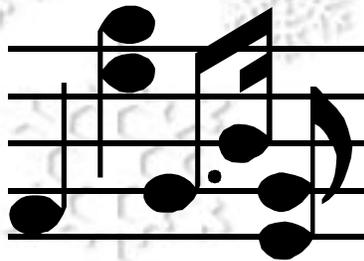


# Midwest Notes



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

Winter Edition  
December 2003

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

# Table of Contents

---

From the Editor	3
TBΣ Board of Trustees Member: Ed Elsa	4
TBΣ SWD President Chris Foster	5
KKΨ Beta	6
KKΨ Iota Omega	10
KKΨ Kappa Delta	10

The MWD Convention is coming soon!

Bozeman, Montana

March 26-28

More info?

[www.kkybeta.coolpages.com](http://www.kkybeta.coolpages.com)

[bozemanorbust@yahoo.com](mailto:bozemanorbust@yahoo.com)



## From the Editor:

By Chris Colvin

Iota Omega — ΚΚΨ

This has been quite the semester of extremes for myself, and probably for many of my brothers and sisters across the Midwest. I hope that everyone has survived, and have found themselves better off on the long run.

For the last edition of Notes, I did most of my writing up in the mountains of Colorado in the south-western corner of the Midwest district. Now, five months later, I find my self about 100 meters from the eastern boarder in Keokuk, Iowa. There are few better places to write than drinking an air-chilled, cold beer on my laptop, while sitting on the bluff on the edge of the Mississippi river.

As Iota Omega approaches its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I've been pondering the growth and change of our brotherhood. I've had the unique experience of observing Iota Omega for most of its existence, first as a member of the ISUCF'V'MB and then as a brother. As I look down on the river below me its story reminds me a bit of Iota Omega, and I'm sure a common thread in the history of many chapters.

The problem with the Mississippi at Keokuk is that there were rapids on the river. Not quite white-water rapids, but enough to keep boats from passing through with their cargos. The first settlers found a quick fix for this problem: they lightened the boats and moved them across the rapids during periods of higher water. The extra goods were moved by hand or horse and the boats were towed up in a similar fashion, for a fee of course. Once everything was up river they were re-loaded and the boats could continue on their way. Much like running a new chapter this was a quick patch for a problem, and while not an efficient way to run things, there wasn't much traffic, so the solution worked OK. As trade grew along the river during and after the war the system was overwhelmed. Much like a growing chapter a new solution to the wonderful problem of growth was needed.

In 1877 a canal was built along side of the river to facilitate the transshipment of material and ships around the rapids. This was hailed as a permanent solution to the problem of the rapids. This reminds me of the era of Iota Omega's first constitution. The founders had created a document that guided the

chapter during the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> years. It seemed like a good document, and with occasional amendments it did an OK job. However as our chapter matured we realized that there were some major problems. Much like the first constitution is now a document in the chapter archives to be studied. Many of the houses in Keokuk (including the one that I'm in) have rock from that canal in them. The "permanent solutions" of the past become the building materials for the future.

At the turn of the last century it became apparent that the canal was no longer adequate. A proposal to build a dam across the Mississippi was put forward. The construction lasted many years, but was done well. When it was built the Keokuk dam was the largest in the world. In the last 90 years very few significant changes have happened, yet its productivity has not decreased in the least. Last spring Iota Omega put forth the effort to rewrite our constitution from scratch. We had eight years of history at our disposal and a team of dedicated brothers. We also contacted our brothers around the nation for further advice. Much like the Keokuk dam we were all very proud of what we produced, and we hope that with minor adjustments it will serve Iota Omega well for many decades. We hope it will also be a good example to any of our brother and sister chapters as they take on similar projects.

As a chapter if your constitution has quit serving you well, or you have no idea where a copy even is, perhaps a good goal is to create a new one. A well built document can serve as an object of stability in rough times, an arbitrator of disputes, and as a historical document that should be understood by all brothers and sisters in the chapter. Much as the dam stands as a reflection of the City of Keokuk and the State of Iowa, a chapter's constitution should reflect either the strength and ideals of a chapter, or its ambition to achieve those ideals.

