

# **THE CLEF**

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Mu Beta Psi National Honorary Music Fraternity www.mubetapsi.org

## Convention 2009: The Not-So Frozen North?

#### By Jennie McCarthy, National Secretary

Convention this year was held at Michigan Tech, up in the frozen north and quite a distance from most every other Chapter. Fortunately, the weather cooperated quite nicely for the weekend, with temperatures in the balmy 50s during the day. While none of us got a good taste of the famous Houghton weather, those who attended Convention were certainly able to get a taste of the rest of Houghton.

Of course, Convention consisted of the traditional meetings, Chapter Maintenance, Chapter Expansion, Board of Trustees, National Executive Committee and so on, and even a policy training session for all Chapters to take home. Much more occurred at Convention this year. Zeta Chapter planned an extra day prior to Convention, which they dubbed Zeta Experience Day, which allowed Brothers to experience some indoor games that Zeta loves to play like Twisted Twister as well as some outdoor activities. Unfortunately, the alleged Nu-Zeta Broomball game had to be canceled due to some unforeseen circumstances, but a great time was still had by all. The hospitable Zetas exposed those who came into town early to some unique experiences, including curling.

Banquet was another exceptional event this year. It was held in a beautiful banquet hall on the top floor of a Best Western hotel close to campus. The Zetas spared no expense in the facilities and the food. It was wonderful to see so many people travel so far to Convention and to know that Brothers were truly dedicated to being

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## Announcements & Reminders

- Mid-Year 2009 will be held at Wilmington, NC, July 24-26.
- Anyone may request a hard copy of *The Clef* by contacting the editor.
- Mu Beta Psi letters and letter templates are on sale through the Alumni Association! Please contact Jen Staten for more information and to order your letters!

there. A long-time advisor of Zeta Chapter, Joe Kirkish, was honored by the Zetas as they got down on their knees and belted out "You Are My Sunshine" in true Zeta tradition, which was truly wonderful to see.

As a Nu, I was not directly involved in any of the planning for Convention this year, though I did see the last week of getting things together as I was in town with the Zetas the week before Convention. I would personally like to thank all of the Zetas for the hard work and effort put into planning a great Convention this year and ensuring that Zeta-



Con'09 holds a place in all our hearts and memories.

Brothers at Banquet! From left: Andrew Spina (Zeta Alumnus) and his awesome face, Katharine Evaul (Alpha Alumna), Mary Kennedy (Zeta), Victoria Demers (Zeta), Drew and Erin Barwis (Zeta Alumni), Chrissy Fleming (Mu Alumna).

## Convention 2009 National Officer Elections

This year, four National Offices were up for election during Convention. They were National President, National Vice President of Chapter Maintenance, National Secretary and National Editor of the Clef.



### Meet your new National Secretary



Jennie McCarthy Nu Chapter Brother Meet your new National Editor of the Clef



Kate Capehart Mu Chapter Brother

## THE HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By Nathaniel Kulyk, National Historian

One of the first National Conventions of Mu Beta Psi occurred on April 25, 1931. While the actual location is not specified, the minutes were hand-written on NC State letterhead (although at the time, the name of the school was the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering). Here are some of the highlights of the Convention:

#### Highlights of the 1931 National Convention

Beta Chapter at Davidson College had a total of seven Brothers, two faculty advisers, and \$14 in the treasury.

A motion was made and passed that all Brothers must pay their initiation fees before they are formally initiated.

No Brother of Mu Beta Psi was recognized as a Brother until they paid their dues in full to the National Council, which were \$5.

Some of the new business discussed included the petition submitted by interested individuals at Clemson College in South Carolina; the election of National Officers who were still students that were in school; and a motion that should the National Secretary resign, that Major Percy W. Price would assume the duties, if seen fit by the National Executive Committee.

The following individuals were elected as National Officers: J. Rabb was elected to serve as Grand Maestro and S.P. Pardington was elected to serve as Grand Conductor. Elections were also held for the Grand Inner Guard and the Grand Outer Guard.

## Musical Languages By Megan Trapasso, Alumni Association (Xi Alum)

Music has been considered its own language by many people over the years. Some people have called it the universal language because cultures from all over the world have created music. Others consider music to be a universal language because anyone from any linguistic background or culture can feel what music expresses, even though what it communicates is subject to the listener's biases and background. Music is less subjective than regular languages, does not translate to specific ideas, and of course means different things to different people. It is not a linguistic language used for regular communication in the way that English, Spanish, Chinese, or any particular linguistic or written language is. But what if it could be used as a real language?

There are actually several instances of music being used to create invented languages. Musical invented languages are those that use musical sounds rather than (or in addition to) spoken articulation. Two of these languages are Solresol and Eaiea

#### **Solresol**

Solresol is the name of a musical language invented by French musician and author Francois Sudre in the mid 1800s and described in his book *Langue musicale* universelle, published in 1866. Sudre developed Solresol with the goal of creating a universal language that was equally easy for people from all cultures or mental abilities to learn. It could theoretically be used for simple and universal international communication, as well as for communicating with people with disabilities, such as with the deaf or blind. Also, because Solresol is easy to learn (at least in relation to regular languages), people of all mental capabilities could catch on quickly. It was hoped that Solresol would address these needs because the language is very simple and can be expressed in so many different mediums.

Solresol can be represented by spoken or written words composed of various syllables, or by series of musical notes, numbers, colors, or hand gestures. Solresol consists of the seven syllables: do, re, mi, fa, so, la, si. Each of these syllables directly correspond to the numbers 1-7, the seven colors of the rainbow in order, and the seven natural notes of a music scale in order from bottom to top. Each syllable also corresponds to a specific hand motion and to a written symbol. Thus, the same word could be communicated by being spoken, being written in words or symbols, being sung or played musically, being tapped out by numbers like Morse Code, signed, or drawn. When words are drawn, the syllables composing each word are one continual line (as in cursive), with each new symbol beginning at the end point of the previous symbol.

For example, the word "Solresol" translates to mean "language." It can be represented with the syllables sol/re/sol written or spoken, with the color sequence blue/orange/blue, or the number sequence 525. It could also be signed like sign language or depicted by a horizontal line followed by a vertical line followed by another horizontal line.

