



THE CLEF

Mu Beta Psi National Honorary Music Fraternity

www.mubetapsi.org



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National President Report

By Garrett Cooperman, NP

My dear Brothers,

The National Organization is moving smoothly ahead in our national endeavors. You'll see in the other officers' reports some of what our committees are accomplishing, but we have a good amount going on. There is a prospect for expansion that is being steadily managed; the archives are now housed in a safer and more secure location than previously; the National Committee on Chapter Maintenance is honing our national cohesiveness and practicality; and the National Scholarship Program Committee is forging a policy with fervent focus. Most recently the NSPC began conceiving the financial structure of the scholarship and its execution, having crafted a purpose and eligibility base. This next piece will feature a joint effort with the National Finance Committee. Go team!

Business out of the way, I would like to briefly digress and put a challenge to the Fraternity at large. I have, since taking this office, tried to help shore up communication lines by making myself visible and by holding periodic discus-

sions on the Intranet chat room, sometimes about particular National issues, sometimes about... whatever comes to our creative collective consciousness, simply to promote camaraderie. What I hope we can do in these next several months is this: build on that premise of increased communication to effect better relationships across Chapters, specifically *between* Chapters, such that there doesn't need to be a

Announcements and Reminders

- ♪ Anyone may request a hard copy of *The Clef* by contacting the editor (SheRa.kdc@gmail.com).
- ♪ Mu Beta Psi letters, letter templates and other items (key pins, *Hail the Spirit* magnets, bumper stickers, etc.) are on sale through the Alumni Association! Please contact Jen Staten (Jennifer.ellen.rose@gmail.com) for more information and to place your order!

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National effort directed primarily at creating opportunities for conversation. The National Organization will continue to be a hub, a stimulant, a catalyst, an operator and network manager of sorts, but it would be wonderful if it wasn't *the* reason for inter-Chapter discourse and support.

Many of you will have heard this song before, even in my very voice, and I hope you'll sing along this time. I'm not knocking my singing voice, but we definitely sound better together, don't you think? 🎵



NVPCM Flourance poses with a wolf while visiting Zeta Chapter.

National Vice President of Chapter Maintenance Report

By Sarah Flourance, NVPCM

Welcome back to another year in Psi! I'm sure life is back into full swing for most of you, between passing midterms and ushering in new pledge classes. So far, it has been a productive beginning to the year for the Fraternity with hopefully many more great things to come in the following months.

Throughout the beginning of the year, the NCCM has been helping to update the Chapter Maintenance handbooks, as well as looking at the infrastructure within their own Chapters. I'm thankful to have such a hard-working and creative Brothers serving on the committee this year, and I'm looking forward to seeing how all their efforts pay off by the time Convention rolls around. We are only in the beginning stages of our projects for the coming year and we always welcome outside advice/opinions of other Brothers! This semester, NCCM meetings are held bi-monthly on Mondays at 8:30 EST.

I'm very happy to report that many of our Chapters have been working very hard on improving their own standing as a Chapter and within the Fraternity at large. Their dedication has brought them a greater cohesiveness, along with that the ability to tackle larger tasks, responsibilities and pledge classes. For that, I applaud them. Keep up the excellent work, folks!

I have been working closely with many of the Chapter Maintenance representatives and Chapter presidents to ensure greater chapter stability. In fact, I'm afraid to look at my cell phone minutes from this month alone. On the side, I made a trip down to Washington D.C. at the end of September to meet with two interested students and a faculty member at American University, at the request of NVPE Andy Stephens. Perhaps this trip and the upcoming Organizational meeting will produce a new colony for us. I urge all Chapters that are considering taking part in this potential endeavor to please review their responsibilities individually and as a group to make sure your other Fraternal responsibilities are being handled, well, *responsibly* before deciding to take on any more. I would hate to see any Chapter or individual get overwhelmed and have it be to the detriment of what we already possess as a Brotherhood.

On a personal note, I had a lot of fun traveling to Zeta Chapter for their initiations. [Insert stereotypical plug for inter-chapter travel here. Do it! You can get money for it!] Aside from work, I'm in the process of studying for the LSAT and applying to law school so please do be patient if you have difficulty reaching me! Hopefully this won't be the case, but I will try my absolute best to accommodate anyone who needs or would like to speak with me. I would like to hold two roundtables before the semester is out in an attempt to be more reachable.

Good luck to all collegiate Brothers with exams approaching, as well as to those who will be initiating new pledge classes soon. Congratulations if you are reading this for the first time! Have a fruitful, painless end to your semesters and quickly move on to break! 🎵

National Vice President of Expansion Report

By Andy Stephens, NVPE

The National Committee on Expansion is having a very exciting fall! After a contact in New Jersey stalled, we went back to our work of revising handbooks and modifying the Expansion website. However, two students from American University in Washington, DC contacted us this September, inquiring about forming a Chapter there. Our two contacts, Annija and Claire, met in September with NVPCM Sarah Flourance in Washington, and Sarah thinks that they're very well-researched and committed to joining our group. The students even stated that one of the main attractions was our openness to musicians of all caliber and variety. I still believe we need a better advertisement for potential colonists on our site, but their research shows that we've made a good name for ourselves.

On October 31, I went to Washington and hosted an Informational Meeting with the potential colonists, advisors, and several Alumni and Pi Brothers. Assuming the 25 students, 2 advisors and 12 potential other students stay interested, there will be an Organizational Meeting on December 3rd for them to sign up officially. Details will go out via email on the National Listserv and through your Chapter reps, but please let me know if you'd like to attend! The students are currently working on a petition, which the NCE will review before next term, and if all goes well the colonization phase will start this spring.