AEA & ITB,  
Chris Colvin

Iota Omega (ΚΚΨ) Iowa State University  
Chapter Historian & History Nerd  
District Publications Committee Chair  
Midwest District Notes Editor

**Go To Convention!**



## District Officer, Counselor, Board of Trustee Member, is there really a difference in position or are you just getting older?

By Edward M. Elsea III, TBΣ Board of Trustee member

Now that's a loaded title! Well as you might guess, I have run the gamut of officer positions. I have been asked several times how one moves "up the ladder" and is it just a matter of you've gotten older or are the positions really that different. The answer isn't simple other than telling you the positions are all different. Each position has its own unique situations. Let me share with you these positions so you can see exactly what they entail.

A District Officer is a collegiate member who wants to serve the Sorority on a more global reach. These positions work with all the chapters in the District. It is their responsibility to be a voice for their chapter to the people over them (ie. the District Counselor and National Officers). These people are also responsible to communicate with each chapter in the district. If they don't know what is going on in their district, they aren't able to represent them, now are they? Well, folks that's a two way street also. You must make sure they know what issues are important to you. It may be as simple as a good fundraiser to make some quick cash for the band or some way to do a service project to get their name out to the students. Your District Officers are the ones to be your first contact. Think of these people as your Section Leader in the band.

Your District Counselor's main responsibility is to be a supervisor (manager) of the district. The District Counselor does not directly "mingle", if you will, with the students. Think of this position as the Band Director. Yes, that's a big leap in the eye of the band but stay with me. You go to the band director when you need mediation within the band, advice and questions. The District Counselor does exactly that. The counselor is a

mediator between whoever they need to be. Sometimes it's between a chapter and the District Officers; sometimes it's between members of two chapters or within a chapter. All in all, the Counselor's position takes someone who (according to the constitution is 25 years of age) is able to be open to multiple ideas but able to make a decision in the end (or as I like to call it "give them the smack down whenever they lost reality").

Although this is my first few months on the Board, I can tell you it is so much different than the other two...where do I begin? First of all, the Board does not have direct contact with the students. These people are like the Board of Regents (Curators or whatever you call them). They are expected to keep the security of the Sorority (or College/University in the example) in check. We do not deal with the day-to-day happenings of the Sorority but get snapshots. These snapshots include a monthly report from the National President (University President) and keeping track of the Trust, which in turn maintains the health and well being of the Sorority. That means we instigate fundraising efforts when the trust needs a boost and, along with the National Officers, oversee the Executive Director/National Headquarters.

So as you can see, a 20-year-old member of the Sorority cannot do all these positions. The Counselor and Board is designed to be an older member of the Sorority who is able to manage and supervise both money and people. The main difference between the Counselor and the Board member is the connection with the students. We attempt to be at the District Conventions but it is at our own expense by design of the organization. This is not unique to our organization but to all organizations. Everyone has a place to serve, so go out there and find your niche and serve Tau Beta Sigma with all your heart.



## Who is your Recognition Coordinator?

By Chris Foster

Southwest District President

Have you ever received your copy of the *Podium* and read about the national scholarship recipients and wished you'd known about them before the deadlines? The 2003 National Convention Programs Committee offered chapters a solution to that dilemma: have your Chapter President appoint a Recognition Coordinator! This person would have the responsibility of researching national and district awards and scholarships. There are so many opportunities for members of the Sorority to earn recognition for themselves and their chapter!

In recent years, the National Chapter has created several new awards to recognize individuals inside the Sorority and out. Many Sisters and Brothers are unaware of the many opportunities to win awards, not to mention the national scholarship opportunities. For instance, The Baton award recognizes an outstanding active member for their continued leadership in the Sorority. The Auxiliary Award can be given to recognize the contributions of members of your band's color guard, twirlers, etc. There are so many wonderful opportunities that only a paltry few even think of applying.

This is where your new Recognition Coordinator (RC) comes in! With all the duties that your chapter officers and committee chairs have to fulfill, remembering to apply for awards often gets lost in the shuffle. Your RC can alleviate this concern and bring deserved recognition to your chapter. The RC can make sure your chapter's scholars receive their awards from National Headquarters, and help alert deserving Sisters and Brothers when they are eligible to receive the national scholarships.

