

Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma

Midwest District Notes

Post-Convention 2007





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Letter From The Editor



Hey Brothers and Sisters,

I want to say **Thanks!** to every one of you. Not just for choosing Xi chapter to host publications and not just for voting me in as the KKΨ MWD Vice President. I

want to say **Thanks!** for all of the wonderful love and support you have given my chapter and me throughout the past couple of years.

I had a great time in Kearney this year. It gave me a chance to take the station wagon for a spin and meet many new brothers and sisters. I love road trips!

Speaking of road trips, is everyone going to National Convention? I am pumped to be going and I hope to see you there! It is going to be a blast!

Creating this issue has been enjoyable. I was slightly worried when one week before the deadline, I only had two submissions. In the end though, you guys pulled together and we have a great edition of the Notes! Remember, the offer is still open: if you come here to Golden, CO and hand deliver your submission, I'll buy you lunch!

I apologize there aren't as many pictures in this edition as there has been in the past. I just don't have a whole lot in my collection. In the future, if you have a picture you want included with your article, feel free to submit them together!

Enjoy this new issue and I'll see you in Orlando!

AEA and ITB,
Mike Shoup
Xi, CSM, KKΨ
MWD Vice President and Notes Editor

P.S. I like to use lots of exclamation points!



Most of your 2007-2008 Midwest District Council



Submissions from “The Big Wigs”

Denali Alt

MWD KKΨ Governor

Step it up

For my article, I am going to piece together parts of my Governor’s report. This is for those of you who may have missed it in person and just to serve as a reminder to you before we head into National Convention.

“I will probably make many of you upset with my next comments, but I believe they need to be said. Most of the rest of the activities in the Midwest the district over the past year have been fairly commonplace. Not that we are bad or are doing a lot of things wrong, we are just lacking vision, drive, and strong leadership right now. Instead of striving for the highest, we are lounging in mediocrity.

Case and point. The list of Chapter Leadership Finalists came out a few months ago, and for the first time, there were no chapters from the Midwest District on it. None. Zero. When I inquired about it, I was told that all of the chapters that were on the list not only turned in all of their stuff to be eligible, but had performed some outstanding service projects for their respective band programs.

When it came to the Midwest district, out of 22 chapters, we ended up with 7 of them eligible to be a chapter leadership finalist. What does it take to qualify? Send in all of your money and paperwork on time for 2 years. That’s it. Congratulations to the seven chapters in the Midwest District who did step it up and accomplished this— Beta, Alpha Theta, Alpha Iota, Delta Xi, Epsilon Pi, Iota Omega, and Kappa Delta. While that made my recommendation report to the National Council much shorter to write, it was quite disheartening. More than two thirds of our district tripped out of the gate and did not even have the opportunity to be recognized for their achievements.

Now, don’t get me wrong! I love the Midwest district! I wouldn’t trade you guys for the world! So, I am going to let you in on a secret.....if you ARE doing these phenomenal things, MAKE IT KNOWN!!! Do you know how these 11 chapter leadership finalists became finalists? Yes, they began with sending their paperwork in on time. After that, they not only stepped it up in their chapter, but also in talking up their accomplishments.

When you are sending in your Chapter Summary Report at the end of the year, send in more than just the form! This is how the National Council finds out about what is going on around the country. If you just send in the minimum, it is assumed that you are doing the minimum. Send in more than is required and talk up the big things that you are doing.

Since our last convention in Ames I have seen attendance at district events, officer work ethic, activity over the listserv, the amount of travel, and the level of communication all decrease. I realize this has been a fairly strange year, not just in the district, but nationally. I am hoping that this was just a strange fluke year. Overall, though, I have to say that I am less than impressed.

I was actually discussing this report with an active brother yesterday. I told him that I was probably going to come back and water it down so I didn’t hurt so many feelings. He gave me some great advice. He told me that in the role of governor, I see a lot of what is going on and what isn’t going on in the district. Most chapters don’t know. They don’t know how frustrating it has been for the past several years. They don’t know if the district officers are doing their jobs. They don’t know exactly what is supposed to be going on. How are WE going to know if you don’t tell us? You owe it to us to tell us how it is. Thank you



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for this advice! I'm not going to lie to you or water things down. That isn't very brotherly.