Solresol is organized into word groups of six words each that have similar structure as well as similar meanings. Each syllable in Solresol is associated with one or more general concepts or meanings. One particularly interesting feature of Solresol is that opposites are represented by the same series of syllables, notes, colors, or signs backwards. For example, fala means good and lafa means bad. Also, there are almost no synonyms, and each word can translate to a number of very similar concepts. For example, the English words respond, reply, answer, and retort, all translate to "refasi" in Solresol. Grammar in Solresol is based on accenting the basic words in different ways, such as accenting the first syllable or the last syllable of a word. This is how parts of speech are differentiated. By changing the accent, the same word can be expressed in its noun, verb, adjective, and adverb form. Accenting certain syllables can even change the gender of the word, for example differentiating between "bachelor" and "bachelorette."

#### Eaiea

Eaiea, a language created by Bruce Koestner, is a more modern musical language than Solresol. The word Eaiea in its own language translates to "musical hat if Mu Beta Psi earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

<u>GoodShop.com</u> is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

Just go to <u>www.goodsearch.com</u> and be sure to enter Mu Beta Psi as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

If you have questions, please visit <u>http://www.goodsearch.com/About.aspx</u> or feel free to contact me.

Jen Rose Staten

language." Rather than being based on seven notes like Solresol, however, it is based on the twelve steps of the Western chromatic scale. It is more primarily musical than Solresol because Eaiea does not have corresponding colors or numbers, but is only represented by notes or letters. It can be played on instruments, sung, or spoken.

Eaiea uses the individual English lowercase letters a through l. The letter a corresponds to the note A natural, the letter b corresponds to the note A sharp/B flat, and so forth, all the way to the letter l corresponding to the note G sharp/A flat. Because Eaiea is based on letters rather than whole syllables that include vowels, it is more difficult to pronounce than Solresol. However, it has the potential for a much larger vocabulary because it is based on twelve units rather than seven, thus making more word combinations possible. Words in Eaiea beginning with the same letter or pitch have similar meanings. Grammatically, Eaiea has its own prefixes and suffixes to alter word meaning.

Eaiea has great creative potential. For instance, a one-act opera has been written in Eaiea and according to one website, its composer is seeking performers. Another creative quality of Eaiea (and probably any other musical language) is the possibility of a vocalist's words saying one thing, while the notes he sings say another.

#### **Challenges and Benefits**

While these languages are based on a very cool concept, there are of course many limitations and difficulties associated with their use. First, they are hardly complex enough for more than simple communication due to limited combinations of units that form words. These invented languages also face the challenges that most "a priori" (after the fact) languages face: they are developed based on a preexisting vocabulary system, unlike most regular languages in which vocabulary and word structure have developed simultaneously over time. Also, these languages are not incredibly well-known at this time. There are small groups of followers across the world who are interested in them, but as far as I can tell, these languages are not a major form of communication for any group of people.

However, languages such as Solresol and Eaiea have great artistic potential—imagine being able to not only read music in the way we typically do (by playing the notes that are written), but being able to translate a piece of music note by note into real concepts or words. Also, imagine looking at a piece of art with a particular color sequence and being able to translate it objectively. In many ways, the beauty of art and music is that you can express yourself without words and not be constrained by them, but it is also an interesting option to express in your art exactly, word for word, what you want to say.



## **Finding Fun in Service**



#### Zeta Chapter alum uses lessons of service to others in leading the Michigan Tech Alumni Association, by Kevin Britton, NITC

Although Mu Beta Psi is synonymous with service, to hear Dr. Mark Mitchell (Zeta, S'74) tell it, it's the fun times that he remembers most.

"Some of the most memorable times were getting to hear and meet some jazz greats [that came to campus] such as Maynard Ferguson, and Woody Herman, to name a few," says Mitchell. Still, he asserts it was the service that drew him to  $MB\Psi$ . "I met several [Psi] people at set-ups and in Jazz Lab Band and liked what they did for music at Michigan Tech."

The experience, he says, was extremely valuable. "I learned how people work together and how to be a follower. Every setup or project had a leader, and it usually wasn't me." Still, "everyone in the organization gave up something to be there, and everyone was determined to get the job done no matter how long it took or how hard it was. There's power in that."

Mitchell, who graduated from MTU with a degree in Biological Sciences in 1977 and went on to earn a medical degree from the University of Southern Alabama, has had his own share of leadership experience. He became an emergency physician, and later served as president of Alabama Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. His current position, as Southern

Region Medical Director for Keystone Healthcare, provides a wealth of new experiences. "I've been able to get my hand in marketing, new business development, management, etc...things I never dealt with in 25 years of practicing medicine."

In 2008, his well-recognized leadership landed him the position of President of the Michigan Tech Alumni Association, a job he describes as "one of the best and most fun things I've ever done." In addition to the twice-yearly trips to the Keweenaw with his wife of 10 years Sharon, Mitchell cites efforts to improve MTU's Alumni Regional Networks, assist alumni affected by the economic downturn through the hosting of Career Networking events, and improving relations with the MTU Student Foundation as the most important and rewarding alumni initiatives he is working on. Mitchell clearly has a "hobby" he enjoys. He thinks others should too. "Your career is not always going to be fun or rewarding, or even interesting. It helps to have outlets during those times," he explains. Plus, he adds, "Don't stop doing whatever it is, either. If you enjoy playing the nose flute, don't think you can lay it down and pick it up again in a year or so when things calm down."

"Make time to play now."



Brothers making plenty of time to play, Gator-style, at Andrew and Chrissy Fleming's wedding ! Gents, going up: Dan Nezich, Drew Barwis, Andrew Fleming, Glenn Arnold, Dave Guthrie, Chris Ciarlariello.

Ladies, going up: Sarah Flourance, Chrissy Fleming, Alice Gerhart, Molly Wood.



## Zeta Chapter Advisor Retires After 33 Years

By Raeanne Madison, Zeta Brother

After 33 years of service to the Michigan Tech community, beloved advisor Milt Olsson will be retiring at the end of the spring 2009 semester. Olsson became an Honorary Brother in 1977 after striking a friendship with Brothers Jeff Paulson and Don Keranen (two names all Zetas should know), and has been an advisor ever since. Besides offering his wisdom and guidance to the Fraternity, Olsson also directs two distinguished ensembles: the Michigan Tech Concert Choir and the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra. Furthermore, he proudly led the Michigan Tech Jazz Singers, one of the first notable show choirs in the Midwest.

