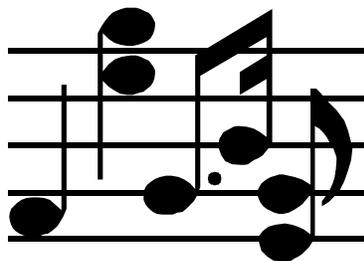


Midwest Notes



The official newsletter of the Midwest District of
Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma

Fall Edition
September 2003

<http://www.kkypsi.org/mwd/> MWDNotes@iastate.edu

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The MWD Convention is coming soon!

Bozeman, Montana

March 26-28

More info?

www.kkybeta.coolpages.com

bozemanorbust@yahoo.com



From the Editor:

My Summer of Kappa

By Chris Colvin

Iota Omega — KKΨ

Strive for the Highest. Those words kept ringing through my aching head as I approached the most difficult part of the climb up to the summit of Estes Cone. The hike up to an 11,000+ foot mountain may not seem to be a big thing to many of my brothers and sisters in Colorado, Montana, or Wyoming, but to a Iowan, a state where any sort of change in elevation is turned into a park, this was a pretty major challenge. The night before I was told “come on, have some ambition!” it was at that moment I gave up the idea of the nice easy hike the next day and decided to push myself.

Estes Cone is a “small” mountain located in Rocky Mountain National Park. The very top is reminiscent of a very small version of Wyoming's Devil's Tower, a large pile of big rocks that has an almost vertical slope at the top. With Led Zeppelins' “Stairway to Heaven” and the Kappa hymn bouncing around my head I finished the last few hundred vertical feet. Once that final challenge was reached, I got my reward, we could see all of the National Park, a huge part of North Eastern Colorado, and a small part of Wyoming. Just like my 7+ mile horizontal and ½ mile vertical climb, editing Notes has been an ambitious and challenging project. Knowing that we've helped facilitate district communication is our reward.

It was quite the summer traveling around the country and meeting many of you. My three week, 12 state, 6000 mile trip across the country was much more fun thanks to many of you whom I've had the opportunity become friends

with. The Monopoly game I played with the two brothers from Alpha Iota whom let me crash at their place instead of having to drive up into the mountains in the dark was one of several experiences I will not soon forget. I look forward to seeing you all at Beta, and hopefully visiting several chapters before then. I discovered last weekend when the University of Iowa sousaphone section visited us that I can fit 8 guests in my apartment, so when ever any brothers or sisters want to stop in Ames, I have plenty of room.

I hope everyone likes some of the new formatting that has been introduced for this edition. I'd like to thank everyone who's allowed me to bounce new ideas off of them, and to everyone who's submitted. Dorn, John, and Rob have been doing a great job on the web site. We can't keep improving it without feedback, so please check it out and let us know what you think. Nobody decided to take me up on my offer of supper for anyone whom brought me a submission in person. I will extend that offer for the next edition of Notes.

AEA & ITB,

Chris Colvin
Iota Omega (KKΨ)
Iowa State University
Chapter Historian
District Publications Committee Chair
Midwest District Notes Editor



KKΨ Governor Tim Greenwell

Greetings! My name is Tim Greenwell and I am your newly appointed Midwest District Governor. I have actually served in this capacity before from the spring of 1990 to the summer of 1991 when I was elected to the national council.

I am a life member of the fraternity from the Eta Zeta chapter at the University of Kansas and an honorary member of the sorority thanks to the Zeta Delta chapter at KU. I served in a variety of chapter and district offices culminating with district president (the last district five president and the first Midwest district president). As previously mentioned, I was elected to the national council in 1991 and rose through the ranks to National President for the 1995-1997 biennium.

In 1999, I decided to take a break from my active role in the fraternity and focus on my career and further educational pursuits. I just received my masters in education from Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri and have recently started my eleventh year with the Center School District in South Kansas City, Missouri where I am the assistant director of bands and teach modern world history. I also am the advisor to the Student Government Association, coach the color guard, dance line and winter guard, serve as the staff PTA representative, a member of the school leadership team, and assist with public relations and special events.