I have been very encouraged by this convention, though. There are many brothers in attendance and your work this week has been phenomenal.

My challenge to you in the next year is to step it up! On every level. Step up your fund-raisers. Step up your district involvement. Step up the numbers you take on the road. Step up service to your band program! Step it up and run for a district office. Step it up and turn in a publications bid. Step it up and bid for convention. And step up your talk about the things you have done to step it up! Work hard. Serve often. Brag a little. And get striving!"

I have been pleased with some of the work I have seen at and since district convention. I saw brothers step up even when it was tough – remember, it is the tough times that make us stronger leaders. I saw brothers run for offices at the last minute – even though you weren't elected, please remember this drive in future years and run

or recruit earlier! I have seen district officers begin to take steps needed to successfully perform the roles of their offices – remember to keep up the work and be diligent. Your constituents deserve it!

Please feel free to contact any of us if you need help with any aspect of preparing for National Convention (or anything else for that matter). Please get in your delegate/proxy forms so we can keep our votes in our district.

And please remember, I do what I do because I love the fraternity. I am not running for an office, not trying to push any legislation through, I have no personal agenda. What I do, I do for the betterment of the fraternity for the active members. While we may not all agree all of the time, please remember I always try to do what I think is best for you, the active members. Because YOU are what it is all about!

I look forward to seeing many of your smiling faces at National Convention! Remember, STEP IT UP!!! I wait in anticipation!

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Free Money from the Board of Trustees of Tau Beta Sigma...

Did you know we offer a scholarship each year? No? Could you use \$500? We want to help you with those fall registration fees!

The scholarship is designed to provide assistance to women who are preparing to enter the field of Music Education. Each recipient is awarded \$500 and their name is added to the 'Plaque of Honor' at the National Headquarters. Applicants must be entering their Junior or Senior year after June 1st, have been an active member of Tau Beta Sigma for one year, and have a 3.3 GPA (on a 4.0 scale). To apply for this award, please download the [application form](http://www.tbsigma.org/Forms/TrusteesScholarshipApp.pdf) at: <http://www.tbsigma.org/Forms/TrusteesScholarshipApp.pdf>. The form and supplemental materials must be sent to the National Headquarters, postmarked no later than June 1st.

PLEASE take some time right now to fill out the application and send it in. You don't have time? Do you want \$500 free dollars? It could be the best form you fill out all month!! Again, the application and supplemental materials must be postmarked and mailed to the National Headquarters by June 1st.

We hope to see your application soon!

Ed Elsea
TBS Board of Trustees



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Howdy Sisters & Brothers!

I had a *fabulous* time at District Convention in Kearney and can't wait to see many of you this July in Orlando! Each convention and event gives us a chance to get together and renew the spirit of Sisterhood and Brotherhood.

Every year at district convention, I issue a new challenge to the members of Tau Beta Sigma, along with a reminder of previous challenges. For those of you who weren't able to join us at convention, and for those who were that need a reminder, here are your current challenges (with slight modifications):

- ✓ Meet at least 10 new Sisters outside of your chapter this year!
- ✓ Learn and SING the Sorority's songs. Sing often; sing loud; sing together...just sing!
- ✓ Strive to renew the tradition of 100% attendance at district convention (at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, 2008!).
- ✓ As we celebrate the 61st year for our fabulous organization: take time to preserve your chapter's history! THINK about what you want future generations of Sisters to know about you. Learn what it takes to make a scrapbook that lasts! Compile your chapter's history in a way that will survive for another 60+ years!
- ❖ Your additional challenge for 2007-08 is to connect with your Sisters – those right next to you and those across the district and

nation – active, alumni and Life alike. Let us all work together to strengthen the Bond of Sisterhood.

Together we can make the Midwest the best district in Tau Beta Sigma! PLEASE ask questions, ask for help, or just reach out and say "Hello!" Your district officers and I are here to support you all as we grow and learn together. I am eager to hear all about how you're doing with the above challenges!

That's it for this edition of *Counselor's Corner!* Keep in touch! See you in Orlando!

