

MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA

FALL EDITION

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2008



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Contents

Chapter Visit - Sarah Groteluschen.....	2
New Traditions - Chris Gilson.....	2
Greetings, Midwest District! - Kristin Penney.....	3
Greetings from the Zeta Nu chapter - T.J. Haislet	4
Hello Brothers and Sisters! - Jeff Waldschmitt	5
Don't RUSH into Things - Tessa Friedman	6
Greetings MWD - Jason Dornbush.....	7
Letter from - Emily McIntosh	8
Four Short Words - Denali Alt.....	9
Beginnings - Richard A. Ashby.....	11

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA

MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

Fall Edition

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CHAPTER VISIT

On April 25, 2008, five members of the Kappa Delta chapter traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska to attend the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Epsilon Omega chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The event was scheduled to take place at Pioneer's Park, but due to cool weather and wind, it was moved to an indoor location. The meal consisted of grilled hotdogs, chips and salsa, cookies, brownies, and pop. Twenty five attendees enjoyed an evening of food, socializing, and for some, a game of Apples to Apples. I really enjoyed getting to spend time with brothers from both of my chapters. All members of Kappa Delta enjoyed the experience. Congratulations to the Epsilon Omega chapter on 10 great years!

Sarah Groteluschen
Kappa Delta Alumni Relations Officer
Epsilon Omega Life Member

NEW TRADITIONS

The three Kappa Kappa Psi chapters of Colorado: Alpha Theta (University of Northern Colorado), Alpha Iota (University of Colorado, Boulder), and Xi (Colorado School of Mines) have taken a new approach on the ritual of third degree. The chapters have gotten together to hold one degree for all three chapters. The ritual travels from one chapter to the next in alphabetical order each semester- thus the name the traveling 3rd degree. The chapters took one aspect of the fraternity that everyone goes through some time in their journey, and combined to promote brotherhood, and to have a good time. The first attempt of this was held last spring at the University of Colorado, Boulder and hosted by the Alpha Iota chapter. More than 20 prospective members were initiated into the three respective chapters of the brotherhood of Kappa Kappa Psi. The next degree will tentatively be held by the Xi chapter at the Colorado School of Mines this semester.

AEA,
~Chris Gilson

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA

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GREETINGS, MIDWEST DISTRICT!

We hope you're having a fantastic start to the year, and you have even more successes than last. We had a great time at convention with all of you, and can't wait for this year.

Our chapter celebrated its 10th Anniversary of its reinstatement on April 25th, 2008 by having a barbecue. Due to rain we ended up at a member's house, but we had a great time anyways. Even still, we were happy to host members of Kappa Delta, who were kind enough to join us for our celebration.

Epsilon Omega would like to thank our chapter and district officers for the 2007-2008 year, and congratulate them on putting on a new community outreach program as well as a new class! We want to announce that we inducted three new members into Epsilon Omega. These members are Heath White, Anneliese Reed, and Amber Knight, but we know them fondly as the Three Caesars. Our new officers began their duties in April, and they are:

President Katlynn Dutkiewicz
VP of Programs Tyanne Bennett
VP of Membership Megan Borrell
Recording Secretary Anneliese Reid
Corresponding Secretary Kristin Penney
Treasurer BJ Baule
Historian Ashley Lachowicz

This spring, our chapter decided to put together what came to be known as "The Music Day". Our goal was to put together an afternoon of activities that would teach the CEDARS children how to find and appreciate music in every-day life through fun games and activities that would teach them basic musical concepts, in the hopes that if presented with the opportunity to participate in musical groups later in life, they would be more likely to consider doing so. We decided to host our music day on a Friday afternoon at a local community center for the CEDARS "School's Out" program—a program that provides full-time care for children during the Lincoln Public School's spring break.

CEDARS is a non-profit organization that provides emergency housing and care for abused or neglected children as well as offering after-school care and foster care for children. The children who frequent these programs are part of the underprivileged demographic of Lincoln, Nebraska and are often very transient children. They are not usually offered the opportunity to participate in musical programs.

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MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES



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Epsilon Omega had some fun experiences this year with Cornhusker Band Camp 2008. We wore letters all week to recruit, and had a cosmic bowling outing, as well as putting on our annual casual band dance at the end of the week, TGIO. We continued our annual tradition of providing freeze pops to the band during evening rehearsals.

