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## IT'S OUR TIME

Lachi talks about brotherhood, making connections, and perseverance

**IN THIS ISSUE** 

Inter-Chapter Travel Rutgers Marching Band CFO Proposal

















# The Clef

*The Clef* is published twice a year by Mu Beta Psi, National Honorary Musical Fraternity.

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### THE FOUR PURPOSES

(1) TO HONOR THOSE OUTSTANDING MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE DEVOTED THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO THE MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS AT THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE RESPECTIVE CHAPTERS.
(2) TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS AT THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE RESPECTIVE CHAPTERS.
(3) TO ADVANCE MUSIC TO ITS PROPER PLACE AS AN EDUCATIONAL SUBJECT.
(4) TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE FELLOWSHIP AMONG MUSICIANS EVERYWHERE.

## oen Approach

Sarah Feutz, National President Alumni Association / Alpha Chapter

his year marked the 90th anniversary of our beloved Fraternity. It is amazing to look back and see how incredibly far we've come together and everything we've been able to accomplish through hard work, dedication, honesty, and love.

I stood before you last March and promised a National President who would be visible and available to each of you and I hope that you have found that to be true. So far this year, I have been blessed to travel to four of our collegiate chapters and I'm making plans to visit New Brunswick and the Upper Peninsula before my term is up. I have thoroughly enjoyed speaking with you all on the phone, having late night chat sessions, and seeing your beautiful faces over Snapchat stories.

When I got home from Convention last year, and after the high of being in a room filled to the brim with unconditional love, hope, and passionate energy, I was left to figure out how to keep those feelings alive all year long. Overwhelmed with ideas and goals for Mu Beta Psi, I reached out the last Alpha Brother to hold the office of National President, Matt Rushing. I asked him for advice and eagerly awaited his words of wisdom. He quickly responded and began with stating he wasn't sure how much he's be able to help since so much had changed since 1998. But I believe what he said shows us how much we've staved the same:

**(**The best thing to do is just stay in contact with everyone throughout the year. Put yourself on a communication schedule

so that you are periodically checking in with each Chapter. Every Chapter remember to reach out to the life lines your Brothers are faces its own challenges inside its own university dynamic, and helping brainstorm with them can be beneficial. Have a great knowledge about each Chapter's biggest weakness and their major obstacles and strengths. It could be that solutions to problems are at other Chapters, and communication issues are the only thing hindering those solutions." - Matt Rushing



After I finished fangirling that Matt has responded to me, I was more determined than ever to help my Brothers across Chapters, Offices, geographical barriers, and age gaps to communicate with one another with ease.

Whether you're a Brother still impulsively looking to put your pledge pin on each morning or a Brother who has quite a few conventions under their belt, my message for each of you is the same, never forget that you are part of a Brotherhood that is bigger than you. When it seems as if the waves are crashing down and you're sinking, please ardently tossing your way. Please remember when you're on cloud nine and everything is heavenly that you have Brothers who desperately want to celebrate along with vou.



Sarah Feutz at Tau Chapter.

Every time I hear a beautifully composed chord, every time lyrics move me to tears, every time I'm jamming to my latest favorite song in my Jeep, every time I'm rocking out at a concert, I'm thinking of each of you. I carry you all in my heart. Music is most assuredly the soul of my life and each and every one of you helps to embody that spirit.

We are so lucky to live in an age where contacting one another has been made so easy for us. Take advantage of that, share your Mu Beta Pstory.

I am so proud of this Fraternity and I cannot wait to see what we accomplish next.



Making sushi with Brothers! From left: Rob Smith (Zeta), Julia Kester (Nu), Sarah Feutz (Alpha). Photo credit Garrett Cooperman



Sarah Feutz at 2015 National Convention.



Brothers having lunch at the NCCM seminar. From left: Ben Cohn (Omicron), Derek Holden (Nu), Sarah Feutz (AA/Alpha), Reuben Rios (Pi), Jackiee Shikora (Nu), Scott Bennett (AA/Alpha), Garrett Cooperman (AA/Nu), Elizabeth Byrant (Alpha Alumna), Casey DeVane (Alpha), Megan Twamley (Nu), An Le (Pi)

## What are two things you learned the first year you were a Brother that you wish the newest members of our fraternity knew today?

1) Have close friends at other Chapters. Forming bonds with Brothers across state lines can be hugely beneficial, not just for support or networking but because they're people you can call for fresh ideas when you run into trouble as an officer, a big, or even just as a Brother. They have different experiences but the same dedication to our four purposes, and it can be a breath of fresh air to talk to your human whiteboard who has nothing to do with any of the chaos you feel you're going through at your home Chapter.

**2)** Advisors and faculty honorary Brothers can be huge assets for Fraternity leadership. They can help you recruit, troubleshoot, and even plan ahead for things that happen well after you graduate, because they'll still be at your Chapter. Making sure you're keeping a rock solid relationship with these people, offering them help whenever you have an opportunity and taking advantage of the help they have pledged to offer you, can pay back dividends.

## Maintenance

Proactive maintenance is the maintenance for you and me. Proactive maintenance is the maintenance of fraternity.

Garrett Cooperman, National Vice President of Chapter Maintenance Alumni Association / Nu Chapter

u Beta Psi is on the brink of several different possible expansion efforts, and at the same time we have a few different Chapters with stability concerns - two Chapters voicing problems with a culture of inactivity and one more whose same problem has contributed to its severe membership decline, putting it in danger of becoming an inactive Chapter. We will need to be focused and careful in our approach to these situations in order to ensure that we grow and thrive successfully.

We are doing two things right at the moment:

- 1. The National Committee on Chapter Maintenance is aware of Chapters' cultural concerns and is actively working to discuss, troubleshoot, and design mechanisms to prevent recurrence of cycles of inactivity.
- 2. The NVPE, NVPCM, and previous NVPCM are collaborating on New Chapter Onboarding Procedures to ensure that newly installed Chapters continue to train as members of a National Organization, such that we can ensure lasting stability and maximum involvement even after the colonization process has ended.

Shoring up our proactive maintenance is the best way to ensure our expansion goes well.



Labor Day Seminar for the National Committee on Chapter Maintenance

### WHEN YOU SEE A CHAPTER IN CRISIS, WHAT ARE THE FIRST WARNING SIGNS?

#### (1) Low membership.

When a Chapter gets down below 10 Brothers, I pay extra close attention to their recruitment activities and retention methods.

#### (2) Low activity.

Chapters that do more together stay stronger. If a Chapter's reports show that it is accomplishing less service or holding fewer Brotherhood events, that raises a yellow flag in my head, which basically means I investigate why that might be. Sometimes these things wax and wane normally, but if there is a pattern it could be indicative of a larger problem.

#### (3) High social unrest.

If a Chapter seems to have a lot of trouble keeping its Brotherhood united, that tells me that there are underlying cultural problems that persist, such as discontent with organizational procedures/leadership, opaque expectations, lack of follow-through, or shopping the same recruitment pool too consistently.

#### (4) Lack of National participation.

When a Chapter stops being as involved on the National scene as they have been or should be, it suggests that either A) their efforts are being poured more heavily into other things, so they may be low on resources, or B) they are disinterested in the National Organization's activities, so they may need to patch things up with us, their support network.

## Expansion

Business is picking up for the National Committee on Expansion. Our marketing efforts have really begun to pay off, with two of the schools we've focused on developing interest groups to learn more and get a petition underway!

Andy Bronson, National Vice President of Expansion Alumni Association / Nu Chapter

fter a year of marketing and reaching out, we're finally getting some bites from prospective groups! The first came from a group of students at SUNY Oneonta, which is situated about 2 1/2 hours southeast of Oswego and 3 1/2 hours northwest of New Brunswick. I had a chance to meet with this group for a general information meeting, which went extremely well. They already have two devoted faculty members in place to serve as their advisors, and the advisors are just as eager as the students to get the ball rolling. Petitioning will begin in Spring 2016.

The second group of students comes Tracie Butler and Zach Hitchcock, two from Wofford College, which we know student leaders at SUNY Oneonta. better as Kappa Chapter. Brother Amanda Griffeth has really stepped up to the plate on this one, delivering a



presentation to a faculty member who also happens to be a Kappa Brother. They've found a group of students as well, and as long as they can continue to recruit, a general information meeting will take place there as well, likely being led by the Griffeth's with me dialed in via Skype or conference call.

For more information on these and other developments, please feel free to reach out to your local Chapter Expansion representative to take a look at the minutes I send out to the National listserv after every meeting. Thanks!

#### Additional Copies

Want to share fraternal news with your campus Music Department, your Advisors, or prospective members?

To order additional copies of The Clef, please send your request to theclef@ mubetapsi.org anytime. Rushing chairs, Pledgemasters, and Publicity chairs often request extra copies to keep on hand.



## From the Treasury

Logan Brackett, National Treasurer Alumni Association / Mu Chapter

he Treasuring business has been fairly quiet (which, when dealing with money, tends to be preferable - excitement tends to only come when there's an emergency!) That said, there is a bit of non-emergency excitement currently afoot. The biggest news for me is having a Chief Financial Officer (reforming the current "Financial Advisor" role) on the Board of Trustees. This is a great step for strategic planning, and I look forward to the forthcoming conversations about what this means for the future relationships between the CFO, NT, and NFC.