As for me personally, I enjoy time with family and friends, travel, going to movies and the theatre, attending sporting events particularly college level, reading, working out, music, and rest. I am single and own a nice little home not far from school in South Kansas City, Missouri.

I am looking forward to my active role with the Midwest District once again. Please let me know if I may be of assistance to you. With a busy schedule like everyone else, please be patient in getting a hold of me and always be sure to leave a complete message so I can better serve you.

Fraternally,

Tim Greenwell
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Visit the Midwest District Alumni
Association's new web site!

Surf on over to:

<http://www.mwdaa.org>



2003-2004 KKY President Brett Kisker

2003-2004 TBS President Robert Becho

School's back in session, and that means a couple of things for most us: homework and marching band practices. I can tell you from personal experience that sometimes it's very easy to get caught up in the day-to-day activities and lose focus on the big picture (i.e. getting an education so you can graduate and get a job).

The same thing can happen with KKY or TBS. It's a very simple thing to get so caught up in projects, fundraisers, meetings, and the like that we can forget what our biggest goal is and what we're all about.

This brings up my question. It sounds very simple, but the answer may be more complex than you think: what are we all about? There can be multiple answers to this, and when Kirk Randazzo brought it up at his outstanding strategic planning workshop in Norfolk, this was exactly the response that he got back. Brotherhood, Service, Music, Fellowship...the list could go on and on.

This still doesn't quite answer the question, though. What one thing sets us apart from other organizations? Is it brotherhood? Although brotherhood is a big part of us, there are plenty of social fraternities out in the world whose sole purpose is brotherhood (insert Old School movie clip here). Is it service? We get the same situation: there are plenty of school organizations that exist solely for doing service projects. Music? With Phi Mu Alpha and Sigma Alpha Iota, among others, there are definitely organizations whose main foundation is music. So what's our niche?

Like I said, the answer is simple: BAND.

Notice how everything we do revolves around a love for band. We serve to help the band. One reason that brotherhood is so strong is because we all share the common bond of band. It doesn't matter what level of KKY or TBS we're talking about either. Whether it's at the national, district, chapter, committee, or most importantly the *personal* level, our actions and decisions should reflect this love for band. Not only will focusing on the big picture help relieve some of the stress of everyday life, but it will help to set and achieve goals, as well as to add purpose of what you may be doing within the organization.

So stepping back and looking at the goal of this article, I suppose it's this: arguments and bickering can and will sporadically occur between people and within chapters. Projects can and will occasionally seem useless. Marching band practices can and will seem slow, boring, and/or frustrating at times. But do these all serve a purpose? Of course they do, and many times completing big projects is a matter of taking care of the small details. Just keep the big picture in mind and remember that BAND is why we, as brothers of KKY and sisters of TBS, exist.

Well, the start of another year is upon us and the District Council of Tau Beta Sigma is hard at work. This year we are trying a few new things to make The District run a little better. We now have monthly meetings just to see how things are going with our offices and to make sure that everything is getting taken care of. These meetings are handled online so that all our officers, including one out of country can meet.

Our various officers are diligently working to ensure that this year is the best ever for TBS. We are happily awaiting the assigning of our new District Councilor, who will hopefully soon be announced.

Our Omaha officers meeting went well, and our next officers meeting will be occurring in the coming months, expect more information to come out about this upcoming meeting soon. I would also like to personally invite every Tau Beta Sigma member to both MWDAA Retreats this year, the first one happening on September 27th and the 28th in Laramie, Wyoming.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Becho
Tau Beta Sigma - Midwest District President



2003-2004 KKY Vice President
Carrie Shuck

It's September and this usually means marching band, football, classes, and RECRUITMENT. At this time of the year, chapters across the district are identifying those individuals in the band program to become Kappa Kappa Psi or Tau Beta Sigma members.