Love in the Bond,
Wendy

P.S. A special note to the Brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi in the Midwest District: Thank you for the privilege you bestowed on me through Honorary membership at District Convention. The ritual performed by Epsilon Omega was beyond outstanding, and it was a privilege for me to be welcomed into the Brotherhood of the District!

Wendy McCann
Midwest District Counselor
TBSigma Life Member & MWD Honorary
KKPsi MWD Honorary Member
NAA/MWDAA/SWDAA Member
wmccann@tbsigma.org



Submissions from “The Peanut Gallery”

Greetings from the Rocky Mountains,

Just so everyone knows I came up with the idea for this Notes submission on the way back from convention and wrote it in the car while still under the spell of a sever lack of sleep, so I'd like to apologize in advance for incoherencies that might escape further editing.

First off, I'd like to say congratulations to everyone that helped put on this years District Convention, we all had a great time and the convention went really smoothly and was very, very well done. I would also like to take this chance to say that I am very personally proud of my chapter for putting up a bid for the Midwest Publications as well as Mike Shoup for running for a district office only 3 months after being installed. I was not personally 100% on these things, but everyone in the chapter pulled together and put together a great bid and helped to support Mike and we will continue to meet and hopefully exceed the expectations of the district.

And now to the actual topic of my article: Service with a social aspect. Having served as my chapter's Service Chair for the past year, I have had the opportunity to learn first hand how hard it is to put together service projects and get everyone in your chapter (and sometimes even your band) involved and excited. During the colonization process our chapter had some small issues with trying to have an impact on our campus. We did all the usual projects, sorting music, cleaning up, etc. but nothing really noteworthy. For a while the chapter started focusing more on the social aspect of being involved with Kappa, and not the real reason we were there, to serve the Music Program.

Now, I am by no means saying that the social aspect of KKY or TBS should be forgotten, after all we are all brothers and sisters and are there to help and support each other, I would just like to present an idea that our chapter started...and as Denali said, brag a little. Seeing that our chapter was very social with both itself and other members of the band an idea occurred to us—to serve the band using our social skills. It was with this in mind that we started planning small band

socials to help our band members get to know us and more importantly each other. Nobody really knew how this was going to turn out, but we decided to give it a try anyway. We have started by having small movie nights at the school. We all go to one of the lecture halls on campus, bring some food, and show a movie on a huge projection screen. This program has been a huge success with our band. We now do two showing a semester, one around midterms and one around finals, and they are attended by roughly half our band. It is a great way for the band to get together outside of rehearsal, get to know each other a lot better, get to know our chapter better and what we're all about, and provide some much needed stress release from tests, classes, and other things. This program has been so successful that band members ask me regularly when and what the next movie will be.

Another even along these lines that the chapter just came up with at the dance at convention was a band mixer. We're hoping to have a small dance (like at convention) for the band about a month into the new semester. This will help the new members meet other members, provide something fun to do, and maybe...just maybe provide a little romance within the band (you never know what will happen at band functions)!!

The take home message of this article I guess would be that service does not have to be something boring for just chapter members, you can have a fun event for the entire band. It provides great relationships between your chapter and the band and gives an opportunity for band members to learn more about the chapter without the pressure that recruiting can sometimes have on individuals. I would highly recommend to any chapter that they try having these kinds of events where the band can have fun and not have to worry about band, school, or anything else but enjoying themselves with their fellow musicians.

AEA
Chase Ruff
President, Xi, KKPsi



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HELLO TO EVERYONE IN THE MIDWEST DISTRICT!!!

Well, it's been almost a month since convention, so I would like to give one last shout out to my sisters of Theta Mu. Saying thank you doesn't even come close to what I want to say. You girls are AMAZING and I am so glad to have each and every one of you as my sister. Thank you to the district for allowing me to serve as your Vice President of Membership. I am truly honored to step up and share my love for our amazing bond as sisters and brothers. I am also honored to be selected to perform with the National Intercollegiate Band again this summer.