Olsson came to the university in 1976 with the intention of getting in a few years of teaching experience, while potentially searching for a different school. However, he was so impressed by the caliber of talent and dedication he found in Tech's students-- as well as the rare opportunity to direct both a choir and orchestra-that he felt at home and would remain here for the rest of his teaching career.

One of Brother Olsson's major accomplishments was his integral role in bringing the Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts to life. The building finally validated the Fine Arts at Tech and enabled it to become an official department. He has remained active in the training of young musicians by teaching several music history and theory classes.

Olsson will likely continue composing and conducting, but he plans on spending most of his time with his grandchildren, all of whom live in the area. His final concert will feature his own work, "Mass for Chorus and Orchestra." The concert will be April 18 in the Rozsa Center.

The Brothers of Zeta Chapter thank Brother Olsson for his untiring work ethic, his passion for teaching, and his commitment to furthering the four Purposes of Mu Beta Psi. Brother Olsson, you will be missed.

We have liability insurance now! It's a huge step forward, but we need to ensure we have the funds to continue supporting it.

The Alumni Association, a 501 (c) organization, is asking alumni (and Brothers) for tax-deductible donations. Any amount, no matter how small, is welcome.

Visit the AA website (alumni.mubetapsi.org) for further information.

## National President Report

By Garrett Cooperman, NP

It is an honor and a privilege to write my first Clef report as Mu Beta Psi National President. I am thrilled to be working with the National Officers to help our Brotherhood move forward.

I would like to offer my thanks and congratulations to Zeta Chapter for pulling off a successful and exciting Convention in the frozen north. Despite the remote location and the cold natural to Zeta, we still had a solid showing and many Brothers renewed their vivacity for Mu Beta Psi. This year's meetings were quite fruitful, producing policy revisions by several National Committees. The most drastic changes effected this year include an overhaul of the Finance and NEC Policies and the addition of a new Standards Advisor position in the Board of Trustees. ZetaCon '09 also saw four new National Officers installed. I would like to congratulate the new officers and sincerely thank the outgoing officers, Andrew Fleming, Chrissy Fleming, Julie Lyon and Megan Trapasso for all their efforts to help Mu Beta Psi advance to where we are now. Finally, Rho Chapter was warmly welcomed at Zeta for its first National Convention and received their Charter!

This year looks to be a productive one for Mu Beta Psi. I have already met with our National Officers to discuss our goals for our respective offices and any necessary collaborative endeavors for the future, including supporting both new and old Chapters to see that we maintain a solid infrastructure, and building on existing tools to help Chapters and the Brotherhood as a whole communicate more consistently and effectively. Our National Treasurer and Financial Advisor are hard at work to secure tax-exempt status, with the filing date just around the corner; our National Vice President of Expansion is coordinating her committee and the Brotherhood at large to begin Sigma Colony at Saint Louis University; and all our National Officers are focused on completing their own personal goals for the Fraternity and advancing our National Goals in a coordinated enterprise.

Though Convention has passed and we have gone back to our home areas, I urge all our Brothers to take as active a role as they can in the Fraternity as we grow and evolve – reach out to each other and stay in contact as you work to uphold our purposes. No matter how far apart we are, we all have at least two things in common – music and Brotherhood. I look forward to a great year with my Brothers. If you need to get in touch with me I can be reached by phone at (704) 351-1026, by e-mail at <u>presi-</u> <u>dent@mubetapsi.org</u>, via AIM and Twitter at jewethius, and on Facebook.



Nu Brothers Laura Kelland, Julia Kester and Zachary Parchomenko showing off their National President Garrett Cooperman and National Secretary Jennie McCarthy, both Nu Brothers!

## Standards Advisor Position Added to BOT By Bryan Sebeck, Alumni Association

Under what circumstances is it appropriate to alter the Crest? It is acceptable to put the Crest on undergarments? Can a non-Brother take a drink from a beverage container containing the Crest or our letters? If you were to poll the Brotherhood on these questions, the response you'd receive is far from unanimous. Who has the final say in issues regarding our letters, the Crest, and other fraternal insignia? Until recently, the National Executive Committee regulated the Crest, but no other insignia were controlled by any governing body. During ZetaCon'09, the Board of Trustees created a new advisory position, the Standards Advisor. The primary responsibility of this new advisory role is to advise "any Brother, Chapter or national Body on the correct, proper, and appropriate usage or display of Fraternal symbols". This additional advisory position to the BOT will be the person to turn to for all things relating to Fraternal items. The answers to the questions posed above will now come from the Standards Advisor.

The use of Fraternal symbols is much like a dictionary. Dictionaries are not things that are carved in stone. They're assembled from bits and pieces. There is a person whose job it is to assemble a dictionary, to constantly find new words to include. That person is a lexicographer. It's not the job of a lexicographer to be a traffic cop and decide what a "good" word is and what a "bad" one is. A lexicographer is a fisherman, who goes out and tosses a big net into the water to see what he finds. He must decide if what he pulls up fits the standards of what can be included. Sometimes, things just aren't ready to be included, or they're not up to par. The problem with a printed dictionary is that you end up with a bit of a ham butt problem. You have to cut off some perfectly good ham butt to make it fit in the pan. Two generations later, you have a much bigger pan and are still cutting off and throwing away some perfectly good ham butt because that's what your grandmother did.

The Standards Advisor is the lexicographer of our symbol usage dictionary. His job isn't to label something "good" or "bad"; instead, his job is to be the fisherman and examine what he finds and what is brought to him to determine if it's up to par. It will be his responsibility to trim the ham butt to fit the pan and to notice when the pan is more than large enough to fit the ham that we have.

Another thing that the Standards Advisor has the ability to do is become a bit of a Brand Manager. Just as major companies and the Universities of every Chapter have set forth guidelines for the usage of their logos, name and colors, the Standards Advisor can help the Fraternity to develop similar guidelines to help answer the more specific standards questions, such as: "How small is too small to print the Crest?", "Which of the infinite number of shades of red is the official red of the Fraternity?", or "How can I design something that is unique to our Chapter, but still acknowledges that we are a national Fraternity?"