What is recruitment? Well, according to good ol' Webster's it is the process of adding new individuals to a population. Why would we want to add new members to our population (KKY/TBS)? We want to add new members so that our chapter continues the work in the band program long after we graduate (even though it may take some of us a while to graduate we still want our chapter to be there when we finally get that coveted diploma). Who should we recruit? Band members that show musicianship, leadership, positive attitudes, dedication, and a good work ethic. These can be anyone that is not already part of our organization, don't limit to just the new people in your band program. How do we recruit these people? There are several different ways to go about this. One way is to just sit and wait until individuals come to you. Another, preferred, method is to actively seek individuals to become members. A few ways you can do this is by hosting events, and talking to individuals about Kappa Kappa Psi. Hosting events can be a good way for these people to become familiar with the organization through fun activities, formal meetings, or inviting them to be a part of a service project. One of my favorite events from last year was going to Put-Put golf. Fueled by a little friendly competition this gave us a chance to meet people interested in our organization. Recruitment can happen just by getting to know some of the people in your section. Later on invite them to an event, and be sure that they know you will answer any question they may have. I think this is a very effective way because they will begin to recognize what you are doing to help the band program.

Don't forget that recruitment happens at all levels of the fraternity, for example, filling two of the Kappa Kappa Psi district officer positions. Hopefully all the chapters have a good recruitment year and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

MWDAA Vice Presidents

If you are board and looking for something to do Sept 27-28, then we have the perfect place for you. Join us and the Alpha Nu and Alpha Tau chapters at the University of Wyoming for the 1st of 2 fall retreats. There will be a Social event on Saturday and learning and fun sessions on Sunday.

We are starting the Penny wars early and the points/money collected at retreats will count DOUBLE! More info to follow.

Michelle said she would pay for some lucky person to go to District convention in Bozeman MT. (only at the Wyoming retreat).

Break out sessions include: Making information/Education fun, Motivating members, Family Feud, and Chapter inter-relations.

The 2nd retreat is at Emporia State University, Oct 18-19th.

ITB/MOTS
Brandy Zawicki
HZ-Life Member, KKY
ZD-Honorary, TBS
TBS University of Kansas
MWDAA Vice President

Clayton Applegate
DX, Life Member, KKY
GZ, Honorary,
Emporia State University
MWDAA Vice President

The MWD page is at
<http://www.kkytbs.org/mwd>

Contact us at
MWDNotes@iastate.edu



2003-2004 TBΣ Secretary Treasurer
Erica Hare

Sisters and Brothers of the MWD,

I went to National Convention for the first time ever and I had a blast! I went to the District Leadership Conference for two days and I learned a lot about leadership, and met a lot of fun new individuals on the district and national levels, as well as hanging out with people I already knew especially the cool KKY Springfield chapter. I met the chapters that did the movie drumline and they taught me how to step "Trust me it's not as easy as it looks". The TBΣ MWD council was very busy at National Convention on top of doing district separate caucuses starting at 12 and 1 in the morning, our own respective separate chapter caucuses, attending separate and joint forums, fundraising for the MWD, some of us being head committee members, we were also busy planning for the Omaha retreat during our "off hours" with the KKΨ MWD council. We had our moments with each other but overall it was a lot of fun and we learned a lot about our selves and the ability to lead Tau Beta Sigma on a district level. I encourage all of you to attend the next national convention in Lexington Kentucky in 2005.

Two weeks after national convention we had our first district leadership retreat in Omaha Nebraska. We had several national officers in attendance including our very own TBΣ NCFR Carolyn Steckel, who I am sure was very entertained throughout the whole weekend. It was a lot of fun meeting every one and hanging out with everyone I already new especially the trip getting up to Omaha. I hope those of you that attended gained more knowledge about our organizations during our sessions and thanks again to the Omaha Chapter for letting us have it there.

Oh did I mention? Tau Beta Sigma MWD is still having a separate fundraiser there is a link on the MWD homepage about our fundraiser please contact me if you are interested in buying a t-shirt. KKΨ & TBΣ councils are selling stress balls 1 for \$3.00 and 4 for \$10.00. We also have 6 MWD T-shirts left for \$7.00. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items please e-mail me at ehare@ku.edu or mwdsectreas@tbsigma.org. I would especially like to thank these individuals for helping Denali Alt, Matt Richardson "Spacely", Brian Dorn, Heath, Amber, Brett, Carrie, Michelle Kincheolle, Kevin Nelson, & Anne for all of their hard work in helping me out at national convention by promoting our district and selling our products during your free time you guys are awesome I could not have done it with out all of you.