On a more personal note, much of my energy this year has been directed towards the planning of my wedding to my partner in October. While I could regretfully not invite nearly as many people as I would have liked, I was fortunate to have many Brothers there, including my bigs, grandbig, and pledge Brother. One of the founders of Mu Chapter (my home chapter), Kirk Royal, even served an integral part the liturgy! At one moment after the service while posing for a picture, it dawned on me that I was surrounded with many years of fraternal memories - quite literally from Mu Chapter's founding class to its final class. One of the most powerful moments of the day was to be surrounded by the Spirit of Mu Beta Psi at such an important moment in my life. Even though I took pledging seriously back in '07, the life-long nature of the bonds of Brotherhood seemed a bit far-fetched to me. I wish I could tell Pledge Brackett about that moment, and assure him that the bonds are very real, and are very much life-long.

Money cannot in and of itself fix issues that Chapters face, but it can certainly help to facilitate the strengthening and repair of the ties that bind us."

Now, these fond memories of my Chapter are unfortunately timely, given the situation others are facing now. You may think the National Treasurer wouldn't have much to offer in the way of Chapter Maintenance, but let me stop you there. Money cannot in and of itself fix issues that Chapters face, but it can certainly help to facilitate the strengthening and repair of the ties that bind us. I want to take this moment to remind our readers of the **Inter-Chapter Travel Program**, wherein the National Office helps to defray travel expenses of one chapter traveling to another Chapter's initiation ceremony. Being able to welcome your newest Brothers at another Chapter helps to form incredibly strong bonds, and demonstrates to all involved the network that makes us a National Brotherhood, not just a bunch of people nearby who like the same stuff. It is not a quick fix to issues some may be having, but this moment of bonding is absolutely an important part of growing in the Fraternity that is too often overlooked.

I offer you these reflections in the hopes that you are reminded of the interconnections of our Fraternity. Some of us are new, and some of us have been around a while. We see some people every day, others we only see once a year if we're lucky. However you experience the Brotherhood, however you fit in, be mindful of how powerful it can be when we're together, be it to join in celebration, or to aid and comfort in crisis.

### INTER-CHAPTER TRAVEL PROGRAM

All active Brothers can use the Inter-Chapter Travel allocation to reimburse a portion of costs traveling to initiations or service projects at other Chapters, as long as your Chapter is in good standing.

(1) Talk to your Chapter President

Prior to your trip, your Chapter President authorizes travel reimbursement by emailing approval to the National Treasurer, <u>treasurer@mubetapsi.org</u>.

#### (2) Meet New Brothers

Get ready to experience Brotherhood in a whole-new place! They'll want to know you're coming, though. Contact Brothers at your destination in advance, so they can help you find a place to sleep.

### (3) Get Reimbursed

Keep your receipts. For trips over 120 miles, expenses like gasoline, rental cars, train tickets, and highway tolls are all reimbursable.

#### » More Information

For full details, access the Brothers' Intranet from <u>mubetapsi.org</u> using your username and password. As of now, it's stored in Knowledgebase > Policies, Manuals and Guides > Inter-chapter Incentive.

## Chord Progression

Fraternity life is always changing. Here's what it's like to be about to graduate from a different sort of place than we entered when we first became a Brother.

#### Ben Hendrick, National Secretary Zeta Chapter

hen I was a Brother for the first year, I wish I would have taken what I was given and made it my own. Things will change in your Chapter as new Brothers come in and old Brothers leave. Don't wait too long to do something great because you may realize that you're halfway out the door when you want to.

In order to keep pace with rapid change, it is essential to be confident on the foundations of which your Chapter exists. This foundation could be the a mixture of the purposes and the special characteristics of each Chapter. Whatever the mixture may be; find it, know it, and trust it. It is off of your foundation where your Chapter will run with change. You don't want it to fall out from underneath you.

Being an collegiate national officer and active at Zeta Chapter, I want to give big ups to all of the Brothers at Zeta Chapter for the hard work and improvements they've done. That said, I am continually being blown away by the all of the other Chapters and the work they do that crosses my radar. I wouldn't have guessed that I would ever be a national officer in college. I may as well learn to actually juggle, because that's what I've been doing since Convention. Being a collegiate national officer has been no easy task, especially as I wrap up my degree. I'll spare everyone the dry details of my day to day work. The work is being done though! I've been happy to say that my head is above water at school and in the Fraternity.



Club Indigo Ushering! From left: Ben Hendrick, Zach Evans, Hannah Kowalewsky



Working hard (in slippers) making chili for a fund-raiser. Ben Hendrick

### NAVIGATING CHANGE

I have a few tips for the collegiate Brothers reading this:

Learn something new every day.

Finish what you start.

Take time to enjoy what you've done with others.



## Talent isn't enough without hustle. Mu Chapter alumna *Lachi* shares how she finds strength in the opportunities around us, even when they tell us no the first time.

Iouds are forming with rain on the way in Manhattan, New York, when Lachi calls me on the phone, but the warmth in her voice comes through loud and clear. "*Hi! It's Lachi*," she replies when I say hello. And despite the sheer range of creative responsibilities on her plate these days, including a recent book deal, she sounds at ease while we chat about her former life as an active member of Mu Chapter at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. **TC:** Has music been a part of your life all along? Was there someone or something that connected you to music?

LACHI: Music and writing both have always been a pretty big part of my life, ever since I was very young. I came from a pretty large family. And my four oldest sisters made a singing group, and my mother was the head of a choir. Nobody was that great of a musician, but we all loved music. So it was all around us ... I couldn't get out of the music realm. I did well in math and great in science, but music had always been my thing. And I couldn't escape it, no matter how much I tried to tell myself I wanted to be an accountant.

**TC**: Were there times when you tried to push against that?

LACHI: There were times when it wasn't at the forefront. When I first got into UNC, I knew I had to do something. People think I'm smart. So I went in, and started studying things like business and economics, and math and management and statistics. I started looking around for ways to offset the way I figured I was gonna be. So I was like okay, let me look for outside, musical things I can be a part of. That's kind of where it started: I joined the women's Glee Club. That was where I met some of my best friends, and where I met my actual best friend, who is now my partner. We had our partnership in March. We've been together for eleven years, and we met in UNC Glee Club! Who knew.

TC: You have done quite a bit: you're a singer, a performer, a CEO, an author. When you talk about those things, you describe them with so much positivity and strength. It seems to show through in your music, as well. Is there something underneath the surface that's driving that energy?

LACHI: I would say yes, for several reasons. My epithet encompasses empowerment, overcoming odds, being the underdog, and continuing to push and persevere regardless of what's going on around you. And that's the type of thing that I put into my music, my writing, and pretty-much everything I do. And there's a reason I do that — it's not just because I'm a woman in a man's world, or because I'm an African-American in the white man's world. It's actually because I'm legally blind, in a visual world.

That impairment has always made me work a little harder for things, even little teeny things like crossing the street. Or just getting to work. Or we're all in class, and everybody's reading their textbooks really fast, and it takes me a lot longer to find the page or read this-or-that. Or see the board. That's a microcosm of how difficult things are. And I'm not saying this as a matter of complaint, but really I don't know any other way but to work much harder than everybody around me. So it's not like I go, "I really wish I could this-orthat," it's more par for the course that I have to work really hard to get the same level of things that people around me get. But in so doing, it allows me to get much more done than a lot of people around me get because of the fact that it's second-nature for me to work super hard for everything. So that's what I put into my music: that's why I sing a lot about empowerment, about being on top, about working hard, and about persevering.

TC: In addition to your creative message that's so positive and full of strength, are there other ways that you fight for the underdog in your everyday life?

LACHI: I'm sort-of what I would call a collector: I like to collect different people that seem a little misunderstood or a little offbeat, or a little weird and quirky. I love to hang out with them, and allow them to meet other people like themselves. I love to hang out with people, and it turns out that they end up being the best friends: the ones that are there for you, and they also tend to be the most interesting people, and the most artsy and artistic. So I like to work with them.

Recently I came across this writing circle, and there were a lot of authors there who kind-of guirky and off-thecuff, but they had amazing writing. So I went to them and said "Hey, I do graphic design. I do my own websites. Would you guys like me to help you out with the website? I could totally do it for however-much you have to offer." So I love to do things like that: a lot of people don't know where to start to really build their career. And they go, "Wow, Lachi, you're doing so much! Where do I even start?" So I love to guide some people along, or help with graphic design, or to consult with them on what they can do. So I do like to collect people and hang out with them, and get to know the underbelly of the artist community.



## About Lachi

#### Brother

Mu Chapter UNC Chapel Hill, Fall 2002

**Big Brothers** Jonny Cain & Chrissy Fleming

#### Founder

The UNC Cadence <a href="http://cadenceacappella.com/">http://cadenceacappella.com/</a>

### Chief Executive Officer

Music Scribes http://music-scribes.com/ http://facebook.com/musicscribes/

#### Performing Artist

#### ULACHI

http://lachimusic.com http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Lachi\_(artist) http://youtube.com/LachiVEVO

#### Author

The Ivory Staff: A Dark Fairy Tale of Kings and War, by M. Lachi http://mlachi.com/

#### Continued from Lachi, page 11

TC: When you described a group of people who are kind-of off-beat, and a little bit quirky, I couldn't help but think of the people that I know in Mu Beta Psi.