Adding the position of Standards Advisor was a great step towards protecting, maintaining, and improving the public image of the Fraternity. Though the scope of the position and the types of issues that the Advisor will deal with will surely change over time, a preventative maintenance position like the Standards Advisor is a welcomed addition to the Board of Trustees.

## Chair of the Board of Trustees Report

By Matt Zander, CBOT

I hope this finds you all well.

The Board of Trustees conducted an ad-hoc review of the By-Laws for the Marietta University colony attempt in late January. We also had two meetings, the annual National Convention meeting at Zeta Chapter on March 13<sup>th</sup> and an on-line meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

At the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, we conducted the usual officer reviews, approval of the budget and chairman selection. I will once again be serving as the Chairman this year and Bryan Reamer will again be Vice Chair. We also amended the BoT Policy Manual to add a fifth advisor role to the Permanent Board Members' responsibilities, a Standards Advisor who is charged with advising the Fraternity on the proper use of our symbols. I've appointed Brother Ben Griffeth to fulfill this role. The BoT has made a motion to amend the National Constitution, currently under review by the Legislative Council, to add a fifth PBoT; more on this as the story develops. We also reviewed and approved a major National Finance Policy revision and received a proposal from the National Finance Committee for a Long-Term Investment Policy which we will be reviewing in the second half of 2009.

At the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, we conducted a review of the By-Laws for the upcoming Saint Louis University colony.

On a personal note, 2009 started out poorly for the Zander household as we had to put down our dog Skye (who we had 13 years ago when Andrea and I were actives at Zeta) over New Years holiday and had both of our vehicles die the same week in February. Things are starting to look up, however, and Andrea, Olivia and I were glad to see so many of you at convention. I'll be spending much of my remaining time this spring studying for the American Society for Quality (ASQ) Certified Quality Engineer (CQE) exam which I'll be taking in mid-May.

"Music is the soul of language." ~Max Heindel

## National Information Technology Committee Report By Kevin Britton, C-NITC

It's a challenging world.

Balancing the demands of Fraternity, school, work, family, and "hypothetical free time" is a continual challenge for most of us. The trick -- if there is one -- is to combine them in ways that make managing each a little easier.

At the 2009 National Convention meeting, NITC discussed ways to take advantage of the various tools and methods that the Chapter uses to interact to make their Chapters more efficient. Whether it's Facebook or Twitter, Google Calendar or even the intranet, we use an increasingly diverse array of technologies to interact with one another; being an efficient Brotherhood means finding ways to connect these technologies, minimize overlap, and drive our efforts in the same direction. It's a challenge, to be sure....but it's one we will tackle as the primary focus of the committee over the coming year.

At the same time, a key strategy is to simplify and focus on what's really important. That's never more apparent than in the current economic times in our world. Getting back to the basics is important whether you're a Chapter, a family, or an individual. As a Fraternity, focusing on the basics of our mission is key; namely, to serve the cause of music in our communities, and to promote and seek out fellowship with one another.

NITC will be doing its part in the coming year, by creating ways to make it easier to connect and collaborate with one another, and by creating ways to minimize the amount of time required to perform the administrative tasks we must do. What about you? What can you do to assist your Chapter in focusing on our Purposes? Think about it.



## In Brief: The Books of Knowledge and the Lamp of Learning

#### By Kate Capehart, NEOTC

Mu Beta Psi would not be Mu Beta Psi if not for its honorary focus and its emphasis on scholastic achievement. Though, technically, the "In Brief" series has ended, it would not be fair to exclude this integral part of our Fraternity and our Fraternity's most prevalent symbol.

The Lamp of Learning has been a widely-used symbol of knowledge, achievement and wisdom. Its symbolism is linked to that of diffusion of light. Light, in turn, is representative of knowledge. This is why sudden insights are portrayed as a lightbulb pinging on over someone's head. It wasn't called the En*light*enment for nothing; the illumination of the darkest corners of our minds has been an ongoing quest through history.

The surface symbolism of the Books of Knowledge is quite obvious: we learn from books. But, in our unceasing thirst for knowledge, we need to look deeper than just the surface. Books are not just a source of information for a research paper or something to do when the power's out and your laptop is dead. Books are the repository for all the knowledge humans have collected over their history; we entrust our greatest minds and our greatest conquests to ink and paper and glue. We preserve them; we protect them so that future generations can benefit from the lessons we have learned and hopefully teach them better than we could teach them.

But just as the flame that glows in the Lamp is always changing and ever burning, the store of knowledge that we keep in our libraries is never static. History is rewritten and every generation approaches the same texts with new eyes, adding their own voices to the millions already singing out at us from those pages. The examples are endless: the Bible, still at the top seller list of all time, boasts several thousand editions in several hundred languages, and it's still being translated and edited to this day. The great works of Shakespeare are constantly being reinterpreted, re-edited and recombined into dozens of new editions. Several great works of music are also being reinterpreted all the time: Beethoven's Fifth Symphony was rewritten for the DDR dancing game, Mozart's Requiem has been featured in several TV shows (including an episode of Aquateen Hungerforce), and a great number of The Beatles' songs have been rearranged and covered by other artists.

Nobody can argue that the harp, pipes, horn and lyre

hold a valued and proper place on our Fraternity's crest, but we must not forget the rich symbolism and meaning behind the two symbols that sit atop the crest. They imbue the Fraternity with its distinguishing feature: its emphasis on academic excellence.



## National Treasurer Report By Jen Staten, NT

One year ago I ran for the position of National Treasurer believing that the way we did business had to change. At the 2009 National Convention my beliefs were confirmed when the National Finance Committee, the National Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees approved a new National Finance Policy. This new policy, which does not go into effect until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, represents a sweeping change in how we approach financial management.

Recognizing that dues were not completely covering the cost of liability insurance and that we had depleted the funds set aside for this purpose, dues were raised from \$60.00 per year to \$40.00 per semester, a total of \$80.00 per year. This increase should completely cover the cost of liability insurance and enable the Fraternity to set aside money to cover any deductibles that may arise.