Our band is planning a full band trip to Kansas State, and hopefully many more trips as the season continues. We look forward to seeing you in many of your stadiums and having you in ours. Last year, we had the pleasure of hosting members of the Iota Omega chapter during the Nebraska-Iowa State game in September, and would love to host any of your chapter members that aren't already with your band. If any of your bands are stopping near Lincoln, we'd love to see you as well. Let us know about your trips and projects for the year, and good luck!

AEA,

Kristin Penney
Corresponding Secretary
Epsilon Omega
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

GREETINGS FROM THE ZETA NU CHAPTER OF TBS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA!

This school year has gotten off to an exciting and busy start. Band camp went extremely well this year during band camp both chapters (TBS and KKY) worked together to hold an activity each night of the week to help the members get to know each other better. Some highlights included a cook out, s'mores, section night, and "Pantherpalooza", a skit night that has become a tradition for the Panther Marching Band. After memorizing halftime and pre-game during band camp, the marching band opened our first game against South Dakota with a look back on the early 2000's. Both our chapter as well as our brother chapter helped pitch in at the game, bringing water coolers as well as soda for marching band members. In addition to getting back in the swing of the school year our chapter has been working hard to recruit new members. We have many recruiting ideas this year. We used a different approach than we did last year. By having students that were interested in joining one of the organizations attend a different separate open meeting for six weeks and on the seventh week they can choose which organization best suits their interests. Our first major event is a progressive dinner, which is going to take place the day before a football game. The progressive dinner sets up the perfect time to get to know new band members. Other recruiting events that we are planning for this year are "quarter mania" bowling night with \$0.25 hotdogs and pop. We are looking forward to the coming year and a promising marching band season. We hope that every chapter is off to an exciting start and look forward to seeing many of you at this year's District Convention.

In the Bonds,

T.J. Haislet
Tau Beta Sigma-ZN
Corresponding secretary
University of Northern Iowa

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA

MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

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HELLO BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

I hope everyone's summers were enjoyable and left you ready for another year of classes, band, or whatever endeavors you may be pursuing. Hopefully, you're also ready for another year of joining Brothers and Sisters in serving your band.

As many of you may have heard already, Midwest District Region Days are back with a fresh outlook. Many people have asked me what Region Days are and what their purpose was. The goal of Region Days is to increase activities in the Midwest District and provide more opportunities for Brothers and Sisters to grow and improve service to the college and university band without having to travel across the district to do so. These events also provide good practice in event planning for smaller chapters/smaller schools to become more active in the district.

We ask that forms to host a Region Day are submitted by September 15, but I will accept applications afterwards in the case that no one has submitted by the deadline. The form is available on the MWD website as well as a FAQ page to answer some of the questions you may have about Region Days. If you have any further questions, please contact Jason Dornbush or myself!

I hope you all found the new publication, Kappa Kappa Psi DOings, helpful. DOings is a newsletter compiled by the KKPsi district officers (DO's...hence the title DOings. Ha!) with the intent to communicate better with chapters about what we are doing and how we're doing it. We will be sending out issues of DOings periodically throughout the school year. If you have any questions or comments about DOings, please feel to contact any of the district officers.

Don't forget dues are due to Nationals by September 30. Just a note for those who were unaware, for everyone person in the district whose dues are not in on time, the district receives less money from Nationals. Last year, the MWD of KKPsi received \$180 less than other districts because of late dues. Not cool! Get your money in so that your councils can afford to plan cooler things at conventions and other events!

I wish you all the best of luck this semester! Remember, your district council is here to help you, so please contact us at any time with questions or comments.

In the Bonds,

Jeff Waldschmitt
President, Midwest District
Kappa Kappa Psi – Eta Pi
University of Northern Iowa

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA

MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

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DON'T RUSH INTO THINGS: TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR CHAPTER'S RUSH WEEK A SUCCESS

Now that we've all survived band camp, settled into our dorms and apartments, and had our first Kappa meetings of the semester its time to start brainstorming!

Rush Weeks are a pivotal part of every Membership Education Plan; they draw in prospective members and showcase everything your Kappa Kappa Psi chapter has to offer.