LACHI: Yes! That's very true. That's one of the staples.

#### TC: And I noticed that Jonny Chen [Cain] is your big Brother.

LACHI: I actually had a ton of big Brothers, because I had pledged once when I was a freshman and then couldn't complete it. Then I pledged again when I was a sophomore. So I had Ryan Ong as my first big Brother, and then when I came back and re-pledged, Jonny Chen [Cain] in combination with Chrissy [Fleming] were my big Brothers. I love her. She actually lives in my city; it's crazy! We need to hang out more.

**TC:** Is there something you learned while you were active at Mu Chapter that still stays with you these days, as you're taking on so many challenges?

LACHI: Mu Beta Psi was the first truly extracurricular thing I did that was not for credit. The first time I pledged, I didn't finish — school got rough, and I got bogged down with so many things. And when I didn't finish, it weighed on me! It weighed on me. So I went back, and I pledged again and I finished.



II am pretty big on completing long-term things that I set my heart on. I will say that Mu Beta Psi was one of the first things that taught me that. —Lachi

It was the beginning of me finishing things I start, and putting my all into things that I do. I didn't know that I was that kind of person until I didn't finish pledging the first time, went back, and finished it. Ever since then, I am pretty big on completing long-term things that I set my heart on. I will say that Mu Beta Psi was one of the first things that taught me that. Because it's not easy —you have to go to all these meetings, it's a pledge you take, and you're pledging. It takes a certain amount of endurance to get through the whole thing. I learned that kind of endurance, being depended on, and depending on others, through Mu Beta Psi.

**TC:** You wrote a book. That takes a level of stamina that is really difficult for people to ascertain, let alone deliver.

LACHI: Right. It was definitely a big hurdle, to complete the novel. Once I finished writing it, I did have it sit on the shelf for a bit. Because I finished the novel, I got excited, then began to send it out to publishers and agents. Then I'd get one rejection letter. Then two rejection letters. Then several rejection letters.



And so I'd start to think, eh, I'm gonna go do something else. Then like with Mu Beta Psi, I came back to it and said you know what? I'm gonna make sure this gets completed. And I went back and got it out there. I would say the easiest part of writing a book is actually writing the book. The hardest part is everything else.

**TC**: You joined Mu Beta Psi in 2002. Tell me about the experience with your pledge class: were you close with the people you joined with?

LACHI: I was not as serious when I pledged the first time. But when I pledged the second time, I got pretty close to Chrissy, and I hung out with Jonny a lot. And I got to know my copledge a lot, which was John Dudley. So we hung out a lot, and we did a lot of things together. And I got to know him very well. But the funny thing is that after I finished pledging, I ended up getting really close to a couple of new pledges that came after my class. So in the following class was this girl named Cat Harris; she and I, to this day, are actually



still really good friends. She comes to visit from Colorado, and I went to her wedding last year. The reason Cat had joined was because I was performing, just playing the piano in the dorms somewhere, and there were a bunch of people around me just cheering me on and she was in the crowd. I don't know how Cat found out I was in Mu Beta Psi, but she was like "Well, if she's in Mu Beta Psi, then that sounds like an interesting group!" So I met Cat when she came to pledge Mu Beta Psi, and we've been close ever since.

TC: When I was reading about your book *The Ivory Staff*, it was described as about healing a nation of prejudice and hate that blinds us to brotherhood. Did you experience any of those things while you were active at Mu Chapter?

LACHI: Oh, interesting! Because of Brotherhood, I see. Not necessarily in Mu Chapter, but while I was at the first three years at UNC, which was really the bulk of when I wrote the book, I travelled to Africa a couple of times. The book takes place in a fictional nation in Arab Africa. That was when I noticed a lot of the disparities, the corruption, and things like that. Not necessarily to do with Mu Beta Psi.

Oh, and here's something interesting, regarding brotherhood and coming together. Just Monday, we released a music video in conjunction with Gary Nesta Pine, who is the lead singer of the Wailers. He's taken over for Bob Marley. So I hooked up with him, and a rapper from Boston named Shea Rose, and another singer named Omar Lye-Fook from London, plus a producer here in New York City, along with a music-sharing platform app called Mixluv. And all of us around the world got together and wrote this song, called *It's Our Time*. I feel like it has a connection to Brotherhood, because it's about a bunch of musicians coming together to write this song across the globe, using the Internet. I filmed my section of the video in Paris. It was such a lovely time, and it showcases everyone coming together even though we have these hardships going on right now, for us to come together and look at the beauty of the world through music.

TC: You could draw a lot of connections there: not only the setting of *It's Our Time* in Paris, but the connections to working with one another, and finding the beauty within, while working with each other and making music together.

LACHI: That's what Mu Beta Psi is about. The thing I like about Mu Beta Psi as opposed to some of the other music sororities and fraternities is some of the underdogs can find a place, where they don't feel out of it. Because if you're an underdog, and the first thing you want to do is find a community, then you jump head-first into these other high-scale, uppy communities and you still feel out of place. And the good thing about Mu Beta Psi is that you can find a community where you finally no longer feel out of place. You're among other underdogs, so nobody's an underdog any more.

If showcases everyone coming together even though we have these hardships going on right now, for us to come together and look at the beauty of the world through music." —Lachi



## From the Archives

The Mu Beta Psi Ledger records the minutes of the first two National Conventions between Alpha and Beta Chapter and provides the roots of the National Organization as we know it today.

#### Nathaniel Kulyk, National Historian Alumni Association / Xi Chapter

#### The 1929 National Convention was held on November 8-9, 1929 in Raleigh, NC.

The first order of business was the creation of a committee to draft the National Constitution. The committee met to draft and discuss the wording. The National Constitution of Mu Beta Psi was formally adopted on November 9, 1929. The record indicates that Officer under the Constitution were elected, but there is no record of anyone being elected to serve as National President or National Vice President. Henry Wooster Horney of Alpha Chapter was elected to serve as the first National Executive Secretary. Following his election, Brother Horney was instructed to obtain the signature of a notary for the papers of incorporation - organized as a nonprofit institution. He was also tasked with the procuring and distribution of pocket copies of the Constitution and shingles for the Brothers. Finally, a ten dollar gold piece was offered to all in attendance for an acceptable Fraternity song.

V W Z

#### The 1930 National Convention was held on April 26, 1930.

Here, a ritual revised and used by Beta Chapter was tentatively accepted. Members initiated after 1929 were expected to pay an initiation fee of \$5.00 to the National Organization. It was also adopted at this Convention that the National President should be called the Grand Maestro and the National Vice President shall be called the Grand Conductor. There would also be a Grand Outer Guard and Grand Inner Guard elected from the Brotherhood. The Fraternity Seal as is with incorporated 1930 was unanimously accepted.

- 1. Paul Brown Fry of Beta Chapter was elected to serve as Grand Maestro and was the first National President of Mu Beta Psi.
- 2. Ralph Lowery Beard of Alpha Chapter was elected to serve as Grand Conductor and was the fist National Vice President of Mu Beta Psi.
- 3. Robert Edward Smith of Alpha Chapter was elected to serve as the Grand Inner Guard.
- Jack Henry Ramseur of Beta Chapter was elected to serve as the Grand Outer Guard.

## Kutschinski on the Delta Charter

Major Kutschinski sent this hand-written letter to Delta Chapter just nine months after the installation at Clemson on January 16, 1937. This letter is of particular significance, as it is one of the very few documents hand-written by Kutschinski in the Archives. Additionally, the very content of the letter itself is a fascinating read. While the primary purpose is to let Delta know about the progress of their Charter, he offers some unique insights into the Fraternity's challenges in the 1930's as well as his own personal dedication to making Mu Beta Psi a success. Here are the notable highlights:

I thought I would spend this night with my family for a change, as I have not since school began had 4 meals at home other than breakfast and Sunday meals, but I just felt the urge to come back to the office and get after some of the work that has piled up on me.

I have taken my responsibility as National President seriously, since it was placed upon my shoulders, and neglected many of my other duties, my family, and my physical well-being, lately, to make a thorough study of the entire history of the fraternity, from all the records that are available, and from what I can learn other members, with the result that I find myself all enthused, with a burning desire to push  $MB\Psi$  to the limit and try to make of it everything that its founder, the late "Daddy" Price had in mind. He passed away at a very critical period in the fraternity's history, and for a couple of years, with the "depression" adding to complications existing due to absence of his guiding hand, things looked a little difficult for a while. There was nothing much I could do then, and I wish that the boys would have taken me into their confidence more from the start, but "Daddy's"

old boys seemed determined to run the thing themselves, and it was only after I had served as director of music here two years that I was admitted to membership in the fraternity, and I realize it was merely a formality of carrying out the constitution which presupposes two years service in a musical organization on the campus for eligibility to membership. The boys have really worked hard at the job, tho, and during the past three years things



have really been more and more on the "up-and-up" and right now prospects are the brightest they have been in five years. The local chapter has had only two meetings thus far for this year on account of so many other things going on in the first month, but they are all working and enthusiastic about their program for the year and I hope Delta Chapter is as full of fire.