Every chapter has outstanding leaders, musicians, scholars, performers, and other deserving members. Your RC can help you chapter make sure they get recognized for their achievements. When was the last time your chapters applied for a Service Certificate? When was the last time your chapter promoted Tau Beta Sigma in the local schools by giving the Citation of Excellence and F. Lee Bowling Awards? If the answer to these questions is, "Um, I don't know," then maybe you should consider adding a Recognition Coordinator to your chapter.

Visit the National Alumni  
Association's new web site!

Surf on over to:

<http://www.kkytbsnaa.org>



## District Retreat 2003 Laramie Wyoming

As we begin the expedition of the 2003 Midwest District Retreat to Laramie Wyoming the proper stage must be set. The Friday before retreat the University of Northern Colorado Band arrived in Bozeman. Members from the Beta Chapter spent that evening hang out with their Kappa Kappa Psi chapter. Then Saturday morning there was a mighty football game, in which the Montana State University Bobcats played for all of 5 min, loosing the game 10-14. Directly after the game Betty the Bobcat, Morgan Gabbert, Karl Keith, and Chris Johns hurriedly jumped into Morgan's Mom's Lincoln Town Car, and were off to the retreat.

Before we were even out of Bozeman the Capri Suns manages to pee on both Morgan and Karl. They apparently were not as excited to see Chris. After a few miles Karl decided that staying awake was not worth the effort and being that he was in the back seat of a Lincoln, he was capable of stretching out. Shortly before Laurel, Karl woke up and found out that Chris has also dosed off for a cat nap, Morgan claims that she did not take a nap while driving. We have yet to question Betty the Bobcat as to weather or not Morgan in fact stayed awake. Arriving in Billings we got off at the King ave. exit for some food, as the last time we ate was a crappy stadium hotdog before the game, and a few bagels in the car. The Hardee's we went to was the most ghetto restaurant in the world; other fast food places make fun of this one. It took about a half an hour to get our food, and Chris's 3 pickles were stacked in all in one place on the burger, and they were sweet pickles at that. Later he did find a 4<sup>th</sup> pickle. We then resumed our travels, Morgan still driving.

Shortly after leaving Billings we held a brief Jurisdiction meeting to discuss possible changes to the Beta Chapter Constitution (see Jurisdiction Committee meeting notes). The meeting was called as Chris's and Karl's laps were on fire thanks to their laptops.

Shortly before we got to Sheridan we were suddenly, and a believed deliberate, attacked by the ghosts of the peeps from the 2003 Midwest District convention. The only action taken was the whole car decided that ghosts didn't exist, and upon reaching this consensus the smell disappeared.

Shortly there after, we arrived in Sheridan. Morgan got tired of driving so Chris took over. About 10 or 15 minutes into Chris's driving we are lost. Apparently he thought that he should exit when he saw a sign that said interstate 25. But apparently he didn't read the entire sign, as it was the business loop through Buffalo and not the exit off of I-90 onto I-25. As of now we are seeing signs that are telling us how to find I-25. Morgan and Karl have now revoked any of Chris's decision-making authority and he is hopefully now under our complete control. Hopefully, we will no longer get lost. Now we are back on the Freeway and the trip has resumed. Chris is still trying to figure out where the tires of this enormous car are. On looking back this was a very nice side trip, and allowed for a great deal of window-shopping in downtown Buffalo.

So imagine this, Wyoming is still just as boring as ever. Chris came up with the idea that maybe just maybe if we travel at exactly 88 miles per hours then well, time travel might be possible. After a few miles at the speed we began to accuse each other of who was responsible for installing the flux capacitor. Morgan then informed us that the flux capacitor was install it was just that we did not have the required fuel to produce the nuclear reaction to generate the 21.1 Gigawatts of electricity to power it. Despite this fact we continued to travel at or close to 88 miles per hour in the hope that the Omnipotent father of mankind would have mercy on us and get us thorough this state a bit faster. We are still waiting. Now that Morgan is asleep, and apparently has a fear of drooling on her pillow as it has a protective blanket. Chris started to play with the cars trip computer settings, which allowed for a myriad of things to be displayed, everything from immediate gas mileage to the current level of the fuel tank in gallons. So while going up hills you manages to get the fuel economy down to 5 miles per gallon, and while going down hills managed to get it up to 99. These values were obtained after about 15 minutes of experimenting, and finding that a Lincoln Town Car will easily do 110mph.