Keep these tips in mind:

KEEP IT SIMPLE.

Remember that the number one goal for Rush Week is recruitment and spending time together as a brotherhood. An ice cream social, a game of kickball, or a night of board games keeps people talking and interacting.

SHOW WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT.

Plan a simple and useful service project during Rush Week and invite prospective members to join in. This creates an environment that is comfortable and productive. Participating in a service project is an easy way to share the objectives and principles of Kappa Kappa Psi.

FREE IS ALWAYS GOOD.

College kids are always looking for a few ways to save money so try planning a Rush Week where all the events are free. Game nights, service projects, and trips to the park are easy to plan. Also try finding free movies or events on your college campus and playing your instruments (pep charts and small ensemble music is good to have on hand for this one).

Remember to stress the benefits of your organization and the ways every member can get involved on the chapter, district, and national level. These events in conjunction with a solid Membership Education Plan can get your fall off to a great start!

Tessa Friedman
Midwest District Vice President

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA
MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

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GREETINGS MWD,

It is with great enthusiasm that we begin a New Year, semester, and recruitment season. As we begin recruitment and education, I cannot stress enough how important it is to not put the sorority at risk. Each time we engage in any type of behavior, it is important to remember that we are representatives of Tau Beta Sigma. Please talk to your chapters and make certain that we are not engaging in hazing or other risky behaviors.

With that said, I am excited to announce that Tau Beta Sigma will be having a membership summit. The summit will be held on October 25-26 in Kearney, Nebraska. There is no registration fee; the only cost to you will be a \$5 ticket to a Kearney football game (which is optional), and the price of any food.

Thanks to the lovely sisters of Theta Mu in Kearney, our lodging is at no cost to us; we will be staying with them. Bring your own pillows and blankets. If you have any questions, or to register, contact mwdcouncil@tbsigma.org. Before I leave you, I want to remind you that the deadlines for dues are on September 30th. Your district actually loses money if you turn your dues in late. Last year we could have had \$50 more in our budget if chapters would have had their dues in on time.

I also wanted to remind you to check out the MWD resource. It is sent out over the listserve once a month. Feel free to respond with comments. We are here to serve you. Can't wait to see all of you in Kearney on October 25th!

Jason Dornbush
MWD President
Tau Beta Sigma ZN
University of Northern Iowa

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA

MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

Fall Edition

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Summer has come to an end and as band people we all know what that means....A New Marching Band Season!!!! This year our chapter is filled with creative minds and determined spirits. We as a chapter want to keep enriching our traditions. We also want to, of course, grow in size and in heart. We want to strengthen our unity and bonds with our brother chapter, Iota Psi. Both of our chapters have decided that working together will give us better outcomes and stronger bonds. We kicked off our goal by working together to make our band camp a blast. The first night the band arrived the Tau's did our traditional welcome wagon. We hung up door decorations as we welcomed people to the new season. Another night we co-planned a BBQ and game night where band members could enjoy free hot dogs and chips and afterward they could participate in all sorts of games. We played all sorts of games from football to apples-to-apples, fun could be found everywhere. On another night we co-hosted the band camp dance and we had a great turn out and of course tons of fun. As we look forward into our marching band season, our Tau and Kappa chapters will also be hosting the "Pride of the Plains Pageant" and our annual Band Banquet. As our chapters continue to service our band we will be working together to strengthen our bonds as brother and sister chapters.

In December our band is returning to Italy to march in the New Year's parade. I'm excited to go because it will be my first time to fly out of the U.S. and well....its Italy!! For those making the return trip it should still be exciting for them as well. We will be visiting several new places including our tour of Naples, and Pompeii. We will also be touring St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums, and the Sistine Chapel. We will also get to see the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps and so much more. So with strength and unity in our goals and a trip to Italy in the horizon, the sisters of Theta Mu are extremely excited about this year and its' possibilities.