Speaking of National Intercollegiate Band, I hope that everyone has taken time to consider making the trip out to Orlando. I can't wait to step out of our district and step in to a whole new

world at National Convention. I made the journey out to Kentucky in 2005 and am totally excited to be able to go to Orlando this year. I know there are so many things that we can all learn there and I hope everyone thinks about going to Nationals and getting new and fresh ideas to bring back to our district and even back to our own chapters.

I hope that everyone is enjoying a much needed break from school and starting to enjoy summer. Please don't hesitate to ask us questions. I know most of us have email or Facebook, so please ask us if there is something we can help you with.

MOTS,
Mackenzie Cochran
Vice President of Membership
Tau Beta Sigma – Theta Mu Chapter



**Denali Alt
MWD KKP Governor**

Brothers helping brothers

Right now I am sitting on a bus. I just finished reading the latest edition of *The Podium* cover to cover and started thinking about all of the Kappa stuff I have to do. This is a 10 hour bus ride from Chicago back to Kansas City. I am wearing the most mismatched outfit just because it is comfortable. I have eaten enough Doritos, Twizzlers, and Coke to choke a horse. Oh yeah, I am on a band trip! Woohoo! No matter how old I get, band trips still happen.

Now forgive me, I am not a band director, I am a choir director. This is not my trip. I was asked to come on this trip at the last minute and agreed for a few reasons – I get to drive through the great state of Iowa, I got to go to Wrigley Field, saw a great performance of Wicked, and had the opportunity to spend the weekend hanging out with band kids. They even let me play my baritone! Yeah!

We had an unfortunate chain of events transpire before we left on our trip. Our performance opportunity fell through. We were getting heat from the school board, some administration, and parents to find another performance for the trip. That is of course why we were going. As we all know, the purpose of all band trips is to perform, right? (wink, wink)

Time out – another stop at McDonalds.

OK, back 40 minutes later. The McDonalds in Grinell, Iowa wasn't really prepared for a bus-load of people!

So anyway, our band director is not a Kappa or Tau Beta (bad Eta Zeta Delta!), but she knows about the fraternity. She asked me if I knew anyone that might be able to help her set up. I emailed Dr. Mike Golemo. We weren't going to Ames, but would be driving through Des Moines and might have been able to stop off in Ames. With very little notice (about 4 days!) and even



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fewer details, he was more than willing to let us come and perform at ISU and even work with us.

Amazing! Our band director could not believe that I could set this up in a matter of hours with the director at a university the size of ISU.

We ended up, in the end, finding another performance venue in Chicago, but situations such as these bring us back to the heart of the fraternity. Kappa Kappa Psi is about band, brothers, and service. I came to a Kappa “big wig” with a problem that related to all three – band, brothers, and service. He came through with flying colors without hesitation. I was so proud of the fraternity! We have a fraternity where our leadership is approachable and helpful. I knew that I could have set this up in many places across the country and I would have had a whole network

of brothers and sisters there to assist me. What a great feeling! What a great fraternity!

So, as Cars is playing on the DVD player on the bus, I type this as I listen to an episode of Grey’s Anatomy on my laptop, I attempt to sum up what I am trying to say. Your time in the fraternity is so precious. The friends you make, invaluable. Remember, no matter how far removed you may be from the chapter level, unexpected opportunities may fall in your lap. Also remember, if you are in a bind, turn to our brothers and sisters. They can do some amazing things!

By the way, UMR, keep your eyes out for Jason. He will be a freshman drummer this fall. He might make a good brother or sister (he is on the bus right now and I already talked to him a bit about it!).



Hey Midwest District!

The Zeta Nu chapter here at the University of Northern Iowa has had a busy and very exciting end to our school year. This past semester our chapter, along with the help of our brother chapter Eta Pi, we got really busy working to finalize all of our plans to bid to host the 2008 district convention at UNI. Being able to go through this process of planning all the details necessary to host a convention was a great learning experience for our chapter. It gave the members who had bid to host convention before a chance to help out with tips on what to try again and what to try differently as well as providing the "newbies" with the experience of learning about all the work that goes into simply bidding to host. The Zeta Nu chapter had six members attend district convention in Kearney. We were especially pleased to see three of our new members attend convention and excited to be involved with Tau Beta on a larger level. UNI ended up being the only chapter to bid to host the 2008 convention and did receive the bid. While the competition was not so intense I would still like to congratulate both of our

chapters on all the hard work they put into this bid. After convention we began our nominations of officers for the next school year. This is never an easy decision as we have many qualified members excited to get more involved with Tau Beta, but I would like to take a minute to recognize both last years and this coming years officers.