Chris's privileges of making decisions have now been reinstated. After consulting Rand McNally trip maker we have decided to leave the freeway and take a highway the rest of the way to Laramie as it should be 75 miles as apposed to 119 miles to stay on the freeway. We are hoping not to get lost. About 70 miles outside of Laramie the persistent cold Chris has gotten the better of him, as his eyes started tearing up. At this point Karl took over driving. Now we are on a road that is slowly getting smaller and small. Karl kept complaining about how it feels like driving to Highwood Montana. This road is getting quite interesting. We had to slam on the breaks twice now to avoid deer, and had to slow down numerous other times for deer and other critters. The road did however, not turn into gravel. Taking the highway easily saved 15min of travel time.

Shortly before we got to Laramie we got out the instructions that we got from Chris Mann to try to figure out where we would actually need to go. They stated that we were to get off of the interstate and get on Grand Avenue, and go to the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> street. When we got to Laramie we began to figure out our bearings and find where we would need to go. Initially we were on 3rd Road, so we stayed on that until we came to Grand Avenue. Being that most cities number up going to the west, we turned west on Grand and were immediately confronted with a dead-end and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Once we were going the right direction on Grand the place was really easy to find.

We got to Chris's (Mann) place shortly before 3am and went to his door, which was open, so Chris (Johns) peaked his head in the door and saw nothing but people passed out everywhere. Just to be sure that we had the right place we went back to the car and called Chris Mann. He came out and greeted us and took us into his place and put us in the back bedroom. With us staying there, there were a total of 11 people in his place that night. We were also informed that his girlfriend had just turned 21 that night so he was busy nursing her back to health. We then set an alarm for 6am and went to sleep.

Suddenly were very rudely awakened the next morning at 6am by the alarm, which was set the night before. Stupid alarm doing what it was told, and not looking out for our needs. It was shut off and we slept in until about 7am. Getting ready for the day in a small apartment with only one bathroom and 11 people was a rather interesting experience. As Brett Kisker and Karl were brushing our teeth Chris (Johns) was undressing and got into the shower, shortly after that Karl left the bath room as about 3 girls went to get ready. Impressively Chris (Johns) showered in under 30 seconds. When Chris (Johns) was done Karl went into shower, once he was in the shower the normal bath room use resumed and people then continued to brush their teeth and such. Shortly after that one of the girls came into the bathroom and asked who was showering and if Karl minded if she peed. Making the single request that she would not flush the toilet. Once she was done Karl got out of the shower and everyone went over to the college for the meetings.

The location of the meetings in proximity to Chris Mann's apartment was amazing; it was a short walk across two parking lots and into the Music Building. As the morning began all three of us were tired to the point of passing out. After a few doughnuts and some juice we slowly regained consciousness. The day started with a game of bingo, in which people had to find other persons to fill up a bingo card, with various Kappa Kappa Psi, and Tau Beta Sigma trivial information. The meetings started and Morgan promptly reached a state of sleeping with her eyes open.

The information presented during the retreat was very useful, especially the 'True Colors' session. We all believe that this session in particular can be easily taken back to our chapter and applied to how we conduct meetings, and interact as brothers. We are planning on giving personality tests to the Beta Chapter members at the next Dinner Meeting.

Upon the conclusion of the meetings we went to lunch with a group of KKY and TBS members. The restaurant of choice was a Mexican place, and although the food was good, in hindsight eating Mexican before a 600 mile trip home may have been a bad choice.



After saying our goodbyes and putting gas in the car we were back on the road, with Chris doing the first stint of driving. Morgan had claimed the back seat and was asleep before we were able to leave the city limits of Laramie. After 80 miles Chris began to fall asleep while driving, as he was the only one to not take a full out nap in the car the day before, so Karl took over driving. After only a short distance Chris fell asleep for real. About an hour later we are now hoping to find the exit for Midwest, WY as we think it would make a good picture. We have now exited the highway in search of Midwest. The road signs say that it is only 6 miles from the interstate, we are hopeful at this point. As we travel down the highway to Midwest we are now passing a series of oil derricks, and an oil pipeline exchange station.

We have successfully found the bustling metropolis of Midwest, WY population 408. This stop was duly worthwhile as it was the first chance since Laramie to use the restrooms. Everyone's bladder is eternally grateful to the small convenience store for being open Sunday evenings.

