involved on a district level as we currently are, and we cannot think of a better person for the job of MAL, and to continue the great success of Hunter Oldens work as MAL, than Samantha Whitaker.

As a more personal note from me, Chance Harmon, President of the Zeta Beta chapter, as I write this letter, I have seen a lot of the work that goes into running for and becoming a Southwest District officer, as I currently stand as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Southwest District. With this being said, it is with full undoubted certainty that I believe Samantha Whitaker would fulfill this position and fulfill any duty asked of her in this position to the highest standard, just as she has done with past projects put under her lead.

AEA,

The Zeta Beta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi



Howard Payne University  
Department of History and Government  
Brownwood, Texas 76801

February 28, 2025

Kappa Kappa Psi  
Southwest District

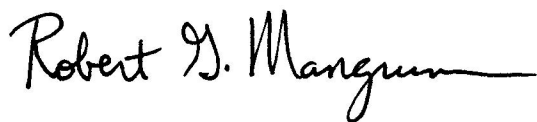
To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Samantha Whitaker who is seeking the position of member at large for the coming academic year.

Samantha is a very capable student academically and an outstanding student leader of the HPU Band as well as Zeta Beta Chapter of KKY. She has met or exceeded all expectations in several positions of leadership in the Zeta Beta chapter. In addition, as a member of the band she has performed beyond mere expectations, always striving for the highest.

I have no doubts concerning her assuming the duties of member at large at the beginning of the academic year nor in fulfilling the many demands of the position. I sincerely support her candidacy for this important position of the Southwest district leadership team.

AEA,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Mangrum" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Robert G. Mangrum, Ph.D.  
Coley Professor of American History  
University Historian  
Sponsor, Zeta Beta Chapter since 1985  
Outstanding National Sponsor of KKY 1999

RGM:rgm

March 15, 2025

To Whomever It May Concern,

I am honored to be able to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Samantha Whitaker.

Sam is one of my students and has been a tremendous asset to our band program since her arrival two years ago.

She initially began her educational journey at Howard Payne University as a Guy D. Newman Honors Academy student, which in itself is a significant achievement. She is also a musician and wanted to be involved in the band program which, historically, has had a schedule conflict between a freshman level Honors Academy course and the rehearsal time for Band. However, Sam kept in contact with me throughout her freshman year, attended all outside rehearsals, performances, and even participated in the Tuesday evening Central Texas Community Band just to stay connected to the ensemble until her schedule freed up.

Throughout this somewhat challenging phase of her freshman year, Sam discovered that her heart really was in music and decided to switch her major to Music Education. Since doing so, I've only continued to see her grow and blossom.

Sam is a very strong student academically, sitting nearly at the top of her cohort. She works hard at her studies and pursues a level of excellence in all that she puts her hand to. She also has a servant's heart. Sam loves to help and to serve. Whether it be in loading a trailer, organizing music, or cleaning a band hall, she is always one of the first of my students to lend a helping hand.

Sam is very active in the HPU chapter of KKY, Zeta Beta, where she currently serves as both Historian and Alumni Relations Officer. Her strong leadership qualities continue to manifest themselves through the ways in which she simultaneously holds these two offices.

Sam is also a member of the Heritage Band (an HPU student-led praise band that plays for our weekly chapel services), is active at Midtown Church in Brownwood, and works at the Brownwood Community Library.

It is for these reasons and many others not mentioned here that I heartily recommend Samantha Whitaker to you, without reservations, for your consideration as a candidate for the Member-At-Large Office in the Southwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi.

If you should have any other questions or concerns about Samantha or this recommendation, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan M. Kraemer, Ph.D.  
Director of Bands – Assistant Professor of Music  
Howard Payne University  
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