Old officers are as follows:

- President: Leslie Twite
- Vice President: Jason Dornbush
- Secretary: Mary Alice McDonald
- Treasureure: Katy Jacobson
- Corresponding Secretary: Alison Webeler
- Historian: Kristy King
- Parlimentarian/Sgt. at arms: Anthony Schons
- Ritualist: Jennie Morton
- Web Master: Mike Verlo

We appreciate all of these officers contributions to our chapter and their efforts in serving there positions. We would especially like to take the time thank you for all the work that you have done to help our chapter this past year.



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New Officers are as follows:

- President: Jason Dornbush
- Vice President: Alison Webeler
- Secretary: Mary Alice McDonald
- Treasurer: Rachel Israel
- Corresponding Secretary: T.J. Haislet
- Historian: Kelly Gansen
- Parliamentarian/Sgt. at arms: Chris Vanderpool
- Ritualist: Katy Jacobson
- Web Master: Anthony Schons

Our officers are very excited and have lots of great new ideas for next year. We would like to congratulate them on their future successes in these offices.

Before I conclude I would like to also take a minute to congratulate Zeta Nu's newest alumni members:

- Leslie Twite
- Kate Small

These two have done a lot for our chapter in the time that they were here and still managed to get

good grades in school and graduate both with degrees in music education. We all hope that the job searches are going well and that you have a successful career creating music, but that you also never forget your time here with TBS. We are all looking forward to seeing these Alumni around some next year as we prepare to get everyone together to work to create an awesome convention.

I appreciate you all taking the time to read my chapter summaries a few times this year. I know that I have really enjoyed keeping you all informed on what our chapter has been up to, but it's my turn to pass this job on to T.J., our new corresponding secretary. We hope that everyone has a fun/relaxing/safe summer and the Zeta Nu chapter will be looking forward to seeing you ALL at the 2008 district convention at UNI.

Respectfully submitted,

Ali Webeler
aweber@uni.edu
Previous corresponding secretary
Tau Beta Sigma-Zeta Nu
University of Northern Iowa



It is hard to believe with summer just starting that fall is just around the corner. Before you know it, it will be time for marching band camp, football games, and recruiting. With this in mind I encourage everyone to talk to your sponsor and marching band director to see what needs to be done ahead of time. If you have never done it, I recommend hosting a dinner during marching band camp. If you have, add a freshmen dinner, or add a movie night. For those who are really ambitious, organize survival kits for band members. I encourage chapter presidents and secretaries to look at the Fall Activity Report to know what to expect in September. As you all have heard, this year's theme seems to be "Step it up." By thinking ahead of time with camp and the Fall Activity Report we can do just that.

Summer can be a difficult time for communication both on the chapter and the district level. While summer committees are a great idea, committee members should always keep the chapter informed. I suggest hosting an online chat with your chapter periodically throughout the summer. After all, stepping it up doesn't just stop at the district level.

To sum it up, take advantage of the summer to catch up or get ahead. With National Convention less than two months away there is plenty to do. I hope everyone has a great summer, especially those going to Orlando.

Respectfully submitted,
Kylee Kern
MWD MAL
Alpha Nu President



Where Has the Midwest District Gone???

I am from a chapter with an ego. Some Kappa Deltas will cringe at that statement. More than that, I am from a district with an ego. I thought I'd start off my article by making you all angry with me in hope that you'll read the rest of it.

I always knew I was from a good chapter. I can just hear people now; "those Kappa Deltas, they win EVERYTHING!" We walked the walk and talked the talk, yet this year my chapter is not up for the Scroggs trophy for the first time since we were initiated in 1995. I feel that I am to blame for this. Maybe I haven't done everything in my power to better the chapter. Maybe I should have done this and this. Maybe my chapter needs to revamp.