I have a very busy year ahead of me as the TBΣ MWD Secretary/Treasurer and I look forward to the challenge of serving all of you. In the end it is about what I can do for this organization, most important of all serving all of you and promoting joint relations with our Kappa brothers.

One last thing I promise did I mention? "TBΣ Chapter Membership fees are due by September 30th, 2003 in order for you to hold active membership at your chapter, make your check payable to Tau Beta Sigma for \$70.00 and send it to National Head Quarters". All TBΣ chapter secretaries and treasurers in the Midwest district need to e-mail me ASAP. Every one have a great fall semester and good luck in everything you do this year!!!!.

Respectfully Submitted
ITB,
Erica Hare
TBΣ MWD Secretary/Treasurer 2003-2004
University of Kansas ~ Zeta Delta "Rock Chalk"



TBS National VP of
Communication & Recognition

Dollie McDonald

Recognition Left Unsaid...

Music, service, leadership and hard work are all words that give some meaning to what both Kappa Kappa Psi & Tau Beta Sigma stand for. What about the individuals and/or groups that not only live these words with their existence, but go above and beyond? Most of the time these individuals are the true leaders that lead by example and do not need self-recognition. However, various type of recognition by peers can be a powerful gift to another. Whether it is that outstanding musician in your band or your Band Director/Sponsor who gives great support, or that motivated chapter member who stops at nothing to get a task accomplished, there are ways to recognize. Of course just a “pat on the back” and a simple “great job” or “thank you” is nice, but on the other hand standing up and speaking out on behalf of an individual or chapter can say even more. Whether it is an individual nominating another or a chapter nominating another chapter, there are several types of awards to up lift that simple “thank you” and “great job.” So why not step up and recognize those individuals and chapters you admire? Recognition of awesome work creates special milestones and never holds anyone back for further advancement. Just as you are part of the puzzle of these organizations, you too can be part of something special in a different light by awarding those deserving of it.



Author’s Reminder: The Tau Beta Sigma National Awards due dates have all changed to one date for December 1st. Also, the three newest Tau Beta Sigma National Awards are: **The Baton Award, For Greater Bands Award, and Auxiliary Award.** More details of all awards are located in the Chapter Operations Handbook.

During a lull at Convention in Norfolk, President Brett Kisker kicks back and relaxes with a stress ball in his easy chair. Rob from Alpha Theta (blue shirt) is distracted by something blue, and Beth from Alpha Iota takes a moment to continue knitting something. The photographer from Iota Omega was also enjoying the brief break by taking pictures for use in Notes.



Emporia State University

Gamma Zeta — TBS Delta Xi — KKY

Greetings Fellow Brothers and Sisters of KKY and TBS,

The Emporia State University chapters of KKY and TBS are extremely "fanzebratastic" to have one of the Midwest District Retreats here in Emporia. We have big plans for retreat and are getting geared up for it. We are busy making preparations with the Alumni to ensure this will be a great experience for all involved.

We have decided to have a skit night and a dance on Saturday scheduled. It would be wonderful if every chapter coming would prepare a skit. It doesn't have to be very long (the allotted time will be about 10 minutes) or even well planned. Fly by the seat of your pants or be prepared, either way we just want everyone to participate and have a good time.

As October 18 approaches, we will be putting out more information, such as contact info, etc. Everyone here is looking forward to retreat and can't wait to see our fellow Brothers and Sisters. I hope to see you all on October 18 and 19.

Sincerely,

Hannah Deibert
Vice-President, Gamma Zeta

Iowa State University

Theta Xi — TBS

Theta Xi is starting the year off right with many positive developments in the areas of service and membership. Theta Xi's numbers have swelled dramatically in the past two years, as they initiated 21 numbers into their Kappa class last spring and 16 members into their Iota class the year before. These large new member classes mean that there are many helping hands available for all of the service projects the chapter has undertaken in the past year. The new member projects that the classes complete shortly after their initiations have included the building of a flag box for the marching band, the repair of the marching band's flip folders, and the construction of stand boxes for the jazz ensembles.