Pi Chapter has been voted Host Chapter if American U. should become Tau Colony. Congrats Pi! And hearty congrats to Andy Bronson and Grant Shea, the Host Pledgemasters for our potential Tau Colony. Updates will be sent out over the listserv as they occur.

We have weekly meetings every Thursday night at 8:30 PM Eastern/7:30 Central. Everyone is welcome to attend, and if you're interested in helping with a colony in the spring, I hope to see you there! 🎵

National Treasurer Report

By Jen Staten, NT

The school year has started off well. I'm happy to report that I've only issued two fines for items not submitted to National Officers - a number far fewer than last year. I hope that Chapter representatives continue to be diligent in filing paperwork and attending meetings. Please note that the next major deadline is January 30.

The National Finance Committee is looking to make new jewelry. If you have an idea for a new pin, necklace, or any new piece of jewelry, please contact me or your Chapter's National Finance Committee representative.

Please note that the office of the National Treasurer will be up for election at the 2011 National Convention. If you have an interest in running, please contact me, or the Board of Trustees Finance Advisor, Tim Kudlock, for more information. 🎵

National Secretary Report

By Chrissy Fleming, acting NS

We all define Brotherhood and service a little differently, but at the core of what we do is a fundamental idea: we don't just serve our purposes, we serve each other. Are you surprised, then, that two of our most revered Brothers served our Fraternity as National Secretaries? Ralph Daniels and Christian Kutschinski are part of a long tradition of dedication to making our fraternity prosper, a tradition which could continue with you.

The position of National Secretary is not as glamorous as some of the other offices, but it is just as fulfilling. No office has more presence or is more fundamental to our functioning. Every vote, every major decision, every action we take, the National Secretary is in the middle of it. If you are organized, a good communicator, and a devoted Brother, you could make a great National Secretary. Why don't you consider running for it this year? 🎵

National Editor of *The Clef* Report

By Kate Capehart, NEOTC

Welcome to the fall 2010 issue of *The Clef*!

The months since the last issue have been busy for everything but the newsletter! Over the summer I made another move, this time from Oswego, NY to Buffalo, NY. Since the move I have found two jobs (cut back to one, thankfully), and am working hard. That does not mean, however, I have lost time for *The Clef*.

Those of you who were at Convention this past spring probably remember me talking about the sale of adspace in *The Clef*. After discussing it with more knowledgeable Brothers (and non-Brothers), polling the Brotherhood at large, and doing some research of my own, I discovered that this goal is not germane to the spirit of the newsletter. Several Brothers I spoke to raised the point that adding third-party advertisements would cheapen the experience of *The Clef*, as it is one of the few tangible things we get for our dues, made just for us by us. They and others suggested restricting sale of space to intra-Fraternity advertisements, such as a Brother or a Chapter paying \$10 or so to advertise a Chapter event, a recital, etc., or to celebrate another Brother's achievements. I thought this would be a good idea, but upon taking an informal poll, I realized that Brothers, especially collegiate ones, usually don't have an extra \$10 or \$20 lying around. So I have put this fundraising idea on hold. The current budget for *The Clef* is enough to meet its needs, and *The Clef* in its current form (an informal, black-and-white newsletter [not magazine]) meets the needs and desires of the Brotherhood. If this changes and the Brotherhood wants something more than what *The Clef* can offer now, I and/or the editor at the time will surely restart the quest for the elusive Perfect Fundraising Idea ©.

That brings me to my next announcement: this will be my last issue as editor. I have decided to let someone else take the reins. I have already begun compiling a quick and dirty guide to the office for the next NEOTC, and will be happy to discuss the details of the office with anyone who wishes to contact me by email: SheRa.kdc@gmail.com; by instant message: thekoanmaker; or by phone: 704.747.9994.

May your semesters draw to a stressless, rewarding close! 🎵

National Historian Report

By Nathaniel Kulyk, NH

For this report, I wanted to highlight some of the things I have been working on over the past several months. First, in the spirit of working to achieve some of the mid-to-long range goals for the Fraternity Archives, I was able to secure a temperature-controlled storage facility for the hard-copies of our historical records. Working with National Treasurer Jen Staten, I was able to find a 5 x 5 unit at a reasonable price (under \$70 per month) in Chantilly, VA, located about 15-20 minutes from my home. The first year is completely paid for (plus they were kind enough to waive 2 months' rent as a good-will gesture). The majority of the Archives has already been transferred to the facility, although the remaining filing cabinets have not been moved as of yet.

Secondly, I purchased additional protective sleeves for our older documents. I can now report that all of the C.D. Kutschinski Papers have this valuable protection, and are now organized chronologically in three ring binders, allowing for easier accessibility in the future. It is my hope that this will allow some of our most valuable documents to be preserved for years to come!

Third, I have researched some of our older documents and came across some interesting facts and footnotes about our history, which I have used to develop the next three Historian's Corner columns for *The Clef*, including the one for this edition. Be sure to check them out!

Finally, I have been assisting the Acting National Secretary by saving transcripts of the past several NEC Meetings and preparing the Minutes for the committee. I am glad that I have been able to assist with this task and will continue to do so for as long as needed. In addition, any Brothers who are interesting in running for the Office of National Secretary: please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. It is an office that I have some familiarity with and I would be than happy to pass on some tips and tricks for anyone who wants to undertake it! 🎵

National Information Technology Committee Report

By Kevin Britton, C-NITC

Last issue, I wrote about a proposed re-writing on the Brothers Intranet. The plan was to create an environment based upon teams, with each team having its own Workspace where members of the team can collaborate. The goal was to improve collaboration within specific groups, while providing greater local management of information.