Reporting has changed from a national budget prepared yearly to a trio of reports that adhere to GAAP standards – a balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and annual budget. These reports will help us to secure tax-exempt status and to complete annual filings with the IRS.

The role of the National Treasurer as an advisor to the Chapters was expanded through the institution of an annual audit of the Chapters. This audit will occur each summer and will enable Chapters to start the new school year assured that their financial documentation is in order.

I look forward to enacting all of the changes found in the new National Finance Policy over the next year. If you would like to read more about these changes, you can access the new National Finance Policy in the Brother's Intranet Knowledgebase.

## National Secretary Report

#### By Jennie McCarthy, NS

Greetings Brothers! Thank you for selecting me to be your next National Secretary. I look forward to serving you in this role in the coming year.

As far as business goes, I have begun work on the Convention minutes and updating all of the policies modified at Convention and should have these uploaded to the intranet soon. The next National Deadline to remember is April 30. On this date, the following reports are due:

- Spring initiation report and fees to the National Treasurer
- ♫ Summer address list to me
- Alumni update list to the AA
- Alumni report for spring graduates to me
- Chapter bylaw changes, changes to informal initiation rituals to me
- ♫ NCCM report to National VP of Chapter Maintenance
- Pledging report to National VP of Chapter Maintenance
- ♫ Chapter archives to the National Historian

#### See "NS Report" on page 13

### National Historian Report By Nathaniel Kulyk, NH

Greetings! I am pleased to offer this report for The Clef. This past year has seen a great deal of progress for the Fraternity Archives. I have continued sorting throug the collection and have invested in a series of file envelop

the Fraternity Archives. I have continued sorting through the collection and have invested in a series of file envelopes to allow extra protection for our documents and have filed them by category to allow for easier access. I have also started the framework for an Archives Index in Excel form, which will be placed online to allow anyone the opportunity to see the general contents of the Archives. The Index will also give me the chance to see if there are any holes in the timeline, such as missing Chapter minutes or financial records, and try to fill them.

The greatest accomplishment has been the successful launch of the Mu Beta Psi Oral History Project, which was done in conjunction with the work of the National History and Archives Committee at Convention 2008, Kevin Britton, and the Alumni Association. All Brothers now have the opportunity to add their voices to the Fraternity Archives by completing a question and answer form. This

#### See "NH Report" on page 13



Houghton, Michigan, the site of Convention 2009. In the words of a born-and-raised Southerner, "The concept of twenty-foot snowbanks is deeply, deeply frightening."

## National Vice President of Chapter Maintenance Report

By Sarah Flourance, NVPCM

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to those Brothers who had faith in me to elect me as your next NVPCM. While this job is quite a daunting task from the start, I look forward to working with each and every one of you over the next two years! I believe there have been many great things to happen over the past few years, but that there are still plenty more to come as we work together to become a more unified, stronger Brotherhood.

It's rather hard to sum up everything I've been doing, especially since it was only two weeks ago we were in Michigan for Convention. I have been working hard to get myself organized in a way that I can better serve our Chapters, from looking over all my newlyacquired files, to reading Chapter documents and starting involvement in the NEC. Soon, I would like to kick the NCCM into gear for its last meeting of the school year to ensure that Brothers leave for the summer on the right foot. Over the summer, I would like to work at updating the Chapter Maintenance website and Wiki, as well as the pledging and NCCM forms for the upcoming school year so that Chapters have reliable resources for ideas and a productive way to express their Chapter's strengths and weaknesses.

It being so close to the summer, I would like to take a moment to remind Brothers of the importance of communication, especially over the summer when we are all spread apart and maybe not at our respective schools. Summer can be a time to be lazy or it can be a time to begin formulating ideas and working on projects for the following school year. Keeping in touch on a regular basis to help plan for upcoming events, or even to simply maintain personal lines of communication is a key aspect of Brotherhood and helps us strengthen our bond even when we cannot be there in person. Email, phone and the Intranet are fantastic ways to keep in touch with Brothers at your Chapter as well as nationally. I urge each and every one of you to use them to their full potential. Keeping in contact with your Brothers over the summer allows for better continuity between semesters, especially with the addition of new officers and Brothers as this semester comes to a close. The more that can get started or accomplished over the summer, the less that needs to be worried about when in the full swing of school work, regular meetings, and conflicts with many other activities.

Finally, on a more personal note, I am graduating from Rutgers in May. Until then, my life may be a little rocky and exciting between finishing up school, moving out, and getting a job. Regardless, I will still be very accessible to talk to and would like to urge anyone to contact me (even if it's just to chat). I hope everyone else is doing well and good luck to all those finishing up their school year!

## Welcome New Brothers!

#### Zeta

Steele Lindbloom Raeanne Madison Sharon Rayford Katrina Swanson

#### Omicron

Colin Briggs Alison Caldwell Emily Dabbs Kelsey Daniel Whitney Fitzwater Stephanie Fleagle Rachel Naylor Olivia Seale Daniel Waters Sean Weiser

### Pi

Ub Alvarado Emily Bader Danielle Durso Cassie Hill Ryan Jameson Becca Kashdan Patty Martuscelli Tiff Peng Dave Rule Michael Shelter Bryce Wolfe

## Rho

Patrick Ives

## National Vice President of Expansion Report

#### By Sarah Morrison, NVPE

Hello Brothers! This has been an incredibly busy year for me and the NCE. I cannot describe the excitement of installing a chapter and watching so many members of the NCE really grow and become leaders for expansion as a whole. Instead of winding down for the summer, we are simply reorganizing for another amazing fall.

We are in the midst of reviewing a petition with St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. This would extend our western border a bit and we all know St. Louis is the gateway to the West. Alumni Association and Zeta Chapter have been handed the reins of responsibility for this likely colonization attempt. The Host Pledgemasters are Laura Kelland (Nu) and Haley Vingsness (Zeta).