The past three days I have done practically nothing but work for MBΨ, a goodly portion of which was spend in dickering with printers and engravers 'till I found the ones who could give us what we wanted in quality and artistic excellence. Delivery will be made to me tomorrow (Saturday) but the artist who will be the finishing touches to the charter will be out of town 'till Monday. He may be too busy to do our work for a day or two, but I would rather have him do it than any one else I know of, even if we have to wait a day or two or three, and then I am sure it will be something your boys will be proud to frame and display in your club rooms. Thus you may truthfully tell your boys of Delta Chapter - "It won't be long now." 🕏

2. Qat. 8, 1937 with the "de We. Herbert C. grown, Res Wille Chapter, X BY what we wanted in quality and as excellence. Beting will be made to me (Saturday) but the altist who will put the custing in to descue Det of the KBY ches to the charter will be in College ing the may be too busy to do a . Buther Gree let I would als Turn on these a boys will Thus you may truthfully tell your bys of Welts chapter - It won't he long more ? with all good instan to y ter. (I have take chapter, I am the fast mouth, but he Fraternally yours, Christian Othetaluski + opening ree, but to return to the sharter hants all refinitely to ready for if Sam get the article to it the letter of and get the bast three day P. S .- Please keep me in truck with ... programs or projects your The part three days the & everything that its a the med whe and

The Delta Charter.

mubetapsi.org

## Say Hello to MBY Bed & Breakfast

With your help, a room-sharing service for traveling Brothers may become a reality.

#### By Chris Valliere Alumni Association, Zeta Chapter

uppose it's February, and you're travelling from Washington, DC to Chicago, IL. Your flight has been delayed for three hours when the gate agent comes over the speaker to announce that your flight has been officially cancelled. The airline can't get you onto a flight for at least a day or two, what do you do?

The obvious answer would be to book a hotel or sleep in the airport, but imagine something even easier. Imagine a web page you could go to that has Brothers in the area listed that would be willing to let you crash on their couch or spare bed. This is the goal of Psi BnB, a centralized location of contact information for Brothers with spare room in their own homes willing to put up Brothers in need.

The idea came from a lengthy discussion occurring on the  $MB\Psi$  Facebook group. In this case, a Brother was looking for places to visit with other Brothers that would be willing to offer up some living space. A huge outpouring of support came through this thread and the idea to



Map of Psi BnB Participants. Base layer ©OpenStreetMap

maintain all this information in one space arose. After creating a brief survey and spreadsheet with results, the floodgates were opened to the Brotherhood to input their information.

In a few short weeks, the amount of responses was almost overwhelming. To this day, we have received responses from nearly 80 Brothers across the country from Boston, MA to Los Angeles, CA. Questions that were asked on the survey spanned from basic contact information to any limitations the residence may have (limited ADA access, pets, etc.). As the responses came in, ideas began to swirl. A vision for the final edition of Psi BnB has been laid out, but still lies somewhere down the road.

At this time, Psi BnB will be presented to the Brotherhood in the form of a simple Google Map. We hope in the future that this could be expanded to a self-sustaining website – would be protected by login, would allow users *Continued on page 30* 

#### Get Started with Psi BnB

If you would like to get involved in helping Psi BnB become a staple of the Brotherhood by either volunteering your skills or adding your name to the list, please contact Chris at <a href="mailto:psibnb@gmail.com">psibnb@gmail.com</a>



## Rutgers Marching Band Turns 100

On September 26, 2015, Rutgers football team was to take on Kansas State, at home in High Point Solutions Stadium in New Brunswick, NJ. The day started like any other game day, with a 7:00 a.m. call time, but there was a different air of excitement than usual, and rightfully so. This wasn't just any ordinary game; it was the 100th anniversary of the Rutgers Scarlet Knights Marching Band!

#### By Allyson Wagner, Pi Historian

tarted in 1915 as an 11-member band that played for the Rutgers College Cadet Corps, over the past hundred years the band has become twenty times bigger. It encompassed many different marching styles, band directors, and uniforms. However, one thing has always stayed the same: the members' love of music, something that not only encourages band membership but also convinces many members to become Brothers of Mu Beta Psi.

As part of the celebration, the band invited Alumni to join them on the field for one more halftime show, which naturally brought back Alumni Brothers as well. For some, they were reuniting with old friends, best friends, Pledge Brothers. For others, they were meeting new people for the very first time.

It was great to be back on the field with fellow band members and Brothers!" — Chris Ciarlariello



Photo: Brothers of Mu Beta Psi, from some of the founding Brothers of Mu Upsilon Alpha to the newest initiated Alpha Chi Class, celebrate the Marching Band's 100th Anniversary.

As Chris Ciarlariello (AK, Spring '06) put it, "It was great to be back on the field with fellow band members and Brothers! I caught up with friends I hadn't seen in a while. I met a lot of older Alumni, so it was nice to hear their stories and tales of the band."

The celebration served as a way to bring together generations of band members, and bring history alive to them. For the 100th anniversary halftime show, the band worked hard to tie into the bigger picture, playing alumni favorites such as "Sing, Sing, Sing," and including a Big Ten medley to show support for all of the rival teams in the conference. This historical tie was even more significant than expected, in that Brothers all the way from founding Mu Upsilon Alpha (MYA) Brothers down to the youngest Pledge Class were in attendance, which equates to at least a 43-year span of Brothers present at the same time. Between all of them, there were stories to share and laughs to be had. It was a truly exciting day to be part of Pi Chapter, a day when music once again brought Brothers together.



#### Share Your Update

Got a big announcement to share? Brothers young and old would love to hear about your new degree, workplace, young ones and more. Send your big news to <u>theclef@mubetapsi.</u> org anytime.

## From the National Historian

Nathaniel Kulyk, National Historian Alumni Association / Xi Chapter

ver the past several months, I've worked diligently to continue the scanning of several historically significant documents, particularly from the Delta Chapter records which were added to the Archives at Convention 2015. Additionally, I purchased some additional protective sleeves and binders for our oldest documents. The primary purpose of this is to try and ensure longevity for these records in the hopes of ensuring that they remain with us for decades to come, if not longer.

I can report that the following sets of documents now have added protection:

- 1. Early Alpha Chapter Correspondence (circa 1930's 1940's)
- 2. All Beta Chapter Correspondence (circa 1929-1935)
- 3. All Gamma Chapter Correspondence (circa 1930's)
- 4. Delta Chapter Correspondence (1930's 1960's)
- 5. The Epsilon Chapter Petition (1965)
- All Epsilon Chapter Correspondence (circa 1960's – 1980's)

As this academic year continues, my goals are to continue work in the following areas:

#### Facebook Page

This project has been a tremendous success, based in no small part to the support it has received from its viewers and those Brothers who have contributed stories and photographs. I plan to keep this page updated as frequently as possible with new posts regarding our history.

#### Archives Transparency

In the coming months, I will provide the National History and Archives Committee (NHAC) with a set of proposals for the Policy Manual. This is to help address some of the questions that were raised in the spring regarding the electronic Archives and what documentation can be made available for the Fraternity online. My hope is that the NHAC will be able to work together to achieve a solid framework for the Fraternity moving forward for the preservation of our electronic records.

#### **Catch a Glimpse of the Archives**

The National History and Archives Committee has an active account on Facebook. All Brothers are welcome to join. If you would like to join the group, contact Nathaniel Kulyk at <u>historian@mubetapsi.org</u>

#### Electronic Archives

The National Executive Committee (NEC) has already given the green light to start adding documents and photographs to the online Archives, which is anticipated to be available on the Knowledgebase. I am working with Julia Kester on this project, as she is in the process of upgrading and expanding the Knowledgebase to a new platform. Once she is finished with this project, documents and photographs will start to be added. This is a process that I plan to keep the Fraternity fully informed about. My hope is to work with the NHAC to help fill any missing holes in our electronic records.

#### Prospectus

Every two years, in accordance with the NHAC Policy, the *Mu Beta Psi Prospectus* is to be updated. So far, the *Prospectus* has had a pretty basic framework and doesn't contain a great deal of information (records of past National Officers, Chapters, and a very general history). I would like to try and expand on this structure, with more detailed information. The final product must be approved by the NHAC.

#### Wikipedia

Mu Beta Psi has a Wikipedia page (<u>https://en.wikipedia.</u> <u>org/wiki/Mu Beta Psi</u>) which could stand to have some additional information added to it — including a historical overview.

As always, I am available for questions, comments, concerns, and historical contributions!



## CFO Explained

Great things are afoot in the Board of Trustees. Recently, there has been an active discussion among the permanent members (PBOTs) to solve our ongoing issue with the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) duties.

Andrew Fleming, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Alumni Association / Zeta Chapter

nder our current policies, the CFO duties rest with the PBOT Finance Advisor. This was all well and good when we had a professional Financial Analyst on the Board, but in the last few years, these duties have not been handled by someone with the proper training and experience required by a large organization like ours. There's been much debate among the Board over whether to hold an PBOT position for someone who has these kinds of qualifications. or whether the PBOT Advisory roles are even appropriate.

A solution was put forward at the Board meeting on October 20th. With the PBOTs in agreement, I proposed a resolution that will create a CFO position distinct from the PBOT Finance Advisor. This new CFO position will be appointed by the Board, and will serve at the pleasure of the Board. This means there is no explicit term limit, the person holding the position will do so until they resign, or until the Board decides to appoint someone else. The new CFO position will also be a nonvoting member of the Board, and so will not get a vote in the usual Board operations, but will instead be a kind of specialized

advisory position, with oversight of the financial strategy and a long-term vision for the financial security of the Fraternity.