I'm pleased to share that rather than developing our own custom solution for this new model, I've identified an off-the-shelf solution that meets all of our primary needs, and comes with a development environment that will allow us to fill in the blanks.

The solution is called LifeRay Portal, and it's a pretty robust environment. It's divided into organizations (corresponding to our Chapters), and Communities (corresponding to our National Committees, or any other type of group you can imagine). Each organization or community can have a public area and a private area for members only. Through portlets, administrators can add forums, document repositories, wikis, polls, and more. It also has a profile system and built in Facebook-style chat.

More importantly, the software is commercially supported, meaning it will continue to be developed, lowering the risk for obsolescence (which we encountered on our current setup), and it's extensible, meaning it can be upgraded without disturbing customized code.

Right now, I'm working on porting over our user database, which is one of the biggest challenges we'll encounter. Once that's done, I will be setting up the National Organization and a few sample communities for local developers to use as models. Then the site will be opened up to NITC reps and National Committee chairs for their evaluation. The hope is to have at least a rudimentary implementation by Convention 2011. Porting over our existing intranet data (forums, etc.) may take a little longer.

With this new system, we will be in a better position to maintain our Internet presence in a way that is user-friendly and easy to manage. Stay tuned for more details! 🎵

Alpha Chapter Report

By Trish Artim, Alpha MAL

Alpha Chapter has been very busy this year! We are very focused on pledging this semester, and we recently initiated four new Brothers! Last spring's pledge class, the "Conspiracy Theory" pledge class, consisting of Chris Davis and myself, was welcomed into the Fraternity as brothers on April 17th! We also extend our congratulations to Brother Daryl Johnson, who graduated in May with a Master's degree in Technology Education and a minor in Industrial Design. Also, Brother Johnson married long time sweetheart Sarah Luikey on June 25th!

Alpha Chapter continues to support the NCSU Music Department in various ways, including helping out the NCSU marching band at football games and setting up and breaking down equipment for various music concerts. This is a huge job for our little chapter, but as always, Alpha rises to the challenge! We look forward to continuing to support the Music Department and to growing as a chapter and as a brotherhood! 🎵

Zeta Chapter Report

By Chris Bork, Zeta MAL

Zeta once again is keeping busy, especially in the community and with campus Visual and Performing Arts events. Last year ended with quite the transition, as six Brothers graduated from or left Michigan Tech. Over the summer, many Brothers stayed in the Houghton area, which allowed for many summer adventures of swimming in Lake Superior, seeing fireworks, or other outdoor activities. We were also happy to continue our service during this time by ushering Club Indigo events at the Calumet Theater.

The start of the fall semester was busy. We started the year with the annual Pep Band Tailgate, where we provided supper for our Pep Band during their initial evening rehearsal. We have also been having fun with selling programs at football and hockey games, and ushering for events such as the wind symphony concerts and "Turn on the Heat", an event put on by Little Brothers and Friends of the Elderly to raise funds to help heat homes of those elderly locals with little income. We also were able to make strong recruiting push to increase our visibility on campus. This led to a great Fall pledge class

of five, who called themselves the “Arrhythmic Misfits”. They were initiated in early November!

Zeta is also very happy to say that we have been in touch with quite a few Alumni! Brother Heather Vingsness (Fall ‘09) currently teaches in a town called Ewen, an hour’s drive south of Houghton. During our lock in, we were able to help organize a multitude of marching band music, and organize her classroom. Brother Haley Vingsness (Spring ‘10) has continued to work in Houghton and has been very kind to help, along with Heather, when we are stretched thin. We have also been happy to see many other Alumni visit us the last few months. 🎵

Mu Chapter Report

By Meredith Hawley, Mu MAL

At Mu Chapter, we are always doing something. Pledging, service events, planning National Convention, coordinating with other musical fraternities and sororities on campus, you name it! This spring, we held the Mu Beta Psi 2010 Convention and had great success. For the 2010 spring pledge season, Mu Chapter had two outstanding pledges, Stephanie Haynes and Rebekah MacDonald, who became Brothers on April 2nd last semester. They have been contributing greatly to our Chapter ever since. In the current fall semester, we have 4 wonderful potential Brothers pledging our Chapter and we hope they all complete the journey to brotherhood in the coming weeks.

Concerning making our “footprint” on our Tar Heel campus this year, Mu Chapter has worked selling tickets for a *cappella* concerts and recently spear-headed a joint Halloween party with the musical sorority Sigma Alpha Iota. We are also hoping in the future to coordinate more activities with SAI as well as the other musical groups on campus. We, as a Chapter, have been trying to coordinate more with the other musical fraternities and work together, hoping to promote our love of music to our university as a joint conglomerate opposed to separate groups. We have secured an inter-fraternal room in our music department for all the organizations and are currently in the process of securing lockers to keep all of our possessions. Mu Chapter is also making an effort to get more involved with our Honorary Brothers, scheduling times to have

lunch and reconnect, as well as with our Honorary Adviser, who has been assisting us in our goal of projecting the Mu Beta Psi presence stronger to the student population. We are expectantly looking to the future. 🎵

Nu Chapter Report

By Josh Farrell, Nu MAL

Things have been going well for Nu Chapter up here in Oswego. We initiated four new Brothers this past spring; Rachel “MARY SUNSHINE” Robillard, Erin “PRINCE CHARMINK” McIntyre, Amanda “SCHÖNE KRIEGER” Nargi and Joelle “CEOLAIRE” Service. We also had two of our Brothers graduate; Julia Kester and Melisa Erwin. Melisa has since moved to Albany, NY and Julia is currently pursuing her Master’s Degree here at Oswego. We recently initiated five new Brothers for the fall: Erik “TWISTER” Hubbard, Fred “ASTAIRE” Maxon, Crystal “ZELDA” Rowland, Morgan “XENA” Snyder and Nicole “WILLY WONKA” Ziegler, who are all working extremely hard. We are very proud of them!