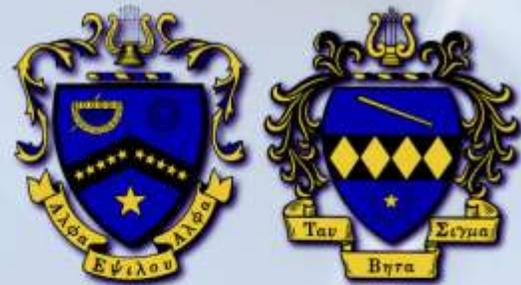
Emily McIntosh
Corresponding Secretary
Tau Beta Sigma, Theta Mu
University of Nebraska at Kearney

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA

MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

Fall Edition

Published September 15th, 2008



FOUR SHORT WORDS

I was at my parent's house awhile back, and I found this quote on their refrigerator, and it made me think. "Four short words sum up what has lifted most successful individuals above the crowd: a little bit more. They did all that was expected of them and a little bit more."

What is it that makes individuals successful? After mulling over this for awhile, the answer I came to was the same as the quote – "They did all that was expected of them and a little bit more."

Many times we only do the minimum of what is expected of us. "What do I have to do? What do I need to pass?" What should we each do? How about a little bit more – the first time - without having to be reminded. In each crowd only an average of 5 percent of people go as far as they can the first time. Those would tend to be the most successful individuals in this crowd.

What about in real life? What would happen if you don't do your taxes, something that is expected of you as a citizen? What if your doctor only does the minimum? What if you don't do what is expected of you in your college classes? If you are lucky, you might pass, but the grade will be poor and reflective upon your work.

What about fraternally? What is expected of you as a member of Kappa Kappa Psi? Well, you have the basics: you must pay your dues and be a member in good standing. That is the bare minimum of what is expected of a brother. But is that it? Is that all it takes to be a brother? Get some buddies to initiate you, pay your money, and that's it? Many of us have known members who thought this was all it takes or those who just joined because it would look good on a resume. Don't be that brother.

Kappa Kappa Psi is all about the last four words – a little bit more. What is expected of you as a band member? You must be prepared for rehearsal and show up on time. However, as a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, we are concerned with the little bit more: we stick around to help set-up and tear down, to us early is on time and on time is late, we pass out programs, we coordinate festivals, we have our own recitals, we commission composers to write works for band, we have a bond and connection with one another.

The beginning of the quote is nearly as important as the second half. The service, social, and fund-raising projects we do within the fraternity are all for naught if we aren't fulfilling our obligations to the band – doing what is expected – knowing our music and showing up on time.

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MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

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It is a combination of all of the above that makes a Brother with a capital “B.” I do not know each and every one of you reading this article, but I do know this – you are doing a little bit more right now. You are reading this article. Reading this publication is a little bit more.

Make this school year about this quote. “Four short words sum up what has lifted most successful individuals above the crowd: a little bit more. They did all that was expected of them and a little bit more.” Be that successful individual – that successful brother. Do what is expected of you – show up on time, work hard, learn, be smart, and be safe. But also do a little bit more – run for an office, audition for the solo, become a section leader, go for the A instead of the C. This is the way we can become the most successful individuals – the most successful brothers – and the most successful fraternity.

Guess what else in the fraternity has four words? Hmmm..... Similar theme? I think so!

Denali Alt

MWD Governor

Life member – Kappa Kappa Psi – Epsilon Psi

Missouri State University

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA

MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

Fall Edition

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BEGINNINGS . . .

As we all began our fall semester at our respective schools most of us likely felt excitement, excitement to be back in classes (well maybe excitement is the wrong word there), and most certainly we all feel some excitement to be back in band with our fellow musicians, and of course our brothers. This year marks a new beginning for me actually, see for the first time in eleven years I will not be in the marching band. At first when I stopped by our band's Band Camp I actually felt a bit of remorse and a strong desire to go grab a plastic Clarinet and hit that field. Then a shot of pain from my knees reminded me why I left, and then decided to remind me for a few days, just to make sure I got the message. Whoever said our bodies don't communicate with us? No doubt in this case my body was telling me I was certifiably nuts to contemplate returning to the field. As I have seen so far though, this is a common ailment among Kappa Kappa Psi members.