With some excellent discussion on the duties and future of this kind of position, the resolution passed unanimously among those present. Brother Jennifer Rose Staten was appointed as Interim CFO to begin tackling some of the much-needed work to be done for the Fraternity's financial security.

This, however, is just the beginning of the process. To formalize the CFO position will require an amendment to the National Constitution and some guiding policies around the CFO duties. The Board is now working on these to put before the Brotherhood in the coming months. I'll be sharing our progress periodically to keep the Brotherhood informed of our progress. Additionally, the Board will be looking closely at the PBOT Advisory Roles to determine what roles make

sense to keep, or to change, to best meet the needs of our Fraternity.

Beyond the CFO, the Board is also considering this means as a solution to some of our other similar problems. There are a few easily identifiable positions whose skills are too specialized to have a new person serving those duties every year, or couple of years. The Brotherhood may consider creating a similar position for the CTO, another position with a very specialized set of skills and responsibilities that need long-term attention and stewardship.

In these actions, the Board is making strides toward securing the future stability and reach of Mu Beta Psi. I encourage you all to talk to your Board representatives, Chapter Presidents and PBOTs, about the work being done, and about your desires for the future of the Fraternity.

### SHARE A STORY

Brotherhood is a different journey for everyone. Your story could inspire others, or it might ignite a new way of thinking about the fraternity. Send your story to <u>theclef@mubetapsi.org</u> anytime.

## Letter for all Chapters and Brothers

In a time of heightened scrutiny upon peers in Greek life, the MBW Board of Trustees call for vigilance against behavior that puts one another at risk to physical or psychological harm.

Ben Griffeth, Risk Advisor, Board of Trustees Alumni Association, Kappa Chapter

#### Dear Brothers,

After seeing several incidents over the past year of Greek organizations making poor choices leading to suspensions and disenrollment by national offices and local campuses, I am writing to discuss the position of Mu Beta Psi towards our actions and the commitment of all Brothers to preserve this Fraternity. Though the events of this past year have shown egregious behavior by certain individuals or whole chapters of organizations, most if not all of these offenders quoted the line of, "This is how we have always done it," or, "This is not really different than how we have always done it." My joy (and the primary source of my relaxation at night) is that the Board of Trustees has reviewed formal and informal initiation processes for each Chapter on a frequent basis looking for issues that are likely to lead to misunderstanding or harm. Fortunately, we have only had to make a few minor changes in the 10 years of this practice. However, as the news shows, sometimes all it takes is one individual with a temporary lapse in judgment to lead to injury to people, to Brothers, and to the Fraternity.

As we continue to move forward and look towards our 90th Anniversary, I ask all brothers to celebrate being of One Voice. I ask them to have joy in their service to music, their campus, and their community. I also ask each Brother for vigilance. Help your Brother who is at risk of making a bad choice. Review the words, pictures, and posts for things that may not reflect the values of the Brothers or the Fraternity.

Take this letter as an opportunity to discuss with your Brothers and peers, what are our values and goals? And what do we want the country to see when they look at Mu Beta Psi? I have faith in the judgment of my Brothers and trust that Brotherhood will prevail.

In Brotherhood.

## New MBY Brothers

#### Alpha Chapter — Raleigh, NC

Alpha Chapter has four new Brothers this fall and three send their introduction:

- Travis Cothran is a sophomore from Greensboro, North Carolina, and plays in the NCSU Wind Ensemble on clarinet. When he is not playing music, he is working on a degree in Environmental Engineering, so that he may one day be able to help protect our Earth. In his spare time he likes to explore different music genres, hang out with friends, or play videogames. He is looking forward to seeing where being a member of Mu Beta Psi takes him!
- Amanda Lay grew up in Chapel Hill before attending high school in Columbia, South Carolina. She is excited to return to the Triangle as a student at North Carolina State. Amanda is a freshman in Horticulture and Agribusiness. Currently, she is a member of the NCSU Marching band and next semester will be playing the clarinet for the NCSU Pep band as well. When not marching or studying she generally enjoys spending time with her friends, reading, learning about history, and writing.
- Fredi Reyes is a freshman majoring in Zoology from Thomasville, North Carolina and is currently in the NCSU Marching Band. He has the intentions of earning his DVM from NCSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. Though Fredi is a saxophonist, he is also able to play guitar, piano, euphonium, and a number of other instruments as well as sing; in his spare time, he enjoys transcribing and composing music. He is noted for being a winner of the John Philip Sousa Award.

#### Zeta Chapter — Houghton, MI

Zeta Chapter welcomes the Red Hot Zeta Peppers, their fall 2015 class:

- Sarah Binkowis a fourth-year Civil Engineering major, originally from Huntington Woods, Michigan. Her big is Jacqueline Harms, who is absolutely incredible. She plays piano and the clarinet and participate in the Huskies Pep Band. Music is a big part of her life and she is working toward a Music Composition Minor.
- Bekah Kettler is a Mathematics major. She have been playing trombone for seven years. She is currently involved in the pep band but hopes to eventually get involved in more of the bands here at Michigan Tech. Her big is Kaitlyn Sterling.
- Zach Hansenis a Software Engineering major. He is involved in Chamber choir, piano lessons, and might join Pep Band eventually. He literally sings all the time!
- Gordon Grigg is a first-year Marketing major from Ishpeming, Michigan. His Big Brother Is Richard Carpenter. He plays the clarinet in the Huskies Pep Band, having played clarinet for seven years now and

he knows a little about piano. He joined Mu Beta Psi because he loves music and back home he was the music nerd in my school. He also joined because he likes all of the service that happens.

- Tommy Whitaker is from Grosse Ile, Michigan. He enjoys talking and getting to know new people. He really loves video games and the culture that surrounds them. As for exercise and adventuring, he enjoys running, sports, and exploring the Keweenaw. He plays bass guitar and played in rock bands for most of my musical career. His big is Michael Middleton.
- Sam Verran is a percussionist studying Psychology and Computer Science. Thus far, she's only been able to be involved in pep band, where she's overjoyed to be playing the quads. In the future she hopes to join more traditional band settings, such as orchestra.
- Rachel Strobel is a first-year Chemical Engineering major from Yorkville, Illinois. At Michigan Tech, she's involved with the Huskies Pep Band, AIChE, and SWE. In her spare time, she likes to knit and hike. Also, she enjoys building model engines, and helping to run an antique steam-powered piledriver. She doesn't yet know how to ski, but is hoping to learn while in Houghton! At her school district, music was very important, so she wanted to get involved in music here as well. As well as pep band, she plans on playing in the concert band. Rachel came to Michigan Tech for their great Chemical Engineering program, the location, and the culture. So far, she's enjoying myself greatly here. Her Big is Trevyn Payne.



The Red Hot Zeta Peppers and their big Brothers.

#### Nu Chapter — Oswego, NY

- Shannon Legott is a junior Music major from Waterloo, New York. Shannon is sweet, clever, and passionate about being the best musician that she can be. She has and can play an ocarina, she loves opera, anime, her clarinet, rice cakes, and her bigs, Derek Sexton and Bethany Annal!
- Andy Pullen is a sophomore Geology major from Liverpool, New York. He will blow you away with his saxophone skills. He loves the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Ultimate Frisbee, Star Wars, and his big, Derek Holden! Andy is a natural leader, and he brings out the best in the people he encounters.

- Remington is a junior double-majoring in Musical Theatre Psychology from Red Creek, New York. She is a fantastic singer, and a friend to all. She loves Supernatural, acting (you can find her in SUNY Oswego's next MainStage, The Stone Age), singing Bohemian Rhapsody, and her big, Cheryl Goewey. Remington's laugh is amazing.
- Caren Morris is a sophomore Musical Theatre major from Bronx, New York. She is one the of sassiest, wittiest people in the world. She is a great Stage Manager. She loves napping, ice cream, the musicals Wicked and Hamilton, singing in State Singers, and her big, Rachel Bortin!
- Sam Grogan is a sophomore Music major and native of Illion, New York. This is Sam's first semester at Oswego, having transferred from Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC). She is a brilliant soprano and is always smiling. She loves musicals (She was in Phantom of the Opera once), Peter Pan, Taylor Swift, scary movies, and her Big, Aaron Caraco.

#### Pi Chapter – New Brunswick, NJ

Alpha Chi class, Spring 2015, includes:

- Kelly Blackwood, a sophomore hoping to double major in Accounting and Business Management. I hope to one day open and run my own bakery. Music has been a part of my life since she could remember and has played flute, french horn, mellophone, voice, and a little bit of piano.
- Dory Knipple is a junior Animal Science major that loves sci-fi and cooking in addition to music, who does research with piglets.
- Keri Kurpick is a Finance major in the Rutgers Business School, and is in the marching band and pep band. She enjoys long walks on the beach, Harry Potter, and Doctor Who.
- Philip Muratore, one of the newest Brothers of Mu Beta Psi Pi chapter! He's a Music Education major and clarinet is his main instrument.
- Allyson Wagner, Rutgers University sophomore, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering major. Clarinet and cymbal player. She's got a bucket list of 150+ items and fully intends to cross them all off some day. Also ABC News once used her tweet in their article.
- Mike Rehorn is a sophomore in the Rutgers School of Engineering, majoring in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and minoring in Music. He plays Mellophone, French Horn, and Bass Guitar. He ran out of a physics lecture on Halloween last year in a banana suit screaming, "Gorillas are coming!"
- Amalia Hubal is a sophomore this year and a psychology major. She plays trombone in marching band, clarinet in concert band. She likes to nerd out over Harry Potter, look at pictures cute animals, and share bad jokes with everyone she knows.
- Lauren Upadhyay, a senior studying Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources. She is a member of the drum line and loves bees.