Towards the end of the spring semester we had a fundraiser/garage sale put on by Brothers Monica and Lee Norton and so far this semester we have had a very successful gift basket raffle during the annual Family and Friends Weekend concert. The concert itself was very good as well, featuring many different Brothers in the various choirs and bands as well as a solo in the orchestra by Melissa Aubin who had her senior recital November 14th. Finally, as Convention draws ever closer, we are making all the necessary arrangements to make NuCon ’11 one to remember! We hope to see many of you there! 🎵

*A painter paints pictures on canvas.
But musicians paint their pictures on silence.*

~Leopold Stokowski



Brothers celebrate at Josh and Amber Farrell's wedding. From left: Zac Parchomenko (N), Theresa Filo (N), Laura Kelland (N), Andy Bronson, (N), Alex Resila (N), Lee Norton (Z), Joelle Service (N), Rachel Robillard (N), Tamar Greene (N), Josh Farrell (N), Amber Farrell (N), Melisa Erwin (N), Jennie McCarthy (N), Kate Capehart (M), Monica Norton (Z), Garrett Cooperman (N), Sara Loiacono (N), Ben Waterstraat (N).

Omicron Chapter Report

By Caitlin Connolly, Omicron MAL

Omicron chapter has been very busy so far this semester. We welcomed 6 new pledges but unfortunately had one drop before they became Brothers. We hope to see her back one day!

Congratulations to Sarah Williams, Sam Schultz, Nicole Donohue, Becca Ward and Rachel Keck, our newest Brothers! Welcome to the Brotherhood!

We are planning a spaghetti dinner as well as trying to get things together for Relay for Life. We recently helped out at a band concert and a faculty concert where we helped set up and take down the equipment for the concerts. Our brotherhood is more active than ever and everyone seems to be really excited about the brotherhood as a whole. We have been getting positive feedback from faculty members and are excited for more opportunities to help where ever we are able. We are excited to see where the semester takes us. 🎵

Pi Chapter Report

By Kat Petschauer, Pi MAL

The idyllic months of summer were full of fun times for the Pi Brothers. We did everything: from simply grabbing an Italian ice at Rita's to screaming our lungs out on roller coasters at Great Adventure, to casting spells at Harry Potter World in Florida.

For many Pi Chapter Brothers, Band Camp rolled around at Camp Lake Greeley in the Poconos at the end of August. This week off in the middle of the woods was unlike any other that the Brothers and the band had seen in a while—the rain was neverending! From the second day on, the sun remained hidden in a veil of clouds. But practices and Brotherhood activities went on despite the bad weather. Brothers still held social activities at camp such as a dodgeball fight and a talent show, as well as a movie night. Eventually the week drew to a close and the affectionately-called swamp was left as the band returned to dry land in New Jersey.

Since then, Brothers have been extremely busy helping with various tasks for the band, from leading the charge in unloading and loading the truck, to providing the band with water and snacks during the games, as well as cleaning up, and keeping the uniforms spiffy.

Outside of band, the Brothers of Pi have also been busy. On September 26th, Brothers were involved in not only walking a 5-K walk, but helped with distributing shirts and food, and helped with sign-ups. The sixteen Brothers involved enjoyed both helping with the walk but also participating in the event.

About a week later, Brothers were also actively involved with a local high school's marching band competition. Brothers were involved with escorting bands, selling tickets, preparing food, and help-

ing in any way possible.

Brothers have also been involved in other numerous activities. As of late, they have been spotted going to local high school band competitions to spread the word about the Rutgers marching band. They have also been involved in various parades and walks where their performances were very encouraging.

There has also been a drive to fundraise. During the month of October, Brothers have been selling Ghost-o-grams to the members of the marching band. Ghost-o-grams are small baggies full of candy that come with a message. Members of the band buy them for themselves or for other members of the band. Pi also held a bake sale at the end of October and raised enough money to provide hot chocolate to the marching band for the two remaining home games.

Pi Brothers continue this semester remaining involved in the Rutgers band, as well as continue to work on spreading their work to other parts of the community. 🎵

Kat Petschauer (Pi) makes herself known with a vuvuzela, made popular by the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.



Rho Chapter Report

By Patrick Ives, Rho MAL/VP

Our semester here at Rho has started off well and is getting better all the time!

Our numbers are growing steadily, with eight new Brothers joining last spring and six pledges currently working their way towards Brotherhood. We are working hard at keeping recruitment numbers up in order to sustain our still semi-new Chapter and maintain our active growth in the community. The latest generation of Brothers will soon be entering new territory as many of Rho's founders are graduating or moving into student teaching positions. I am confident that we will not only match their strong examples of leadership, but continue to develop our branch of this fraternity into a thriving organization that truly benefits our community as well.