In addition to their class service projects, the chapter recently announced Elise Benzing, a clarinet player from Monona, Iowa, as the first winner of what they hope will be an annual award. The goal of the scholarship was to recognize an outstanding leader in the band program here at Iowa State and support her as she pursues a career in music.

Finally, the chapter is excited to be kicking off its fall recruitment events. As always, they seek to attract the next generation of Iowa State leaders. They hope that these individuals will share in their conviction that "It is an honor to be selected to serve."

Danielle Vance
Theta Xi

Flatirons Composition Contest

This year Alpha Iota is sponsoring the first ever Flatirons Composition contest. The contest is for all undergraduate music majors in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming. The prize is a reading and professional recording done by the University of Colorado Wind Ensemble, directed by Professor Allan McMurray. The winner will have travel to and from the reading provided courtesy of Alpha Iota. If you have any questions or for contest rules please e-mail flatironscontest@kkpsi.org.



Submission from Iowa State University
Iota Omega -- KKΨ

I want to wish everyone greetings from Iota Omega. I hope that everyone is starting to get back into the swing of things as the school year begins. It was a busy summer with National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, and I would like to share some of my more memorable experiences as I gained a new and deeper appreciation for my brothers and sisters.

At the National Convention, we had two members participate in the National Intercollegiate Band from our chapter for the first time ever. I hope that participation in the NIB will continue with Iota Omega as well as with all of the chapters of the Midwest District. Philip Maher and I were in the NIB and it was a great experience to be had. It was wonderful to experience first hand the product of the commissioning project through Jack Stamp's piece. The piece was not only exciting, but it was a great opportunity to have it conducted by him to get that added insight on the music and how it was to be portrayed. During the convention one of the seminars dealt with composing, where Mr. Stamp discussed further his piece and his method of composing.

During National Convention, Murphy's Law decided to poke its nose into our business. It was smooth sailing until we reached Norfolk. The first night at Norfolk, we had to try to contact people to get a room because plans fell through when seven people were going to end up in a room with one bed. Therefore, we had to switch hotels at one in the morning to a hotel across the bay and attempt to fit our luggage through the door, which at almost two in the morning seems more complicated than you would think.

That was the first room change of the week. I believe everyone I spoke to switched rooms at least two or three times. It was a way of experiencing the entire hotel. Aside from the room changes, there were just minor dilemmas that are everyday occurrences.

The week was packed full of meetings, activities, seminars, etc. During all of these events and dilemmas, we were able to make personal contacts with brothers and sisters from across the nation. Even though we didn't know one another, there was still a bond through the brother and sisterhood where people were willing to give a helping hand when needed. I personally enjoyed making new friends and sharing ideas about topics of recruiting, involvement, and overall views of band and music with so many different individuals.

From convincing our chapter to participate in the fight song competition, which I had to teach to a member of our chapter over dinner, to building forts out of the hotel beds, it was a fun filled week that I will cherish for the rest of my life. After experiencing Kappa on such a huge level, my enthusiasm for the organization has reached even greater heights. I would love to share all of my experiences with everyone, but that would lead to a novel. I would like to express the times I shared with my new found friends to others so they will be as excited as I am about attending National Convention and be motivated to strive for the highest in their own lives, chapters, and beyond. These memories will be with me always, and if you would every like to see the fort, just ask because I have pictures. It's amazing what you can come up with after a long week, lack of sleep, and an ironing board.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Wright
Kappa Kappa Psi
Iota Omega recording secretary
Iowa State University



Southwest Missouri State University
Epsilon Psi — KKΨ

Greetings Mid-West District from the Epsilon Psi chapter at SMSU. This semester has started out well for us. We have a new PM class of thirteen, which is one of our larger classes in a while. Our informational week activities included a scavenger hunt, bowling, mini golf, movies and always food.

Marching band has already gotten off to a good start. The first game was the first week of classes. That meant that band camp was spent getting a tan and setting drill. The first game was really exciting because we won 48 to 0.

For the semester we are planning to do a car wash as a fundraiser and possibly working at a local restaurant in town. Last fall we made new Pride letters to go on the stadium seats above the band. We had finished everything except the addition of sequins. The sequins are now in and we will be nailing each one individually.