We also have been diligently reviewing our policies in the hope that they can be successful documents for the years ahead. Part of this review included evaluating nonhazing form timelines. It is the intent of the NCE to have forms only collected once per year rather than per colonization - this was trialed this year on behalf of two colonization attempts - one at the now Rho Chapter and the other a failed attempt at Marietta College. It proved successful and we have set the due date for September 30, 2009 for the now annual non-hazing forms. Please sign a form, come to an NCE meeting (Tuesdays, 9:15pm EST in the Brother's Chatroom) and make yourself available to colonists.

Unfortunately I couldn't make it to Convention but the wheels of expansion continued turning with Matt Zander handling the meeting for me and the dedicated expansion members meeting in person.

In personal news I am marrying Brother David Guthrie (Xi) on May 2. This will hopefully signal an end to my busy spring semester and a slightly quieter summer before possibly another colonization attempt this fall.

Finally, the office of NVPE is open for election at Convention 2010. This fall is an important time to be involved in expansion and really understand the workings of expansion. Please consider being an active member of or bystander to the NCE and contacting myself or any other officers regarding this position.

Please be sure that your Chapter sends all of these required materials to the correct national officer before April 30. All forms can be found on the Brothers' Intranet in the Knowledgebase under National Documents. If you have any questions about the forms that are needed or where they should be sent, please feel free to e-mail me at <u>secretary@mubetapsi.org</u> or call me at 315-430-9007. My address through May 16, 2009 is 15 Porter Street Apt B, Oswego, NY 13126. This summer, my address will be 618 Boston Road, Mattydale, NY 13211. In August, I may have a new address, but I will keep you all updated on that as I learn more about where I will be in the fall.

I hope that you all enjoy the rest of your semester and your summer. Again, thank you for putting your faith in me to serve as your National Secretary.

#### NH Report, from page 11

form allows the participant to reflect on their past memories of their experiences in Mu Beta Psi, the uniqueness of their home Chapter, their views on the meaning of Brotherhood, and anything else they would like to share about their time in the Fraternity. It may be accessed at the following web link: <u>http://alumni.mubetapsi.org/</u> <u>history.html</u>. Responses can be as simple or as thorough as the participant would like. All of the Chapter Historians have been asked to promote the project at their respective Chapters and I would like to invite all Brothers, particularly members of the Alumni Association, to participate. Anyone who would like to learn more is free to contact me or their Chapter's Historian whenever they would like.

Over the course of the coming year, I hope to complete work on the existing Fraternity Archives, add the new contents that are submitted in April, and start to scan the documents. I also plan to continue to work on the Archives Index, begin working on the Historian's Webpage, and hold office hours when possible to allow Brothers the opportunity to speak with me directly. Committee meetings will be called when the need for them arises. I am always glad to offer my assistance and would like to encourage everyone to contact me should they have a question, concern, or are in need of some advice.

I look forward to working with everyone over the coming year!



Mu Brother Logan Brackett and Chapter mascot Omicron Von Mucow pose for a "Mu's Clues" video shoot. The video, Mu Chapter's bid for Convention 2010, was received very warmly at General Assembly during Convention 2009 and is now on Youtube.

### National Editor of The Clef Report By Kate Capehart, NEOTC

Hello Brethren! I humbly offer to you my first issue of *The Clef.* I've made a few superficial changes, hopefully nothing too shocking. As is always the case, it's difficult to introduce anything too sweeping in the last couple of weeks before the spring issue is due, but I am planning several new content and layout changes I hope you will enjoy.

In the flurry of activity to get this issue done, it was difficult for me to come up with a theme. I sat at my desk and gazed out the window and all I could think about was how pretty it looked outside. I decided to take a walk, but when I stepped outside the unseasonable cold hit me rather hard. And so did an idea.

Weather has had an unusually visible role in our lives of late, at least in mine. An epic snowstorm kept me from getting up to Oswego this past fall to spend time with Nu Brothers. Down in North Carolina, we had two major snow days ("major" for us Southern folk is anything more than a dusting), which hasn't happened in many years. To add to the novelty, we saw six inches of snow on Inauguration Day, and the second big snow was in March (northern Brothers, imagine getting 90-degree days in October and then you'll understand our shock). Weather was always on the lips of Brothers at Convention, whether they were complaining about how cold it was or "Oh, this is *nothing*." Thus, the weather theme was born.

On a more professional note, I have been in talks with

the former NEOTC and other National Officers about an editorial board, about which I sent out an informal email several weeks ago. I have expressed my enthusiasm for this project before, and the responses to my email were positive, but I got *very* few responses. Now that I can look at this idea from the other side of the NEOTC position, I must, regrettably, follow my predecessors and table it for now. If you have questions or would like to discuss this further, feel free to contact me (email theclef@mubetapsi.org, AIM thekoanmaker, phone 704.747.9994) or start a new thread in the Intranet forum.

The good news, however, is that I am still moving forward with plans to fundraise for *The Clef* so it can include more content, be published in color, and appear as an interactive stand-alone website. You will hear more from me over the summer as I finalize these plans and put them to work for the fall.

As a last note (pun intended), I would like to remind Brothers that not only am I accepting submissions *yearround*, but I am encouraging all of you to submit creative works—they need not be music-related; in fact, I encourage you to send me short stories (750 words or less), poems (30 lines maximum), and visual artwork. As far as it does not violate policy, I will publish as many of these works from Brothers as space permits. I know we are all artists in some form or fashion—let's show it off!**J** 

## Alpha Chapter Report By Darryl Johnson, Alpha MAL

Alpha Chapter would like to thank Zeta Chapter for hosting Convention 2009. We all had a great time and enjoyed the visit. Hopefully we will be able to see some of you again in the near future. We are already looking forward to next year's convention at Mu Chapter.

We have taken on another service project for the music department this semester. We have been and will continue to inventory, sort, and clean the 300 marching band uniforms so they will be ready for the fall semester. This is a huge undertaking that involves all of our active brotherhood and many hours of tedious labor. We are having a blast.

We did not have a pledge class this semester and instead focused on building brotherhood and music department service. This has been a very effective endeavor and we have become a stronger chapter because of it. We know we are going to have an awesome pledge class next semester.