Our service programs have been inconsistent so far. Some are great successes while others fail to get off the ground. We are slowly learning what works and what does not. Our university volunteer center has been a great help in this process. In the future I would like to see our service projects center more around the music organizations on campus and in the city of Marquette at large. We have a wonderful community of musicians and ensembles here, and I want our organization to become much more involved in facilitating their enrichment.

Chapter fundraising has experienced many, if not more, of the challenges that our service projects have faced. Our efforts this semester have not yet resulted in substantial funds being raised. We sold concessions at a campus cinema showing. However, when you can count the number of people attending the event on two hands it is difficult to make very many sales. We have some bake sales in the works for the rest of the semester which hopefully will prove to be more effective.

The bond between the brothers of Rho chapter has been greatly enhanced this semester. This is in part due to a new program we have adopted recently. The concept was borrowed from Omicron's "Percy's Pairs" in which every week each Brother is assigned another Brother to contact and with which to spend thirty minutes to an hour. It has helped the newer Brothers to get to know the found-

ers much better and has invigorated the entire Chapter. It has proved to be quite a successful program overall. I for one look forward to it every week!

We hope to achieve many goals as a Chapter. Some of those goals are far off and some of them we can see just over the horizon. I believe all of those goals are well within our reach. All in all Rho Chapter is looking to the future with determination, hope, and excitement in our eyes. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone at Convention this year! 🎵



Sigma Chapter Report

By John Donovan, Sigma MAL

Sigma Chapter's fall 2010 semester has been one of growth and energy. On Saturday, October 23rd, we proudly added nine wonderful new members to our Chapter after their successful nighttime initiation. Our Chapter's new brothers are Adrienne Edson, Allegra Merriweather, Emily Doig, Emily Newton, Joe Dougherty, Joey Sminchak, Julia Hilliard, Kelly Barabasz, and Stephanie Brenner. That Saturday morning, many of our Brothers and soon-to-be Brothers

participated in Saint Louis University's Make a Difference Day. Our group was sent to the Edgewood school to rake leaves. We managed to fill up a few dozen bags with leaves! This made for a great bonding experience, a symbolic final step toward fraternal unity before that night's initiation.

In November we began a service project in East St. Louis, across the Mississippi. Every week we'll travel to a church in a low-income community and direct a children's choir. This will hopefully be an ongoing project for months, or even years, to come. 🎵

Rho Brothers take some time off to bond over some tasty food. From left: Christy Sener, Brittani Antoine, Janet Richter, Joe Sener, Rachael Dzbanski, Steven Losiewicz, and Trista Zdroik.

Alumni Association Report

By Katharine Evaul, AA Secretary

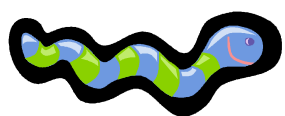
The Alumni Association is having a wonderful year so far! It began with the Mid-Year meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Ryan Hauck was elected to fill the remaining Treasurer term and Adam Gardner was elected as our Assistant MAL. Sarah Guthrie has returned to her post as Gathering Chair, so any Alumni wanting to announce an event, please contact her!

In addition to business, which was quickly dispatched by our re-elected President Chrissy Fleming, we enjoyed ourselves at the Inner Harbor. Brothers in attendance and their families visited the Baltimore aquarium, walked the Inner Harbor and even saw pirates!

Collegiate Chapters, please consider letting the Alumni Association know when you have events at which you would like Alumni to be present. We all love to be involved!

The Alumni Association will be having an online meeting on November 17th and anyone is free to attend, especially if you are a recently graduated Brother or are interested in joining the Alumni Association. Did you know that the first year of chapter dues is waived for any new AA member?

Finally, we are in the process of revamping our website. We are hoping to eventually have all of our neat items (t-shirts, letter templates, etc.) for sale online, so look for that in the near future! 🎵



You Know That One Song...?

By Kate Capehart, NEOTC

That one song that gets stuck in your head for hours, days, weeks? Or maybe it's just one stanza or a verse, or even just a couple of notes? Repeating *ad nauseam*, running in dizzy circles around and around your ears, driving you absolutely bananas by the end of hour 493?

You, my Brother, have an earworm. Besides being consummately irritating, earworms are a real psychological phenomenon that has been studied by various important sciencey folk. No, really, it has. The term, a literal translation of the German *Ohrwurm*, was made popular by a marketing professor called James Kellaris. His studies showed that approximately 98% of people have experienced an earworm.

Daniel Levitin, a cognitive psychologist, neuroscientist, musician and record producer, also delved into the study of earworms. He has published numerous articles on the relationship between neurocognition and music, and he is the author of *This Is Your Brain On Music: The Science of a Human Obsession*. He has also worked with artists and groups such as Steely Dan, Santana, The Grateful Dead, The Blue Öyster Cult, Stevie Wonder and Chris Isaak.

If that isn't enough for you, the well-known neurologist Oliver Sacks also researched earworms in his 2007 book *Musophilia*, contributing the title "involuntary musical imagery" to the list of earworm synonyms.

Some other fun synonyms are "humsickness", "repetunitis", "sticky tune", "brain itch", and my personal favorite, "tune wedgie".

So how do people get earworms (hereafter called tune wedgies)? According to Kellaris and Levitin, any song can become a tune wedgie. But there are some characteristics that make a song particularly prone to worming into your ear. Songs that are simple (lyrically and musically), repetitive, and contain some unusual feature (like an extra beat) are most likely to become tune wedgies. Some people (musicians and those who are chronically stressed, tired, neurotic) are more prone to getting tune wedgies than others. This, says Kellaris, indicates that they are the result of a complex interaction between musical (and lyrical) properties and an individual's traits.