As we switched to I-90 West, Karl had an unfortunate run in with the sun visor. Morgan and Chris thought that not hitting his head with the visor was implied. We doubt much serious brain damage has occurred from this injury but we will keep Karl under observation for at least the next 5 miles. The recorder has just been informed that the last comment is to be stricken from the report. It has now been several miles and Karl appears to be doing just fine, so we will continue to allow him to drive.

As we neared Sheridan on our return, a semi attempted to run us off the road. Approximately 20 miles from Sheridan there is a section of road construction where the interstate is converted into two-way traffic. In entering this section Karl made an aggressive pass of the semi, which then refused to be passed. With very few inches to spare we cut off the semi. Through the 10 miles of construction the truck never was more than 25 yards from our car. As we exited the construction zone the semi decided that wouldn't it be cool to try to pass us, which was a very impressive thing to see a trucker try to do, but to his dismay the Lincoln Town Car won out in the acceleration contest. We are now debating as to where to get gas, and hoping that the semi does not refuel in Sheridan as we will then be able to 'play' more with him later.

We thought it would be cool to get a picture of the sign that says "Welcome to Montana". Chris was sent on the mission to obtain the picture. Nervous with anticipation of this excellent picture, he is having trouble holding the camera steady. After approaching the sign, which dwarfed him in size he finally obtained the photo.

As both Eastern Montana and Wyoming are rather boring, we decided to have a second meeting of the Jurisdiction Committee. The third member of the committee still was not present. Karl thinks that JD is really slacking on his role in the committee.

An old beat up gray car passed us as we neared Hardin, MT. At first we thought nothing of this as some cars pass us and we pass a lot of cars when traveling. Shortly after this car passed us it slowed way down and we went around and continued our trip. A few miles down the road the same car with Washington License 775-LPA again passed us and then slowed down. This process repeated for a hundred miles or so. To further the investigation into this car's behavior we thought it would be beneficial to form a committee. Upon consulting the constitution it was discovered that a quorum of officers (4) is needed to officially form a committee. Being that only 3 officers were present we held a telephone conference call with one other officer (President JD McCrumb) and formed the Quickness and Apathy of Washingtonians Committee, otherwise known as "QAWC" (pronounced quack). Acting under consent of the President, sponsoring officer Karl Keith appointed Morgan Gabbert as Committee Chair.



As the first order of Business of QAWC, the Committee Chair, Morgan, and the Sponsoring Officer, Karl, created the committee's purposes

Purpose 1. To examine the quickness of Washington Drivers

Purpose 2. To examine the Apathy of Washington Drivers

Purpose 3. To compare and contrast

Morgan then determined to limit the committee to the 3 people in the car as it would be all but impossible to include anyone else. Being that this is a temporary committee we needed to designate an expiration date. After a heated debate, it was decided in a favorable vote of 2 to one abstention of Morgan to set September 28<sup>th</sup> as the expiration. The committee then moved to business. First order of Business was to examine the quickness of Washington Drivers. Morgan cited evidence in favor of the quickness as the car kept passing us. Chris argues against the quickness of Washington drivers as we kept passing it. Karl then brought up the point that there is a difference between speed and quickness. Speed was determined to just be the magnitude of an objects velocity, and velocity is its speed in a direction. Chris then argued that the purposes were not to determine its speed but its quickness and velocity is definitely not under consideration of the Washingtonians. So in reference to their quickness we took into consideration both Morgan's and Chris's earlier examples. Karl then motioned to accept the fact that Washingtonians are indeed quick. Chris seconded. The motion passed by acclamation.

We then moved on to the second order of business. The fact that the car upon passing us then slowed, shows that they did not care that they were in front of us. This shows the Apathy of Washingtonians. The point was also presented that they kept passing us. This shows that maybe they do care. The idea was presented and soon discarded that maybe Washingtonians might just be confused. Finding no other evidence, Chris motioned to accept the fact that Washingtonians are indeed Apathetic, Morgan seconded. The motion tied with a vote of 1 vote by Karl in favor of, and 1 vote against. Morgan abstained. Karl called for a division of the house, and the vote was taken in secret ballot form. All of the voting members carefully considered the issue at hand as ballots were passed out in punch card format. Voting occurred, and the issue was brought up of who should tally the votes. Chris made a point of order that the committee should reference Roberts Rules of order. Karl seconded, and the motion passes by acclamation.