## Zeta Chapter Report By Bill Grant, Zeta MAL

Zeta Chapter has kept busy over the past months! In the service department, we are preparing for the annual spring road clean-up for the Michigan Department of Transportation-- making for the cleanest stretch of highway in the UP. We've continued our strong tradition of ushering for fine arts events at the Rosza Center and Club Indigo, and we've also added McArdle Theatre to our docket. In February, we sponsored Brothers Gary Tunstall and Mark Andrasko, local musicians, and used the money raised to fund the John B. McInnes pep band scholarship. Over Winter Carnival 2009 (A Frigid Place Gets a Blast from Space) Zeta participated in many events including Curling, Human Bowling, and Snow Statue Construction.

Just before Convention, we welcomed the Bach 'n Roll pledge class to the Fraternity, with 4 new Brothers (Raeanne Madison, Katrina Swanson, Steele Lindbloom, and Sharon Rayford), under the guidance of Pledgemaster Mel Jones, and Assistant Pledgemaster Robert D. Smith.

We recently hosted ZetaCon09 which was a huge success, and we thank everyone who made the trek up! We are looking forward to our Spring Potluck where we will honor our spring graduates, Ben Anderson, Katie Becker, Lycus Flaherty, Mel Jones, Danielle LaLonde, Mike Maksimchuk, Michael Senkow, Nathan Wiley, and Tara Waybrant. Finally, the snow total for Houghton, MI this year stands at roughly 220 in!

### Mu Chapter Report By Jessica Bowerman, Mu MAL

This has been an unusual semester for Mu Chapter. This is the first semester in nearly three years that we have not held a pledge season. We have found ourselves continually sinking into obscurity on our large campus and it has become clear that the way that we usually do business is no longer working. Instead, we have focused on internal chapter issues and service in the hopes that we could better show this university the role that we play.

After Erica Hall and I were initiated at the end of our Fall 2008 pledge season, we began concentrating on important chapter projects such as updating the website and planning for our annual Psi Jam a cappella concert. Sam Van Oort (non-Brother) was a great help in updating the website to include information about the current Brotherhood and our goals.

The annual Psi Jam a cappella concert was off to a great start; we had 3 campus a cappella groups slated to perform. However, one of the groups withdrew at the last minute and we were forced to cancel the event. We were disappointed about the situation, but look forward to having another chance next year.

Plans were underway for two separate pledge seasons this spring since we face membership troubles in the fall. Unfortunately, our attempts at attracting rushes fell flat. We had only two rushes, both of whom only had dubious interest in our Fraternity. Rather than proceeding with uninterested rushes, we elected rather to concentrate on the root of our troubles on this campus, namely that the services we provide are seemingly obscure and unimportant, and thus not interesting to potential pledges. We are determined to find a way to be important on campus and find a permanent niche. We have participated in many service projects throughout the semester, including ushering for the "Alice in Wonderland" musical (in which our President Erica St

Wonderland" musical (in which our President Erica St. Lawrence sang) and helping the Dirty South Improv Comedy Festival which came through the area. We have also been helping local a cappella groups with their concerts this spring, and are planning to volunteer at the opening ceremony for the newly built Kenan music building.

## Nu Chapter Report By Julia Kester, Nu MAL

Fall semester ended with us saying goodbye to some really great Brothers: Garrett Cooperman and Kristin Benoodt. They are greatly missed, but we are so proud of them for graduating. Spring semester is well under way, and with it came some excellent pledges and some exciting changes. Nu Chapter held its first closed rush event, which was a huge success. We interviewed potential pledges, which gave us something more to work with when selecting who we would like to have in our Fraternity. We chose to extend a bid to four people this semester, and three accepted. Our current pledges are Scott Silver, with bigs Melissa Aubin and Julia Kester; Theresa Filo, with Sara Loiacono and Stephanie Bernat as bigs, and Melisa Erwin with Tamar Greene for a big.

Another exciting event at SUNY Oswego was the Origins world premiere, which many Brothers were involved in. This event featured our college choir, festival chorus, and our orchestra, and many Brothers who were not involved musically chose to usher or attend the event. This event took a lot of time away from our Brothers, but it was something very different than we normally are involved in as a campus, and I think it was a great experience for all involved.

The most recent event that Nu Chapter has been involved in is the SingStrong A Cappella Festival, previously known as the East Coast A Cappella Summit. The festival is full of incredibly talented a cappella groups, as well as many workshops, and all the proceeds go toward fighting Alzheimers. One of our alumni, Diana Preisler, helped head the festival the past few years. We are always excited to volunteer our time – despite the long drive down to Virginia - as it is such a rewarding experience. Unfortunately this year only two brothers were able to go: Julia Kester and alumni Heather McDonald. This was due to a major music department concert in which nearly everyone was involved. We hope that next year more people will be available.

As our spring semester continues, we are focusing on bringing in quality Brothers and doing service both in the community and on campus. We have even used our community tour, one of our pledging events, to help make Brothers and pledges aware of some different service opportunities in the Oswego community. We brought them to the Oswego Music Hall and described some of the service opportunities available there. We hope to continue to successfully serve the music department here on this campus while we began to branch out into the community just a bit more.

## Omicron Chapter Report By Adam Gardner, Omicron MAL

Omicron chapter has just finished a very successful pledging semester, which has occupied most of our time since my last article. I am pleased to report that all ten, yes, ten pledges, came through successfully this spring after an arduous pledging season. Their highly creative pledge class name is "O-Mi-Cron Becky, Look At Her Butt!" This pledge class was very dedicated the whole time, and that is something that really stands out about them all individually as well. We've been very pleased with them all, and you can trust that great things are to come from all of them.

I'm sure many of you have come to know Omicron for our Battle of the Bands. Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual battle was very successful. The grand prize this year was recording time in a local studio, and was won by Sovotone. All three bands performed very well, and were each certainly deserving of this reward. We had a return appearance of The Post-Apocalyptic Blues Band, who took first place last year. Kristin Lawrence headed the battle up this year, and did a great job from start to finish.

We are looking forward to our Alumni Picnic in April. We have many alumni that are always nice to see, but rarely get the chance such as the case of one who lives in Seattle.

By the time you read this, we will have elected new officers for the next year. As we prepare for exams and the upcoming summer, our personal and collegiate lives are becoming increasingly busy, but we will remain tight as a brotherhood, and continuously bonding.