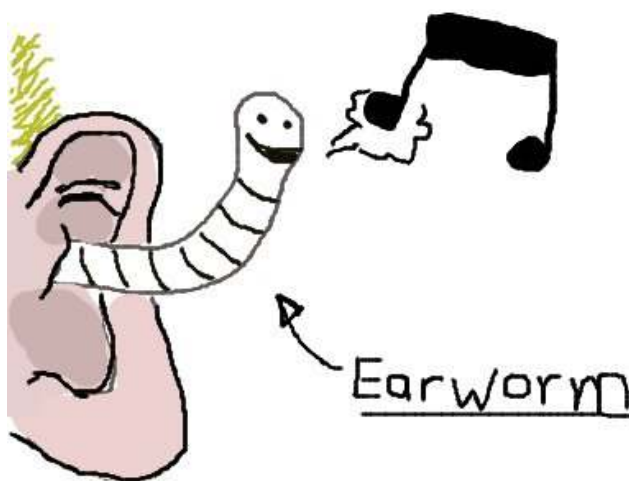
Okay, you say. I'm one of those lucky people who get tune wedgies *all the time*. So how did it get there? More importantly, how do I get rid of it?

Patience, young Padawan.

When you listen to a song, a part of your brain called the auditory cortex is activated. The same area is reactivated when you just imagine hearing the song. This retrieval of auditory input—whether it's a tune wedgie or not—can be called "perception in reverse", because it follows the same neural path as actually hearing a song, but backwards. This mirror-image of activity, Kellaris believes, is part of why tune wedgies get stuck so deeply.

The first and most common way to get a tune wedgie is simply hearing a song. This will trigger the auditory cortex and boom, insta-wedgie. But it doesn't have to be an entire song. Often, it's just a stanza, a line or even just a few notes. But once that wedgie digs in, it takes days of picking to get it out.

The second way is subliminal, or lyrical, exposure. This happens when you read a word—any word—and it reminds you of a song lyric. Which turns into a tune wedgie. Some good examples include "stop" (in the name of love), "one" (is the loneliest number), "blue" (da ba dee da ba di), and "never" (gonna give you up, never gonna let you down).



All the explanation you really need.

Got a wedgie yet?

I wish I could tell you to hang upside down from the archway of a cemetery gate while eating strawberry yogurt and twirling your feet in circles and your tune wedgie will go away, 100% Guaranteed Or Your Money Back. I wish I could say that because it would be hilarious to see, but also because we all want that one real tune wedgie cure. But sad to say, there is no tried and true way to cure a tune wedgie. Each one has its own cause and came to you for its own reason, so a panacea is, unfortunately, out of the question.

But there are some things that you could try, and I swear I am not making any of this up:

1. Eat hot cinnamon candy. The intense flavor evidently distracts your brain.
2. Listen to the song all the way through. Once.
3. Listen to another song by another artist.
4. Distract yourself with physical activity, like skydiving. But beware, the wedgie may return once the adrenaline wears off. Works with less death-defying activities too.

5. Drink alcohol (works like a charm).

6. Pass it on— sing your tune wedgie to a friend. However, they may become an ex-friend when they walk away humming it.

7. Play music; piano seems to work best.

8. Go to the Eiffel Tower. According to earwurm.com, nobody has reported having a tune wedgie on this structure. And because I found it on the internet, you know it's true.

9. Listen to "Staying Alive" by the Bee Gees. If your tune wedgie endures, despair not. It will go away in time. If it does not, however, you may have a condition called endomusia, wherein the sufferer actually *hears* music that is not there. Endomusia is related to obsessive-compulsive disorder in that it is a type of persistent, recurring thought. It is also classified as a type of hallucination in that the auditory cortex is activated as it is when one actually hears music, not in the perception-in-reverse way that results in tune wedgies.

If you are interested in learning more about tune wedgies and various other intersections of music and psychology, I recommend grabbing a copy of *Musophilia* by Oliver Sacks (Knopf, 2007) or *This Is Your Brain On Music* by Daniel Levitin (Dutton, 2006). Or you could check out earwurm.com, which has resources to help you identify and get rid of those pesky wedgies.

Happy picking! 🎵

Welcome New Brothers!

Alpha

Brandon Harrison
Ashleigh Lumpkin
Alex Ruble
Angela White

Zeta

Katy Ellenich
Eric Leifermann
Blake Panasiewicz
Alex Slepak
Danielle Terry

Nu

Erik Hubbard
Fred Maxon
Crystal Rowland
Morgan Snyder
Nicole Ziegler

Omicron

Sarah Williams
Samuel (Sam) Schultz
Nicole Donohue
Rebecca (Becca) Ward
Rachel Keck

Rho

Brittani Antoine
Zac Dowd
Jordan Marquez
Cody Pajtas
Kristy Priest
Janet Richter
Joe Sener
Matthew Vogel

Sigma

Kelly Barabasz
Stephanie Brenner
Emily Doig
Joe Dougherty
Adrienne Edson
Julia Hilliard
Allegra Merriweather
Emily Newton
Joey Sminchak

Brother Sarcastic's Guide to: Music Service



By Andy Bronson, Nu Chapter

Hey gang! Welcome to the first intriguing installment of the Mr. Sarcastic's Guide Series, the only series that will leave you satisfied and smiling all day long. That's what she said. Anywho, this particular article is dedicated to our wonderful Brothers, who through what I can only describe as "voodoo magic", have talked me into writing an article that takes up an entire two page section, unless Kate cuts me.