However, while I'm exploring my life after marching band, it's also my job to try and give the office MWD MAL a new beginning of its own. A job I'm taking very seriously and made some progress on over the course of the summer up through now. To start, I created and posted a few times to a new MWD MAL blog, which while still fairly basic in appearance, is ready for a public unveiling. This blog can be reached at mwdmal.blogspot.com. Included at the bottom of this blog is a now fully functional calendar showing my class schedule, and any district appointments I've made. Originally, I had problems with the mwdmal@kkpsi.org calendar account allowing people not on kkpsi.org's email to see my full information. This is a limitation of the group, and likely cannot be fixed. To solve the problem, I simply made another calendar in my personal Gmail account and the calendar you see on this blog is actually that new calendar made viewable to anyone. Now that I'm sure some of you are sufficiently lost, let me summarize: this office now has a blog which I will try to post to often to keep you up to date on minor changes and whatnot, and at the bottom of this blog is a calendar to let you know when I'm available. I encourage you all to subscribe to this blog I think having this blog will give me and future MALs a better way to receive feedback about our projects.

Speaking of projects, some of you may have been aware of an experiment I was running on creating a closed group for us on Bungie.net to give Kappas a place to gather and set up games with our brothers. Sadly Bungie's limitations prevent me from effectively closing the group and I was forced to open it up. This wouldn't be a huge issue I think, as who would be looking for a group for Kappa Kappa Psi, but members of Kappa. In the end though, the group was shut down for lack of membership, which I let happen intentionally. My plan is to actually recreate the group at some point, but with some improvements. However with the semester in full swing again, and this being more of a personal project, rather than a DO project, I've had to not only place it on a back burner, but really I've removed it from the oven completely and placed it in the fridge for later. In this project's place I'm working on some ideas to improve inter-chapter awareness, and add lines of communication between the members of the Midwest and your officers, specifically the MAL of course. The first of these was of course the blog, which we'll have to see how that works out. I maintain high hopes for it though.

Of course everyone's favorite way to communicate is with a visit, and in my earlier article for DOings I mentioned looking into alternative forms of transportation. As was expected the price of airlines has risen along with the price of gas, I don't think anyone expected anything less. My real focus was on the price of AMTRAK and buses. The bus besides being uncomfortable and relatively slow, was also no cheaper really than driving based off my estimates for gas. AMTRAK is more expensive, but then I was pricing the nicer cars to give myself a bed. Then I checked for routes to even the larger of the cities we have chapters in and found them lacking. So in all the alternative transportation is out for the time being in the Midwest. Perhaps with more federal funding for mass transit we can look to that in the future, but defiantly not this school year. For now, my car is scheduled for its 200,000 mile check up to be done early, and I've been working on getting a good set of tires put on. This will get me through several of my visits I'd think, but I'm also setting aside the funds to rent a car if I'm needed in a chapter farther than I feel my aging car can handle.

KAPPA KAPPA PSI - TAU BETA SIGMA

MIDWEST DISTRICT NOTES

Fall Edition

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Finally, in recent news, the first of my charges was to have the awards packet edited and made available online early this month. Looking in my inbox, it looks like all this went up on the district website on September 4th. The packet is in the awards section, in PDF form to ease downloading and guarantee compatibility. I'd like to remind everyone now that last year's Programs Committee decided to do away with the Outstanding Chapter Award. So I didn't forget to add the paperwork, that's just a dead award. Also available is an Excel spreadsheet version of the Travel Award data sheet to ease the process of applying for that award. The spreadsheet should do the math for you; all you have to do is plug in numbers. With gas constantly threatening to go ever higher, I know travel is expensive. With some advanced planning either of everyone paying for gas, or even a chapter subsidy, anything is possible, so I'd love to see a record number of chapters applying for the travel award, despite Big Oil putting the screws to us all. Also in this awards section is a safe place to mail the applications, or any other official snail-mail correspondence to me. Please remember this is not my personal mailbox, and our band hall likely wouldn't take kindly to me constantly receiving mail. So if you just have a question for me about the apps, travel, or any other questions you think I can answer, please email them to me. I have my email running through Outlook and that program is almost always running while my computer is running, so I can pretty safely guarantee a quick answer to your emails.

I know this was a long report, and I hope I've held your interest this far. Hopefully this has also let you know what has been done, will be done, and gives you some ideas for questions. Don't hesitate to ask! Heck, why not try the blog; I may even have the question answered already there. All my contact information is available on our district site, but to be safe I'm also including some of it in my signature. Have a great semester, and try not to have too much fun with your addiction to band!

ITB,

Richard A. Ashby

Kappa Kappa Psi MWD MAL 2008 – 2009

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