## Rho Chapter Report By Steven Losiewicz, Rho MAL

Rho has finished its first ever initiation. Rho Chapter would like to thank Zeta Chapter for all their help with making everything run smooth for our very first time. Pledge class Sasquatch is now officially part of Mu Beta Psi. We had 3 pledges this winter semester and the one and only Patrick Ives decided to stay with the pledging process and is now a Brother. Congratulations Pat! We are all proud of you.

Rho Chapter's future service projects are to help out with NMU's Jazz Festival this April, which attracts schools all the way from Cheybogan and Ironwood. Also, several of our Brothers plan on going to Bothwell Middle School in Marquette to help band director Mr. Lantz Whitfied with the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands.



Rho Chapter receives their official Mu Beta Psi Charter at Convention 2009! From left: Andrew Fleming, Jill Paul, Sarah Moulder, Amanda Bodamer, Rachael Dzbanski, Tracy Cheever.



Rhos Sarah Moulder, Tracy Cheever, Jill Paul, Amanda Bodamer, Rachel Dzbanski show off their colors at General Assembly during ZetaCon.







## Alumni Association Report By Katharine Evaul, AA MAL



The Alumni Association had a great meeting at Convention this year. Many Brothers made the trek to the snowy north of Zeta Chapter. The weekend was spent enjoying the Zeta activities planned though business was at hand. We are also excited for Ryan Hauck (Delta) as he and his wife Amy welcomed their third son-- Devon Thomas-- on March 24th.

We are continuing to accept donations to assist with the liability fund. All donations are tax deductible and can be sent to our Treasurer, Matt Zander. Lastly, during the next few months we are going to continue with our goal of establishing purchasing online of Psi-related items. Until then, items can be purchased through our Properties chair, Jen Staten.

Mid-year will be held in Wilmington, NC during the weekend of July 24-26th. All Brothers are welcome but as always new Alumni Brothers have the first year of Chapter dues waived. More information will be sent out as it is finalized.

## A-Mu-sements





#### **Weddings**

Amanda Bodamer (Rho) to Sean Karsten (non -Brother) on June 27, 2009. Brian Culkin (Nu) to Jennifer Callen (non-Brother) on April 25, 2009.

## Brotherly News

#### <u>New Arrivals</u>

**Devon Thomas Hauck**, March 24, 2009, to Ryan Hauck (Delta) and Amy Hauck.

## A-Mu-sements

## Word Search

MARCATO	QALUMNIDO	VEDERFVBT	
		1 R K I U Y H G A L	Congratulations to SIMON
ХFМUВЕТ	APSIDERFU	JCXFXCVZGE	MUSED, who was the first to cor-
NVAWQPD	SIUYQWESW	/ F G F T N N F D G	rectly guess last issue's Lyric
UAERYAK	JGLISSAND	ΟΙΚΟΕQUΙΑ	Challenge. Answers are printed
WSSTGLR	HFGCXEBNN	IHMIDRVEAT	below.
EDTIUTJ	ICBEMQYWF	KCAXOGSRO	This Lyric Challenge features
RFOTYOU	ΙΑΤΑΝΟSΕΕ	CCVSIJDUE	songs relating to the weather
		BHUICKNBD	theme of the issue. The first
		IQDVTOIYAC	person to email the NEOTC with
		<b>PRDFTJHTV</b>	the correct words to fill in the
		THKNIUNOF	blanks will be printed in the
		нјоорннко	next issue. For an extra chal-
		ACDNLFVDS	lenge, name the song and au-
		IOEJIYFNDI	thor!
		SIXCLPAYWR	
		VEJMDHNFE	You are my, my only
		IBFHRJGROC	You make me
		DNAWYRDRE	happy when are grey.
		QTEMPOETD	
		JISTHALNEA	Whenever it's a day ,
		C A C L L A F H A	I pack my troubles up in my
			room . I chase all the
		. R N A N M L E J U	away.
		<u>ENAQAZCMC</u>	
The word search	n was submitted by JC Pet	erson (Mu).	I read the page today,
			just to see how you are.
	Words to Fina	I	
	Words to Find	1	I can see clearly now the
٨	erando Erioco	Rubato	is gone.
Adagio		Sharp	
Alto	Flat	Solo	I'm walking on,
Andan		Sonata	whoa oh!
Aria Bass	Fugue Glissando	Soprano Symphony	The correct answers to last issue's Challenge:
Basso		Tempo	"Bye bye Miss American Pie."
tinuo	-	Tenor	"Cookie, cookie, cookie starts with C."
Beat	Maestoso	Virtuoso	"Cool <i>cherry cream</i> and a slice of apple tart" "She's my <i>cherry</i> pie."
Caden Caden			"Come bring us some figgy pudding."
Canta			"Anyway, this cake is great. It's so delicious and moist."
Coda	Piano		"I sure do like those <i>Christmas</i> cookies,
Cresce			sugar."
Dolce	Ritardando		"Pour some sugar on me."

Lyric Challenge

# "Music washes away from

## the soul the dust of every-

## Calling all Chapter Newsletters!

Does your Chapter create and distribute a newsletter? If so, please send a (digital or hard) copy to your friendly neighborhood NEOTC.

If your Chapter doesn't make one, give it some thought. Even if it's just one or two pages, it's an easy way to share Brotherhood and fun with your alumni and advisors as well as the rest of the Brotherhood. I am also planning to devote a section of the new Clef website to all Chapter newsletters!

## Writers and Ideas Needed!

I want us to make the next issue of *The Clef* bigger and better than ever before! Let me know if you want to:

- Share short fiction, poetry, artwork or other creative works (they don't have to be music-related).
- Submit new games, activities or humorous tidbits for the A-Mu-sements section
- Contribute photos from Fraternity or Chapter events (please ID everyone in the photo).
- Report on the Mid-Year meeting, held at Wilmington, North Carolina.
- Write an editorial/opinion piece on any aspect of our growing and changing Fraternity.

If you would like to contribute but don't know what to write, contact me by any method listed in my report and we'll brainstorm. Also, if you have a brilliant idea for an article, theme or other piece, send it my way!

In Brotherhood, Music and Love,



National Editor of *The Clef* 180 BPW Club Rd Apt R7 Carrboro, NC 27510

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		I