So let's talk music service. As a Brother from Nu Chapter, our version of music service is influenced by the idea that a Brotherhood is only as solid as those who actually show up for the service events. We always have offers to usher concerts, which is pretty sweet. All you have to do is wear a white shirt and black slacks, and just usher people in and out of the theater. During downtime, you're free to use your cell pho... darn, no reception down here.

It's like they KNOW!

But I do have some tips for you while you do music service, whatever those may be. And they all revolve around one common theme: Don't be that guy...

We live in an information age, Brothers. It's a fact of life. But when you're ushering for a theater performance, and your cell phone isn't on vibrate, and your best friend Chuggs happens to call you to the embarrassing ringtone of "Baby Got Back"? I've got news for you—you're that guy. Don't be that guy. While Sir Mix-a-lot may be a respectable knight, you my Brother, are not.

Also when doing service, it is only respectful that you don't hand out lighters to patrons. While in the olden days, it represented the music being AWESOME, now it's one of those things that can burn down a building... especially if you're at Alpha. Don't be that guy.

If you happen to bring your iPod along for amusement, and you hear your favorite song from Wham, please don't make it big and start singing along. While you may love George Michael, chances are he doesn't love you back and he's only in it for the drug money. Don't be that guy.

If you are a sports fan, and you see a patron that is wearing the cap of your main rival, it is considered to be in bad taste if you remind them of the drubbing they received at the hands of your team, or to sing your team's rally song in their face. First, hold off on the Cheetos, and secondly, don't be that guy.

Well, that's all for this semester, gang. It's been a blast, and I hope to make this a semi-routine article, as long as I'm not slapped with a million dollar defamation of character lawsuit. So until next time, serve proudly, raise your voices to Brotherhood, and remember to drink the Kool-Aid. See ya! 🎵

On behalf of Pi Chapter, I would like to congratulate a handful of our Brothers that made the Dean's List. I would also like to congratulate our Brothers that accepted their admission into Gamma Sigma Alpha, Rutgers Academic Honors Fraternity. Our Brothers that made Dean's List are: Danielle Hawley, Matthew Leddin, and Cassandra Hill. Our Brothers who accepted their admission into Gamma Sigma Alpha are our lovely President, Claudia DeSantis; Pledge Educator, Cassandra Hill; and our band's Drum Major, Matthew Leddin.

In addition to Pi, I would also like to congratulate all Mu Beta Psi Brothers that have achieved such goals as Dean's List, or been admitted into academic-based honor Fraternities/Sororities.

I'm sure everyone is well underway, if not finished, with midterms. I hope they all went well! Also, best of luck to everyone on any and all quizzes, papers, or finals you have coming up as the end of the semester rapidly approaches.

As a final note, I would like to remind you all to please remember that academics should be at a high priority, since that is what you are at your respective higher-level education establishments for-- never be afraid to ask for help or admit defeat if something just isn't clicking.

Good luck, Brothers!

Michael Shelter, Pi Chapter

THE HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By Nathaniel Kulyk, National Historian

A snapshot of the early years, Part I:

In an expansion letter dated February 5, 1949, Major Kuschinski provided a brief overview of the early years of the Fraternity. Now, over sixty years later, it provides a valuable chronology that is worth sharing with the Brotherhood.

"We would all be happy to negotiate with you with a view to installing a chapter of Mu Beta Psi on your campus, but I want to tell you frankly that we are not a large national fraternity - yet. We hope to add chapters from time to time, and I think the best field for expansion is among schools of our type, as I think we have mutual situations and problems that differ from those of purely fine arts institutions.

The whole story in a nutshell is this, and I want you to know the real situation, so you will not be expecting to get into something big and glamorous, but by affiliating with us you might be doing a fine thing to help your set-up and be an inspiration to other institutions on your way to follow suit and help Mu Beta Psi become an important factor in schools of our type out west, and gradually build it up to a large national organization.

Summarizing briefly the history of Mu Beta Psi: It was founded here by my predecessor about 1925. Two years later another chapter was installed at Davidson College. A year or so later there were negotiations for the installment of a third chapter, but their records are not very clear for that period, when as you remember a lot of things happened -- depression, banking holiday, etc., including the loss of our funds in a bank failure, and the death in 1933 of my predecessor, P.W. Price, founder of the Fraternity. By that time the Director of Music at Davidson left, and during those crucial years of 1930-'34 they had no director and no one to foster the interests of Mu Beta Psi, and that chapter fell by the wayside, for, by the time I arrived on the scene here there was not a single member of Mu Beta Psi left on Davidson campus. When James Christian Pfohl assumed directorship of the Davidson Music Department, he, being a Phi Mu Alpha (Sinfonia) member, naturally chose to install a chapter of that great musical fraternity rather than revive Mu Beta Psi, so Beta Chapter was a dead issue ever since."

There will be more of this letter to come in the next installment of The Historian's Corner.

Brotherly News



Left: Bram G. Zander.

Bottom: Travis and Stephanie Smith.