Caitlyn Sullivan, currently studying Elementary Education and Psychology, working towards educating the future youth of America. She spends free time reading, watching movies, listening to soundtracks, baking, or singing.



The newly-initiated Alpha Chis at Pi Chapter, with their Big Brothers. Back Row, from left: Lindsay Wilkins, Susan Zane, Ashley Pierce, Kieran Walsh, Jason Petti, Anthony DeCristofano, Devonne Jones, Rachel Uhrig, and Christina Vecchio. Front Row, from left: Mike Rehorn, Philip Muratore, Lauren Upadhyay, Caitlyn Sullivan, Allyson Wagner, Keri Kurpick, Amalia Hubal, Kelly Blackwood, and Dory Knipple

#### Rho Chapter – Marquette, Ml

Rho Chapter's fall 2015 pledge class, The Experiments:

Anna Kase is a junior from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin studying Zoology with a Chemistry Minor. Her Big is Rick Frankowski who is the best Big ever, and she couldn't have made it through pledging without him. As far as music goes she began playing



flute in fourth grade and continued on through high school and a little bit into college. Along the way she picked up alto sax so she could play in the jazz band, and clarinet so she could play in my high school's pit orchestra for the fall musical. When she came to NMU she picked up percussion and is an active member of the marching band's drum line on cymbals, and playing a variety of other percussion in our Percussion Ensemble. The type of music she loves to play is Taiko drumming pieces or other pieces played on drums with strong, intense beats. She's a member of the NMU Marching Band, Percussion Ensemble, Pep Band, and have played in the Symphonic Band as well as the New Music Ensemble. When not playing music she usually works on school work, or spending time with my friends and Brothers.

Keylyn Reed is from Iron Mountain, Michigan, majoring in Accounting. Her big is Karalyn Anderton who she



Trista and Ryan Owczarzak, expecting the first all-Rho baby.

didn't actually meet until finding out she was her big. She plays trumpet in the NMU "Pride of the North" Marching Band and doesn't have a favorite type of music to play. She enjoys reading, writing, hanging out with friends and binge watching Netflix, which sounds boring, but one can do that with friends so it's fine.

Nicole DeMol is a freshman from Holland, Michigan, currently a Pre-Veterinary medicine student. Her big is the fabulous Audra Hagan. She plays the Flute and the Piccolo. She enjoys any genre of music. She enjoys playing with her dogs, volunteering, reading, and sewing.

- Skye Kennedy is a freshman from Oxford, Michigan. She's not sure what to major in, but she hopes to travel and help people. Her big is Natalie Holbrook and they met when she participated in the "Pride of the North" Wildcat Marching Band as a trumpet player. She loves all types of music and enjoys volunteering, art, reading and hanging out with friends
- Katie Stangis is a freshman from Sterling Heights, Michigan. She plans on majoring in Neuroscience and her minor will be in some field of science but doesn't know what yet. Her big is the lovely Zadie Ward. She plays a variety of percussion instruments, but not much else. She really enjoys classic rock, but can listen to pretty much everything else. She enjoys reading, baking, and art.
- Anna Stanford is from Greenville, Michigan, studying Theatre. Her big is Sara Uribe and she's the best! She plays clarinet in the "Pride of the North" Marching Band and also sings in the University Choir.

#### Tau Chapter — Washington, DC



The newly-initiated lota class at Tau Chapter.

#### Alumni Association

Four graduates became active in the Alumni Association. Say hello to:

- Scott Nelson (from Zeta Chapter)
- Bonnie Pantelup (from Pi Chapter)
- Padma Schwenzer (from Pi Chapter)
- Rob Smith (from Zeta Chapter)



The Alumni Association meets twice a year: once at National Convention, and again at their Midyear Meeting. Silly hats are optional. Photo credit Andrew Fleming.



祝賀所有的畢業生! Congratulations, graduates! Alton Thompson, honorary member of Zeta Chapter

## Chapter Reports

#### Alpha Chapter — Raleigh, NC

The past few years at Alpha Chapter have been ones of great change. There has been innovation — coupled with many challenges and tests. We've had obstacle after obstacle thrown at us, but we've always been able to work with each other and come out on top in the end. The sheer determination and willpower that the Brothers of Alpha Chapter have shown is incredibly inspiring and has helped shape us to become a Chapter that is not only strong, but durable as well.

When I first pledged Mu Beta Psi my freshman year in the Spring of 2013 I was coming into a world that, to my surprise, would shatter everything I thought I knew about Brotherhood. Although I feel this is the case for most Brothers, I would soon learn that Brotherhood wasn't the nice shiny picture it had been painted to be during Pledging. I knew there were a few strained relationships within the Brotherhood, but I soon learned that the Brotherhood at that time was scarred with many different problems, old and new, and that they were definitely having an impact on the functioning of the Chapter as well as how people interacted with each other.

The following few weeks brought elections for the next school year. As we were losing multiple prominent Brothers to graduation, my Pledge class, the Galloping Turtles, had no option but to step up. We ended up holding five out of the eight possible elected positions for the next year. Having so many new Brothers in positions that hold so much importance to the operation of the Chapter led to a lot of mistrust and lapses in the proper channels of communication while simultaneously providing new insight and ideas that would ultimately be one of our saving graces. Luckily, we also had really strong leadership from our Chapter President, Sarah Feutz, which allowed for us to be molded into strong and proactive leaders. Sarah was one of the Pledgemasters for my pledge class, so there was already mentor-like relationships between her and the Galloping Turtles. This aided in the ease of transition into a newer Brotherhood from an older one.

The next few years brought steady, productive growth. Instead of looking for potential Pledges as a way to stay afloat, we were able to focus on looking for potential Pledges as a way to grow as a Chapter. The new leadership allowed for new ideas and opinions that gave way to actual change rather than the same viewpoints being tossed back and forth between the same people consistently. As people started to vocalize their differing opinions about Fraternal business rather than keeping their thoughts to themselves, the Brotherhood began to become more comfortable with



Alpha Chapter celebrating the 90th anniversary of Mu Beta Psi. Becca Burton, Casey DeVane, Victoria Pediaditakis, Haley Wells, Ariana Betts, Larissa Jones, Adam Blanchette, Angela White, Ashley Ford, Azlyn Arnett, Daniel Miller, Jessica Caudle, Ben Adams, Ben Warner and Kristen Young.

each other on a business level in addition to a social level. Being able to discuss business and how the Chapter was functioning without including personal judgement and bias gave us the ability to think as a united Brotherhood. This didn't eliminate any of the obstacles that were handed to us, but allowed for us to work through them together and recognize when we were not.

Alpha has had more than its share of obstacles since I've been a Brother. Whether it's a Pledge that's creating a divide in the Brotherhood or being put on a false probation by the Music Department, we've had to work our way through some tough issues. Building strong leaders that understand how to work together from the beginning was our biggest advantage in improving the status of the Chapter as a whole.

- Ashley Ford

#### Share Your Creativity

Your talent is worth celebrating! Whether you have a neat doodle hanging around, or if you want to write a few Brotherhood Limericks, you are always welcome to contribute. Send your attachments to <u>theclef@mubetapsi.</u> org anytime.

## Share Your Moment

The moments that make our Brotherhood strong are happening every day. You can help others experience what matters most to you. Capture your moment and send it to the official publication of our fraternity. Send your pictures and captions to <u>theclef@mubetapsi.org</u> anytime.

#### Zeta Chapter — Houghton, MI

Things are going well here at Zeta Chapter. Our pledge class, the Red Hot Zeta Peppers, finished pledging, and we have seven new brothers. Since most of them are firstsemester freshmen, and not all of them are even eighteen, so we have an influx of new perspectives that can help our chapter move forward in a new direction. Along with the new brothers, we have been revamping old community service projects and trying new things. We hosted a chili dinner to benefit the Calumet High School band, and did much better this time than we have with previous benefit dinners.

Our role within the music department is also shifting. Michigan Tech's Visual and Performing Arts department recently got a new head, who happens to be an honorary Brother, Jared Anderson. Alongside ushering performances in both the Rozsa and McArdle Theatres, we have recently been asked to host receptions for cast and crew after shows. Under these changing conditions, we are redefining and reaffirming our role on campus.

As far as future events, we have two large ones planned for the spring semester. Internally, we are planning a spring lockin, which is new to this permutation of the Chapter. There we will work on Chapter maintenance and trust exercises, along with having a long business meeting to start the semester. In the wider community, we will be hosting a scholarship concert over Michigan Tech's Winter Carnival. Zeta advisor Mike Irish and honorary brother Mike Christianson will be playing under the name Northern Standard Time, and we will be finding a student act to open for them.