Being the Roberts Rules of order was in the trunk in Chris's suitcase, Karl Motioned to suspend the rules. Chris seconded, and the motion passed by acclamation. The committee then determined that Morgan should tally the votes being that she is Committee chair. All tallying that takes place should be under the direct supervision of Betty the Bobcat. Betty accepted the responsibility. This decision was approved by acclamation. Morgan tallied the votes. The motion passed with 2 in favor of and one Hanging Chad. It was determined that Washingtonians are indeed Apathetic.

Due to the Committee now being apathetic of the committee's purposes we decided to table purpose 3 until the next meeting. We charge the President to have the next road trip participants to create the Quickness and Apathy of Alaskans Committee, also know as QAAC (pronounced quake). Committee adjourned.

The QAWK committee recommended to the passengers of the car that Washingtonians are indeed quick and Apathetic. But we refused to accept this news.

I (Karl Keith) am tired of typing now, so we arrived in Bozeman.

Respectfully Submitted

Morgan Gabbert, Chris Johns & Karl Keith



Submissions from  
Iota Omega — KΚΨ & Kappa Delta — KΚΨ

This past season, our incredible, unmatched football team tore up the football field like a cyclone storming through a trailer park. During the holiday season, we have been on the bowl rebound. We are not bitter at all. Iowa State had the third toughest BCS strength-of-schedule in the nation, the hardest of the Big XII. After having three-years of fame, it is nice to have a break from the bowl madness. As I'm sure all of you at Kansas, Kansas State, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska are thinking, only losers have this frame of mind. Also, I must mention Awa and CSU for going to bowls, being they are in the district but lacking in chapters. Fortunately, not everything is about football, we like band too.

Between the massacres this fall, Iota Omega has been serving the bands in a number of ways. In order to differentiate ourselves away from the marching band, we installed a bulletin board in Music Hall for the exclusive use of KΚΨ and TBS. Our newest brothers in Mu class rebuilt the directors' podium stand. Instead of falling apart, it now makes the director seem like royalty. They did a great job!

As final quiz time approached the Mu class, the education committee searched the wisdom and knowledge of The Internet for a learning social activity. What would be an incentive to *really* know random facts about Kappa Kappa Psi, our history, and our school?! It was decided to try a game show style of doing it. Celebrity Squares, with only some major modifications, worked out quite well. The current members were up against the perspective members and only barely squeezed by with a victory.

If the athletic department is not going to honor the marching band with an end-of-the-season banquet, why not have a self-recognizing celebration? Marching Band finished with its traditional finale band banquet. After countless hours of service from our KΚPsi and TBSigma chapters, it was a big success. This year's theme was "Band in the Bahamas." After all, where else can one find band geeks, topless mermaids, and rock lobsters?!

One of our service projects was to design and construct a harp case. Designing a wooden box to protect multi-colored piano wire is a lot like making sure a Hummer can stow away your '68 VW Bug in the back. I don't know what that means either. What we do know is that this expensive instrument is now off the streets and has a safe home.

Final thought: "*If our motto is Strive for the Highest, perhaps we should all climb K2 next summer!*"

Rob Morrison  
Iota Omega, KΚΨ Iowa State University  
Chapter Publications Committee Chair  
Midwest District Webmaster



The Iota Omega Mu Class stands on top of their class service project a new podium. Dorn apparently isn't happy with a picture in the background and is fixing it.

The Kappa Delta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi is pleased to share with you our new service project. There are many small school districts surrounding Maryville, MO that have trouble making a full pep band for football games and basketball games. Many students involved in band are also involved in sports or cheerleading, leaving only a handful of students to play in the band. These school districts even invite their junior high band students to be involved in the high school pep band performances. Our chapter has been contacting the band directors in these districts in hopes that members of our chapter can attend pep band performances to help keep student interest in the band, raise morale and have a little fun watching a high school game or two. With the high school football season coming to an end in November, our chapter was able to play during one game for the South Paige pep band in Iowa for their family day performance on October 31, 2003. We currently have plans to attend pep band performances throughout basketball season.

ITB,  
Rachelle Wright  
Kappa Delta Corresponding Secretary