Here at Northwest Missouri State, we have a Fine Arts building that looks very similar to a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup. It's pretty ugly and should be condemned in several areas, however you can't miss it. On the second floor across from our director's office stands the Kappa Delta display case. Inside you would see pictures, awards, past district convention mugs, and the Scroggs trophy from 2001. The other day I walked over there and sat in front of the case wondering where it had all gone. Kappa Delta was the best and now all of it has seemed to dwindle and like the rest of the Midwest District, we settle for mediocrity and not for the superb level that we should be.

Before my chapter decides to kick me out and I become homeless, I must clarify why I am saying



Experiences are a vital part of anyone's life, and this summer is no different for myself.

This summer I am touring the country with the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps as a management/marketing intern. With this position I am supposed to be learning the inner structure of a Division 1 drum corps and how it survives the incredibly expensive summer tour. I have only

any of this. At convention in wake of hearing that no one in the Midwest District was nominated for the Chapter Leadership Award, I looked around the room and I wanted to scream. There is so much potential in our district. We have fantastic chapters and so many amazing leaders that there is no reason for mediocrity. We may think that we are a good district, but we need to keep our egos in check and better ourselves.

This is where I come in. I am not the type of person to get angry and not do anything about it. This year I have made it a goal to better our district in any aspect that I can. I am going on chapter visits and I plan to correspond with EVERY chapter's treasurer and secretary (s) this year. If your chapter has an issue, I will strive to resolve it or find someone who can. However, I'm not a psychic. I don't know all of the inner workings of every single chapter in the district. You may have to ask me and the other DOs for help. We're here for you, so if you need us just let us know.

Steppin' it up can be scary business, but from what I've seen the Midwest District is not one to back away from a fight. All the advice I can give you is to hope, think, talk, and use your resources. As Andy Dufresne says in *The Shawshank Redemption* "Get busy living or get busy dying." C'mon Midwest District! WE have work to do!

Laura Voss
Kappa Kappa Psi-Kappa Delta
Northwest Missouri State University
Midwest District Secretary/Treasurer 2007-2008

been here for two weeks, and I can tell you all that I am learning much more than just the behind the scenes grunt work of the corps.

As an intern, I was told, "If everything goes perfect you will be invincible, however if something goes wrong the world will know." Awesome, right. So far, so good. Even as I have been thrown into some wild situations in my first



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week on the job, it has proven to have the potential of being one of the greatest experiences I could have.

I moved into La Crosse, WI for three days before the corps' move-in in Indianapolis, Indiana. Here I basically lived at the executive director's house and helped with everything possible in the office (meaning loading and unloading semi trailers and preparing them for the move, buying supplies, and then continuing to drive a box truck to Indy ☺). After arriving in Indy and after a few days into rehearsals I (and the directors) found out that the head cook would not be able to be around for a week because of her school's schedule. I happened to be the only staff around that has had any large group cooking experience. Lucky Me! Actually I volunteered for the daunting task in order to help relieve the stress in trying to find someone to cook for us. This entailed cooking 4 meals a day for approximately 130 people, and *everyone* is alive and healthy. I enjoyed being able to provide a unique service to such a hard working group of young people in a way that I hadn't thought of before.

For the actual marketing and management part of my summer I will be designing the Blue Star's home show program held in La Crosse later in

June. I have also been in charge of many random things such as the corps' cell phones (the members are not allowed to have their phones for the summer), occasional store runs for food and supplies, and pretty much anything they need me to do. But hey, it is an internship right!

I feel that I am extremely fortunate for the fact that I am able to continue working with music while enhancing my studies. I am also around a great group of brothers and sisters from across the country and although we will be unable to attend National Convention in July we will be strong in the bonds and actively participating in a passion that we share with the Blue Stars.

Blue Stars are helping me develop into a confident human being. I was thrown into a mix of people of which I had never met before, doing an activity I had only dreamt of being able to do, and on top of all of this I have been able to be a mentor to an amazing young group of musicians. Check out our schedule on bluestars.com and catch a show!

ITB and MOTS,

Casey Jo Redding
Iowa State University
TBS MWDVPSP

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Tau Beta Sigma...**

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