- Patrick Gillman



Brothers hiking Brockway Mountain. Photo courtesy Joe Kirkish



#### <u>Nu Chapter — Oswego, NY</u>

We may all love different genres of music but music is amazing and an universal language that everyone can appreciate. Some of the great things that I have seen in Nu Chapter is how dedicated these Brothers are. Especially to service! One of the things I really love about this chapter is how every Brother is willing to step forward and help our Music Department out. It is also great now because our Music staff are coming to us all the time and reaching out! I feel like that is one of the greatest achievements, as well as an honor to be trusted and respected by our music department staff! We really have come a long way. On a funny note we now have 4 guys now! When I pledged it was only Derek Sexton with a ton of girls! So fun fact we are now getting both males and females now in the last three pledge classes! We have also raised more money in the last year then with the previous years and it is due to all the Brothers getting involved!

We also started a new thing called Alumni tonight and Roberts Rules of Order tip of the week. Not only do we get to fulfill one of our purposes which is to honor those who came before us but we also get to learn why we run our meetings the way we do and how to do it properly. And now, the best for last —drum roll! — We also started a Psi Lei which is passed around to individuals who have helped out or had a positive attitude or done a service to another Brother! It is a great way to recognize the hard work of the Brothers at this chapter! There is so much more but these are the highlights that have made me proud to be a Brother of Mu Beta Psi here in Oswego, NY.

Cheryl Goewey

#### Omicron Chapter - Roanoke, VA

Omicron Chapter has had a very difficult semester. They began with excitement for recruitment, but their efforts went unfulfilled: nobody who came to rush events returned to pledge. They began with happy phone chats and a visit to the NCCM Labor Day Weekend seminar, but they soon became hard to reach. They began with regular meetings shared with alumni via video chat, but their meetings dwindled and dissipated as their membership and morale sank.

The inactivity cycle started over a year ago, when a dramatic and heartbreak-filled 2014 led many Omicron Brothers to leave the Chapter. Despite bringing in a Spring 2015 pledge class, after graduations and a few seniors leaving citing academic concerns as reason for inactivity, Omicron's responsibilities were suddenly distributed a little more heavily. With the increased work burden and sinking morale, it became very difficult for the remaining Brothers to justify staying active when they saw their schoolwork and even their health affected. By November 20th, Omicron was being held together by one Active Brother: Chris Davis.

So this weekend, Chris stared down a piece of paper on which he would cast one vote on whether to put forth a request for voluntary inactive status for Omicron Chapter or not.

With a smile worn with exhaustion but no less enthusiastic for the wear, he passed the paper across the table and said Omicron would not go Inactive as long as he stood on the campus of Roanoke College.

The other four Omicrons in the room - Sabrina McIntyre, Maggie Strakna, Kent Griffith, and Ben Cohn - grinned with relief and excitement, even though they knew that the hard work was just beginning. They had just committed to doing something that, even several minutes before, had seemed impossible.

Over the next several minutes, Sabrina, Maggie, and Kent all declared their intentions to immediately return to Active status and to help Chris divide the work of fulfilling our four purposes and recruiting new membership to revitalize the Chapter.

National President Sarah Feutz and I, together with Omicron alumni advisor Jen Staten, led the new Omicron through an intensive planning session to set up infrastructure and goals for the next several weeks, as well as to lay out a game plan for next semester. They redistributed offices to ensure that nobody was taking on too much but that everything would get done. Omicron Chapter is still on probation, which is a good thing because probation is just a fancy word for "getting more attention and support," and the Brothers intend to take full advantage of this opportunity to give Mu Beta Psi a new face at Roanoke College.



Planning the future of Omicron Chapter on November 20. From left: Sabrina McIntyre (O), Chris Davis (O). Maggie Strakna (O), Kent Griffith (O), Sarah Feutz (NP, Alpha Alumna), Jen Staten (Omicron Alumni Advisor).

#### Help Omicron Chapter Succeed

Omicron is seeking mentors for Fraternity offices and potential remote or local alumni Big Brothers to assist with next semester's pledge season. If you want to help Omicron Chapter revitalize, please e-mail Garrett at <u>maintenance@mubetapsi.org</u> with your name, semester pledged, offices held, current career/major/area of expertise, and describe what you'd like to do to help.

This is the new Omicron Chapter.

- Chris Davis: President and NITC representative.
- Maggie Strakna: Vice President, NCCM representative, and Service Music and Activities Coordinator.
- Claudia James: Secretary, Historian, and NHAC representative.
- Sabrina McIntyre: Member-at-Large, Pledge Master, and NCE representative.
- Kent Griffith: Treasurer and NFC representative.
- Ben Cohn will be studying abroad in England, cheering on these five Brothers from a distance as they rebuild Omicron from the ground up.

From the ground up, as they say: sky's the limit.

- Garrett Cooperman



Brunch at Omicron Chapter. From left: Sabrina McIntyre (O), Chris Davis (O), Scott Bennett (Alpha alumnus), Garrett Cooperman (NVPCM, Nu alumnus), Jen Staten (Omicron Alumni Advisor), Maggie Strakna (O)



In celebration of Omicron Chapter's 14th Anniversary.

#### Pi Chapter - New Brunswick, NJ

Pi has been very busy since you last saw some of us at Convention. On March 27th, the Brothers attended Relay For Life, an annual Rutgers event that raises money for the American Cancer Society. In mid-April, we initiated the Alpha Chi Pledge Class, who dubbed themselves "the Lumberjacks", gaining 9 wonderful new Brothers.

Following the mantra of "can't stop, won't stop," Pi then hosted the Pie-a-Pi fund raiser on April 28th; there were a lot of laughs, far too much shaving cream in peoples' mouths, and one of our favorite doctoral students even came by to do an "Airing of Grievances", pieing each and every Brother he had conducted in his time working with the Marching Scarlet Knights.

On May 3rd, we had our annual Formal, Mu Beta Prom, and all of our Brothers and their lovely plus-ones dressed to the nines for a night of dinner, dancing, and (as always) a bit of goofing around.

On Sunday, May 17th, we bid a fond farewell to our graduating seniors Kimberly Murphy, Debbie Andres, Todd Vaccaro Jr., Alana Bielski, Kelsea Holton, and Devonne Jones, wishing them the best of luck as they start on the newest chapter of their lives.

Things picked up again for many of the Brothers in August. Some of the Pi Brothers met up with National Brothers for a day of fun at Six Flags Great Adventure, and then it was off to auditions for the marching band and preparations for the upcoming academic year. During band camp, the Brothers that march helped run fun activities for the marching band, like our annual dodgeball tournament, a S'mores/bonfire night, and our beloved last night dance party. We also fitted the Marching Scarlet Knights for their brand new uniforms!

Our Fall Rush Week took place from September 7th to the 11th, and we met a lot of amazing new people in between burritos, games, and even a really helpful info session arranged by our wonderful Membership Coordinator Becky Hill and Publicity Manager Amalia Hubal. While we ultimately made the decision not to pledge this semester, we are hopeful that many of the incredible people that we met throughout the week will return in the Spring!

Our Music and Service events kicked off in October, starting with the Rutgers Wind Ensemble Concert on October 2nd. The JP Stevens High School Band Competition was our first Service event, taking place on October 4th. Brothers, active, inactive, and even alumni, showed up to help the local school run the competition smoothly so that everyone could enjoy a day of music. We then watched one of our Brothers, as well as many of our friends, perform in the Rutgers Symphony Band concert on October 17th. On October 18th we helped out at the Rutgers Scarlet Harvest, an event hosted by the Rutgers Gardens, enabling local children (and adults!) to have a fun and educational day outdoors. Our October Recruitment event, Zumba, took place on October 25th.

While the year is just beginning, things at Pi are always moving forward. We're hoping that November and December will be just as fun filled and promising as the past few months have been. We can't wait to see all (hopefully) of you at Convention this year, and until then we hope to hear from you soon!

-Susan Zane

#### Rho Chapter – Marquette, Ml

This semester has been crazy here at Rho Chapter! We started out with an amazing and peaceful retreat at Otter Lake. 11 brothers left town and spent an entire weekend doing nothing but brotherly bonding! We ate lots of food, had a campfire, went swimming, and played a wild west theme murder mystery game. In October, we hosted a super cute Halloween party and everybody dressed up, of course! Even though the semester isn't done, we wrapped up social events with a holiday dinner in November. This dinner served to celebrate not only the holiday season, but also Mu Beta Psi's 90th birthday, Rho's 7th birthday, and the approaching end of the semester!



We have been packing in all the service we can. A few Brothers teamed up with the Forensic Biochemistry Club, which two of our Brothers are a part of. As a team, we helped to rake yards for the elderly during Make a Difference Day.

NMU had Alumni Band this year and lots of Brothers came back to play.

Unfortunately, there was a football game that day and most of us are in marching band, but the small and mighty group made a large difference. We have also set up and torn down the stage for almost every music department concert in Reynolds Recital Hall on campus. A small number of Brothers took the initiative to go to a local grocery store, Econo Foods, and bagged for tips. This money went to help the Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter (UPAWS). We are all looking forward to our mandatory service event in December, Snow Ball. This is our first time getting involved in this event! Noquemanon Trail Network's annual Snow Ball is a formal silent auction fund raiser. We hope we can help them raise lots of money to go towards upkeep of the local nature trails year-round.