Engagements

Lizzie Boyd (O) to Dustin Halterman

Weddings

Daryl Johnson (A) to Sarah Luikey
Stephanie Bernat (N) to Travis Smith
Josh Farrell (N) to Amber Farrell (N)
Trista Wilkins (O) to Paul Yopp
Kayla Heady (O) to Tim Bither

New Arrivals

Bram Gwydion Zander (6lb 1oz) on October 8, 2010 to Matt Zander (Z) and Andrea Zander (Z). Bram's big sister Olivia is also delighted at his arrival, even though he's a boy.

Other

Ryan Owczarzak (Rho) got a job with Auto Owner's Insurance in Lansing, MI as a Methods and Procedures Specialist.

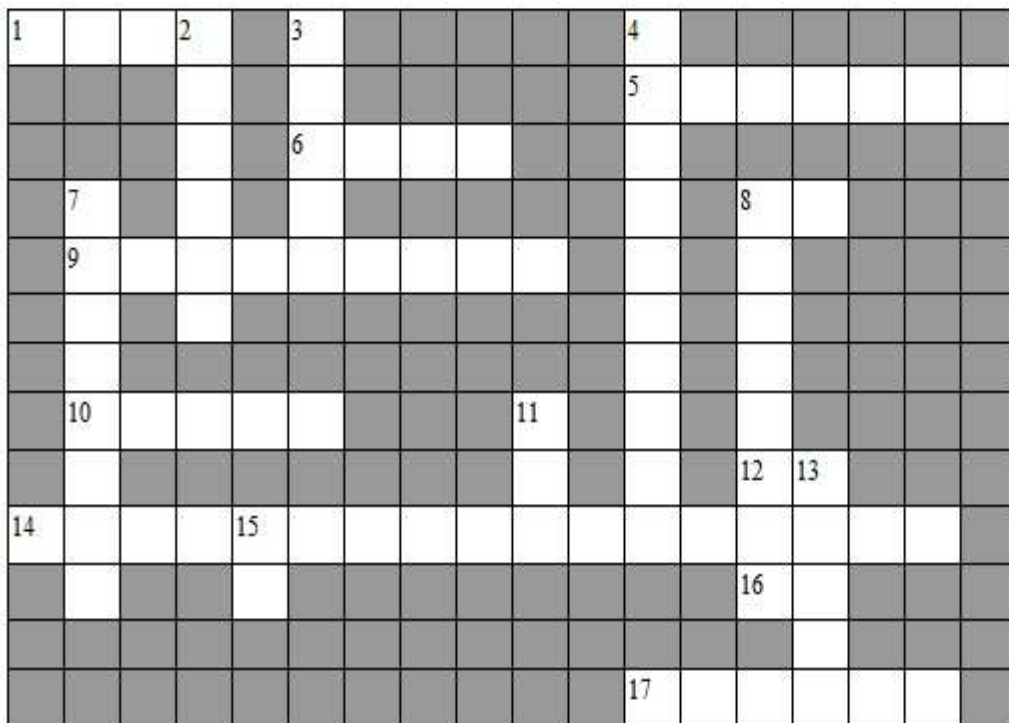
A-Mu-sements

ACROSS

1. Michigan Tech. Univ.
5. Roanoke College
6. Lowest female voice part
8. Univ. of NC, Chapel Hill
9. Period of music history from mid 1700s to mid 1800s
10. Music used solely to improve technique
17. Movement or passage that concludes musical composition

DOWN

2. NC State Univ.
3. Trumpets and tubas, e.g.
7. Unaccompanied choral music
8. A separate section of a larger composition
11. N. Michigan Univ.
13. St. Louis Univ.
15. State Univ. of NY in Oswego



This crossword puzzle brought to you by Caitlin Connolly and the letter G.

A-Mu-sements

Word Search

f s s i l g u r t b s a a a l c b t m i
r a p i a n o r c i m o t a r b i v i v
a x t b r o t h e r h o o d m a t s m n
t o e u o l p m o p r e t t a g o l u b
e p u z t e n i r a l c s e r v i c e m
r h n e s f p n t o m a l p h a t s t m
n o i t a i c o s s a i n m u l a s u r
i n m a p l r r h a j b u u o s b a l o
t e n l n i v t u r o o u r i a m r f r
y r a r o n o h n s r o b t n t i e p o

Mu	Omicron	Zeta
Pi	Rho	Sigma
Alumni Association	Nu	Alpha
Vibrato	Minuet	Minor
Major	Oratorio	Opretta
Pastoral	Brotherhood	Fraternity
Piano	Clarinet	Trumpet
Tuba	Saxophone	Flute
Music	Honorary	Service
Lifelong		

Answers to last issue's lyric challenge:

"Dirty deeds and they're done *dirt-cheap*." AC/DC

"I won't *put my hands up* and surrender." Di-do

"I can see you, your *bare skin* shining in the sun." Don Henley

"Jealousy, turning *saints* into the sea." The Killers

"It's not fair to deny me this *cross I'd bear* that you gave to me." Alanis Morissette



Did you know...?
Monaco's national orchestra is larger than its army. The lesson here?
Make music, not war.

This issue of *The Clef* was brought to you by:

- ♪ Chipotle burritos
- ♪ iTunes
- ♪ Late night AIM sessions with Brothers
- ♪ The Great Wide Internet
- ♪ All y'all
- ♪ The NEOTC's shiny new Laptop That Does Everything Awesome



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Writers and Ideas Needed!

Contact me 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 Convention 2011, held at Nu Chapter.
- ♪ **Write** an editorial/opinion piece on how *The Clef* could improve!

If you would like to contribute but don't know what to write, contact me (SheRa.kdc@gmail.com) 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,
Kate Capehart, National Editor of the Clef ♪