This summer was also busy for us. We had five active members and one alumnus attend national convention in Norfolk, Virginia. It was a great experience and everyone should try your hardest to get to the next one. It was a great experience for all who attended.

We hope everyone is having a good start to school. Good luck with band, with your classes and everything else. We are Looking forward to District Convention in Montana. Go Beta! Oh yeah, when are you guys going to come visit us?

Wishing everyone a great semester and a great year.

ITB

Jessica Foree
Epsilon Psi KKY
Corresponding Sectary 2003-2004

Submission from Northwest Missouri State
Kappa Delta — KKΨ

The Kappa Delta Chapter at Northwest Missouri State University is off to a great start for the semester. We have acquired a new motorized BMW (Bearcat Marching Wagon) to help with game day setup, which was graciously donated by the stepfather of our very own Nicholas Ross. We have also begun chapter service in the areas of: daily BMB field setup and Wind Symphony setup, uniform checkout, music copying/distribution, a band picnic and BMB Merchandise Sales. In the works is a new member information database for the chapter.

Excitement also stirs as the newly renovated Rickenbrode Stadium makes its debut on September 13, 2003. The stadium renovations included a new scoreboard; complete with a color instant-replay board, a seating capacity of 7,500, a new press box seating 20+ reporters with a high-tech sound system, and 10 sold-out suites that go for \$10,000 a year. The stadium has been named "The Crown Jewel of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association". The BMB takes the field for pre-game ceremonies on September 13, 2003 and half-time ceremonies on September 20, 2003 (Northwest's Family Day/Band Parents Day).

AEA,
Rachelle Wright
Kappa Delta Corresponding Secretary



Dorn's Blue Hair



Submissions from Montana State
Beta — KΚΨ

New Director for Montana State University

With this new school year came a new Director of Bands at Montana State University. Dr. Lisa Hunter, coming to us from her the University of Arizona, has already made positive strides with in the music department. The first experience the members of Kappa Kappa Psi – Beta had with Dr. Hunter was in her interview process, where she agreed to a meeting with the chapter. From the time of this meeting the chapter supported Dr. Hunter above all the other applicants, and upon learning she had accepted the position, communication between the chapter and Dr. Hunter began. Upon arriving in Bozeman, Dr. Hunter was greeted by Beta Chapter members ready and willing to unload the U-Haul, and throughout the summer much work was done, copying, folding, and cutting both mailings and music for the coming school year. The energy with which Dr. Hunter has attacked her duties as band director has inspired members of the band and Beta Chapter members to work harder and strive higher. This only being the second week of school I'm sure there are many more great things to come, with regards to the bands at Montana State University.

Christopher Johns

Bozeman or Bust!

Mark your calendars for this years Midwest district convention to be held in beautiful Bozeman, Montana on the 26-28 of March. Participants this year will be able to engage in a slue of activities including an early arrival barbeque on Thursday night, the historical cemetery tour on Friday, the barn dance, town festival celebration, breakfast in Bozeman and more! With more theme incorporation than ever before this year's convention will be a treat for all involved. The cost is \$65 per person based on quad occupancy and you'll be able to make your room reservations soon. Continue to check the convention webpage at www.kkybeta.coolfreepages.com for updated information or register for our week-by-week updates at bozemanorbust@yahoo.com It is never to early to start planning and this years convention is not to be missed.

In related news...

As promised, the Beta chapter is planning a trip to South West Missouri State this year and we hope to visit as many chapters on the way as we can, so watch your inbox for a message from Beta and we'll see you on the road!



Dr. Hunter (left) and Beta member Janel Stone, on the marching practice field.



This won't come as a surprise to too many people, as I don't hide the fact that I was born in the 70's (by a whole 34 days) and that I will be turning 24 later this year (the day after Thanksgiving to be exact), but I am old compared to most of you reading this. I started to realize this when I graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree. Then I realized it some more when I moved half-way across the country and got a job as an Engineer with the City of Frisco, Texas.