While trying to keep up with service, we have been involved in lots music as well. We had a Moment of Musical Jamming After Meeting (MOMJAM) where Brothers and random musician friends played Super Smash Bros. Melee. Rho Brothers recently held a bake sale on campus where we raised over \$100.00 for NMU's chapter of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). We had tons of fun caroling to gain attention, which was a warm-up for the holiday caroling we'll do before finals! Since so many of our Brothers are in the Pride of the North Marching Band, drum major and music chair Audra Hagan led us in a crowd pumping stand cheer. A small ensemble of Rho Chapter Brothers played Seven Nation Army during a football timeout.

We also gained a new advisor, Dr. Robert Engelhart. Dr. Engelhart is the head of the music department here at NMU and has shown growing support and appreciation for us the past few years. Rho is grateful for his involvement in our Chapter and continuing to improve our relationship with the music department. We would be especially grateful to YOU (yes, you!), if you purchased one of our *Music is BAE* shirts. All money raised goes towards our music education friends taking a trip to the NAfME conference and the music departments at Marquette area schools. Visit the website at <u>https://www.booster.com/mu-beta-psi-fundraiser</u> to see the design! If you can't afford to buy one, we also appreciate you sharing this with your friends and family and strangers and anyone!

While we are excited to gain these awesome new Brothers, we are sad to say goodbye to others. This December, Crystal Cooper, Jake Edwards, Nina Lehto, Corrinne Murch, and Margaret Saelens will be graduating. We wish them the best of luck in the real adult world. Us Rho Bros can't wait to see them and everyone else at Alumni Association's Convention in Detroit! The Upper-Peninsula Chapters should have a good showing since this is way closer than usual!

- Sarah Gardner and Natalie Holbrook

#### Tau Chapter – Washington, DC

Tau Chapter has been getting ourselves out of a little rut. After having a large pledge class and having people graduate, go abroad or go inactive for personal reasons, we've been focusing on the service aspect of a chapter. So far we've done a donut fund raiser and we hope to do a couple more (before the semester ends) and also hope to help out with various master classes going on throughout the university. As well as going to support our brothers and the arts in our different endeavors.



On November 6th we initiated lota pledge class. Four wonderful new Brothers!

- Jarrett Murray

#### Alumni Association

The Alumni Association is stoked to host Convention in Detroit on March 11–12, 2016. Please join us in the Motor City to experience the birthplace of Motown and Techno. The Convention Committee is locking down location, hotel, and swag. We are also fund-raising. If you're interested in helping, contact Jen Staten.

Our annual Mid-Year meeting/retreat was in Chicago this August. Mid-Year is a family friendly retreat open to all Brothers, and we were excited to have both alumni and collegiates attend. We stayed at the famously haunted Congress Plaza Hotel across from Grant Park. (No ghosts were harmed in the making of this Mid-Year – only massive quantities of deep-dish pizza.) The Chapter picked AA Chapter trads and T-shirts and elected officers: Sarah Guthrie (P), Chrissy Fleming (VP), Haley Vingsness (S/ MAL/H), and Beth Chen (MAL). Ryan Hauck is continuing for his umpteenth year as Treasurer.

Our membership is up to 39 with 4 brand-new members. Committees are hard at work making sure Mu Beta Psi stays relevant in our Brothers' lives through Service, Gathering, Fund-raising (we have grants available), and acts of Thoughtfulness. We have self-organized regional Facebook communities for major alumni hubs like NYC, DC, Detroit, Raleigh, and Charlotte. Check out <u>alumni.mubetapsi.org</u> for more information and to find links to your local community.

If you are graduating or leaving school, no matter the reason, your Brothers are still here for you — and your first year of Chapter dues are free! Join the Alumni Association at <u>alumni.mubetapsi.org</u>.

Haley Vingsness

## The MBY Alumni Association Welcomes You

Brotherhood is for life. No matter the circumstance, you can be as involved as you want to be. Learn more at http://alumni.mubetapsi.org.

Chapter Involvement	Associate	Active
Attend Chapter meetings	1	Required
Participate in Chapter Discussions	ſ	ſ
Vote on Chapter issues, like where to host Midyear		ſ
Join a committee, like the Gathering committee	1	ſ
Chair a committee		1
Hold an office, like Chapter President		ſ
National Involvement	Associate	Active
Attend the MBΨ National Convention	1	ľ
Be active nationally		ſ
Vote on national issues		1
Volunteer as a big Brother during colonizations		ſ
Staying in Touch	Associate	Active
Included in MBΨ National Address List	1	ſ
Receive a copy of Alumni Association minutes	1	ľ
Subscribe to the Alumni Newsletter	1	ſ
Subscribe to the alumtalk listserv	1	ſ
Subscribe to alumni association listserv	ſ	L
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#### Region Networks City Networks

- Gulf Coast New England
- New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
- North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia
- Southeast Michigan
- Upper Peninsula of Michigan
- West Coast

- **Charlotte** 
  - Chicago and Eastern Wisconsin
  - Minneapolis-Saint Paul
  - Roanoke, Salem. Lynchburg
  - Washington DC, **Baltimore**



The Alumni Association gathered in Chicago, Illinois for the Midyear 2015 meeting.

#### (1) We're a mixture.

We're comprised of brand-new graduates and old standbys from a variety of Chapters, put together into something new. We are simultaneously southern and northern; we lean this way and that. But we all love music in academia and the public square – and we love our Brotherhood.

#### (2) We move at a different pace.

We don't push ourselves unrealistically; we're willing to pause and take care of life as it occurs. Our Chapter business can be accomplished over a conversation in a hot tub, if the need strikes.

(3) We like to help.

As a Chapter, we focus on giving what we have to help others succeed. We give money toward grants and budget items that further the mission of Mu Beta Psi, and we show our devotion to music, education, and our Brothers. Many of us continue to serve music and education in daily life long after graduation, and our Chapter provides support whenever we can. As a group of mentors, we are a presence for our collegiate Brothers to provide guidance for getting through life's obstacles.

## Editor's Note

By Nick Rosencrans, National Editor of The Clef Alumni Association / Zeta Chapter



Nick Rosencrans leading a National Convention workshop. Credit Andrew Fleming

s I prepared the fall 2015 edition of *The Clef*, I thumbed through past editions to find inspiration. I found a surprising missive in Volume 6 No. 2 from 1967:

If The editor feels that there would definitely be enough taking place at each Chapter for them to at least write a short article on their activities. When a Chapter reneges on their responsibility in this area, they deal a slap in the face to the National Organization as well as their own local group. It is the hope of this editor that anyone who has the responsibility of publishing this paper in the future will have much better luck in having articles submitted than has been my experience."

Well, we are all blessed with much luck. Every active Chapter helped to fill this publication with the vibrance of our Fraternity, moment to moment, big and small. There are several topics I was unable to explore because there was already so much to share:

- Living with Brothers under the Same Roof
- National Goals Update
- Being a Better Big
- Convention Confessions
- Cartoons, Illustrations and Infographics
- Doodles from Class
- Pledging Journals and Reflection
- Job Openings

- Brotherhood Poetry, Haikus, and Limericks
- National Officer Q&A
- Road Trips
- Favorite Delicacies and Recipes
  The Future of Greek Life
  - The Future of Greek Life
- Alumni Memories and Artifacts from the Past
   Things every Chapter Should Detection
  - Things every Chapter Should Do this Summer

We leave a lasting mark on our campuses and each other's lives, but the memories we make together don't always get the credit they deserve. I am fully confident that *The Clef* has more stories to tell in years to come.

#### From Psi BnB, page 16

to input new information or change existing information, and would be both computer and mobile friendly.

I was incredibly surprised by the number of responses that came in just a few days. It was rather exciting watching the spreadsheet fill as Brothers inputted their responses. I think Psi BnB will be a perfect example of what it means to be a Brother of Mu Beta Psi; opening up your homes for complete strangers other than the fact that you both pledged your love and support to this Fraternity. Having been in situations like the one described above, I can certainly speak to the fact that this will be a useful tool in the technology age.

I look forward to the evolution of Psi BnB and hope that you'll share your stories of success with not only myself, but the entire Brotherhood!



Canvas artwork. Credit Britta Anderson, Zeta Chapter



# Your fraternal life is going to take flight.

Get ready for National Convention 2016, hosted by the Alumni Association in Detroit. Official proceedings begin March 11.

#### (1) Meet New Brothers

National Convention brings us together. Relax, socialize, and share stories with people young and old from every active Chapter – several inactive ones too.

#### (2) Participate in National Business

We have much to do to advance our national goals. You can attend nearly-all proceedings, and have a direct influence on our future. Check the agenda and see how your unique perspective can drive us ahead.

(3) Explore the City

There is no place like Motown. You'll discover a city center along an international waterfront, boasting a legacy of cultural and musical influence.

#### (4) Experience Fraternity Culture

Some traditions only happen at National Convention: in-jokes, hijinks, awards, toasts, and ceremonies alike. You'll be there with be plenty of stories to tell on the way home, and years from now.

#### (5) Get Inspired to Take Action

The value of National Convention doesn't end with the strike of the gavel. Hallway conversations and formal workshops will spur ideas you wouldn't have considered otherwise. Bring these moments back to campus, and start putting them to work.

"Skyline of Detroit, Michigan from South 2014-12-07" From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.



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