I finally fully realized I was old, though, when I made the trek to Norfolk for National Convention. While there, I spent a lot of time with younger members and got to know some of them well: members from Beta, Alpha Iota, and Epsilon Omega, among others. I realized they don't know some of the lore that makes the Midwest District what it is today. Thus, I am going to use this opportunity to tell an epic saga that shall forever be a part of the Midwest District. In fact, it is indeed in our permanent record as part of one of my Secretary/Treasurer Officer Reports, but I know none of you read the minutes, especially old ones. (I challenge you to find it, though!)

This story is one that took place at a time when cell phones weighed not 6 ounces but 12; a time when internet connection speeds were measured not in megabytes per second but in kilobytes per second; a time when Brothers and Sisters gathered not in Norfolk to celebrate our organizations but in Corpus Christi. Yes, I am going to tell an epic saga that began at the 2001 National Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas. It is the story of . . .

DORN'S MOM

by Matt "Spacely" Richardson
Life Member, KKY-KA, University of Minnesota

During the last half of July, 2001, Brothers and Sisters from around the United States began to make the long trek to Corpus Christi, Texas, to participate in the 2001 National Convention of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. Some arrived early to participate in the National Intercollegiate Band or the District Leadership Conference. Others arrived early only to spend a few extra days with their friends.

I was part of the latter group, arriving a day early and taking the extra time to become familiar with the hotel and the city, which was a huge benefit to us later on as we knew where to find restaurants since there weren't too many on our part of the waterfront. As an afterthought, we should have located the nearest hospital too, but that's a story for another chapter at another time.

One of the sights we took in was the U.S.S. Lexington, a World War II aircraft carrier that is moored at Corpus Christi and serving as a floating naval museum. The U.S.S. Lexington was the ship used in the filming of the blockbuster movie *Pearl Harbor*.

Among the others who arrived early were 01-02 KKY President Denali Alt who was participating in the District Leadership Conference, and 01-02 KKY Vice President and 02-03 KKY President Brian Dorn who was playing French Horn in the National Intercollegiate Band. Denali and Dorn, surprise surprise, liked to get together and talk about Kappa Kappa Psi a lot, and so, that is what they were doing one fateful night in late July of 2001.





Denali has always been known, at least to me, to have quite the sarcastic wit. This fateful night, she was indeed in top form. As talk progressed from one topic to another, perhaps even touching a little bit on their personal lives, Dorn began to gaze out across the harbor. No one, except for the two of them, knows exactly how the conversation went, but I imagine it was something like the following:

<Dream Sequence Sound Effect>

Dorn: "I'm so sick of all this squabbling that is going on in the Student Advisory Committee, I wish we could all just get along—say, what's that big boat in the harbor over there?"

Denali, without losing a beat: "Your Mom!"

Dorn: "No, seriously, it looks like an aircraft carrier or something. What is it?"

Denali: "Dude, seriously, it's your mom! It's the U.S.S. Dorn's Mom!"

Dorn: "Come on Denali!"

Denali: "Let's go inside and ask Spacely what he thinks. I'm sure he'll agree that that is the U.S.S. Dorn's Mom."

Denali, winking: "Hey Spacely, that's Dorn's Mom out there in the harbor, right?"

Spacely: "Of course, what else would it be?"

<Dream Sequence Sound Effect>



That alone, however, only began the legend. I, being the computer geek that I am known to be, had my laptop computer and a printer with me in Corpus Christi, so I immediately set to work modifying a picture of the U.S.S. Lexington that I had taken earlier, the result of which is shown on the right. By the closing session of National Convention this picture could be found posted on the doors of many hotel rooms and on the back of many placards belonging to Midwest District Chapters.

So this is the very beginning of the legend of Dorn's Mom. Since then, others have helped to promote her involvement in the Midwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma besides Denali and myself. Among the most important are former Kappa Kappa Psi District Officers Ray Zawicki of Beta Tau and Cheryl Joor of Epsilon Omega. This last year, Dorn himself has even come to recognize the fact that his mom is now a part of what makes our District the best District in the nation.

Perhaps you will find more on the legend of Dorn's Mom in future issues of Midwest Notes. Or maybe, just maybe, you'll have to wait until I publish my auto-biography: *Space Sprockets and Other Stories from College Life*. ;-)

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