

The Midwest Notes

Winter 2010



Direct from the

Wild, Wild, West!!!

The Midwest Notes

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Editor's Notes

By Chad Nelson, Iota Omega, KKY

You may be wondering, "What's with the new style to Notes?" Never fear. I'm here to answer that question. And the answer is: It's not a new style at all. In fact, this edition of Midwest Notes is a throwback to the Notes that was published all the way back in the fall of 1994.

In only recent history has Notes become an online phenomenon, with the first digital version posted online in October 2001. Back before the birth of the web, Midwest Notes was published and mailed with postage to all the chapters in the district. The Midwest District listserv had just started being advertised back in the Spring Edition of Notes from 1993.

Throughout its history, Notes has provided a forum for communication between chapters, district officers, and national officers. But it has also occasionally been more than a means of communication. Here are some highlights of the more zany items that have been in past editions of Midwest Notes:

March 1992 – On the back page, a comic description of the "Gliss" was described as sounding similar to the scream of a Kindergartener falling off a building.

February 1993 – This edition featured a half page doodle of an underwater scene, complete

with an octopus that made the fatal mistake of swallowing a nuclear reactor.

April 1993 – This edition included a section at the end full of quotations. Although most were suggestive in nature, my favorite was:

"A clean windshield makes for a safe trip.
We want to see you again."
– McDonalds at I-70 and US 63

Winter 1997 – This edition was 30 pages long!

Fall 2003 – This edition featured an edited image of the USS Dorn's Mom (actually the USS Lexington). Brian Dorn was District President in 2002-03.

In addition, a few of the Notes from the 90's included word finds, quote pages, comics, and other items to keep the reader entertained.

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National Convention 2011!

By Denali Alt, Midwest Governor, KKΨ



Start planning now to attend the Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma 2011 National Convention in Colorado Springs, CO July 19-24. This is the time to begin planning fund-raisers to make sure your chapter can help to send representatives. National Convention is only in the Midwest District once every 12 years, so take advantage of the close proximity! If this puts things into perspective, the last time National Convention was in the Midwest district, I was going into my sophomore year of college!!! :O Yes, that was back in the dark ages!

Yes, chapters are allowed to fund-raise to send members to National Convention. It seems as though I am faced with this question each year. Does going to National Convention (or District Convention for that matter) improve you as a brother? Will that in turn help your chapter? Wouldn't you spend money to improve your chapter? There is your answer!

Also consider putting away \$10 per week so that it isn't a ton of money all at once. The cost may seem insurmountable, but I assure you, it is not. With some careful planning, many of you will be able to join us! Trust me, you won't regret it!

Working Together

By Brianna Upton, Midwest President, TBΣ



Our sisters and brothers in the bond are our family away from home in college and become the people you know you can always depend on - such as the sister you can call when your car won't start or the brother that congratulates you about your good score on a really hard test. But just like a real family, the people you care for can sometimes let you down the most – the person who doesn't show up when they say they will or complete their part of task agreed upon. While these betrayals of our close relationship hurt us as individuals, we

cannot let them divide us as chapters or as joint organizations.

The purposes, as defined by both organizations, not only focus on our purpose to function as service organizations for the band individually but also for us to “to cooperate with other musical organizations and societies in every manner consistent with our mutual purposes”. Yes, there will be times when people don't pull their weight or complete what they say they will but we cannot allow these instances to dissolve our obligation to cooperate together. At the end of the day, it is always the most important to focus on working together to achieve our higher purpose than focus upon the sister or brother who missed a deadline six years ago. When we focus on what we can be doing together rather than dividing our talents and causing what we can achieve to diminish, we truly can ‘Strive for the Highest’!

Relaxation?

By Maggie Greenwood, Midwest President, KKΨ



The semester is over, and we survived! That phrase will be ringing through my entire apartment complex in about a week as hundreds of college students celebrate (responsibly, I hope) the end of 16 weeks of torture in the classroom. Whether finals went well or not, everyone is happy to be done and begins to relax for the holidays.

Relaxation is something that we as bandmen rarely think about. We are constantly moving from one performance to preparations for the next with so little time to think that we don't realize what's going on. Between football games, concerts, pep bands, jazz bands, holiday performances, banquets, and all the rest, it's a non-stop carnival of band rides. Suddenly, the semester is over, and we might not know what to do with ourselves. Even Facebook loses its allure as almost no one is online for the four weeks between semesters. It seems as though we go from 100mph to a dead stop as soon as the last final is over and almost don't know how to react. Free time? You mean....it exists?! In order to continue striving for the highest, we

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have to take a moment to step back and calm down before we can continue.

As finals are wrapping up, I want to encourage brothers and sisters to take some time for yourselves. Watch a movie, read a book, take a nap, and let go of the semester. It's like climbing Mt. Everest. There are campsites at regular intervals along the way for climbers to mentally and physically relax on the way to the summit. Without these breaks, success is not only improbable, but simply impossible. So take a few weeks of break to recuperate from this semester, and then be ready and excited for Spring 2011. Let's make it the best semester of college we've ever had!

A Message from Zack

By Zack Rebarchek, Midwest VPSP, TBΣ



It's that time of year again. Stress from finals has taken their toll on us, and we really need that winter break. Christmas is just around the corner, and our family is waiting by the tree. We relax every second we can and the New Year's comes. Parties and games ensue as we try our best to see that ball drop. Then it hits us. What do we want to do in the New Year? Lose 20 pounds? Get straight A's in the spring and Fall Semesters? Improve relationships with friends? Meet one new person every week? Those are some of the more common New Year's Resolutions I've heard. What if we created a resolution for our chapters? A vision statement.

I encourage each of you to take time in your first meeting and create your own vision statement: one statement that includes your purpose and values. If you have someone asking "what is Tau Beta Sigma?" you will have a concise answer. It should outline why your chapter exists and what you believe in. A vision statement is a tool, to help unify everyone in a shared belief of what your chapter should be doing and what it values. Vision statements are great for explaining the chapter to outsiders, and also help build chapter cohesiveness.

Every member has a slightly different look at what the chapter should be doing. The vision statement can help unify these conflicting ideas and create an environment that is more focused

on unified goals. By working for the fulfillment of one vision, you will, by default, have more people working towards the chapter goals, rather than having groups working for individual goals. This doesn't mean that everything that isn't directly tied to the statement should be abandoned, but most of the time, if minor details are changed, you can tie them to the vision statement. The vision statement should be a tool to help your chapter find different ways to view things and a way to start conversation about why you are doing projects. By simply asking "How does this tie to our vision?" you can help create discussion on any project.

When creating the vision statement, you should focus on a series of questions. What is our role in our band program? What is our role in the university and the community as a whole? How do other people, outside the organization, feel about us? How do we feel about ourselves? What ideals do we hold dear? How do those ideals impact our chapter? After each of these questions, ask yourselves "Are we okay with this?" The statement should involve how you want your chapter to be seen and what you want to do while staying true to those ideals you hold dear.

If you implement a vision statement into your chapter and follow it, you will have a more direct path to follow. It will help in all areas of chapter management; especially service, recruitment, and leadership. The only thing you really have to be careful of is letting it create a "tunnel vision" effect where, the chapter focuses so completely on it that they disregard anything which falls outside the statement. In reality, a vision statement should be helping you initiate new activities. After creating one, it should help you be more creative in finding ways to implement it and make it happen. Constantly ask yourself: What else can we do? What can we do better? These questions are sure to help you keep moving forward.

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Announcing a new program from the Midwest District Council

By Zack Rebarchek, Midwest VPSP, TBΣ

The Event: Midwest District Service Day

The Date: January 29th.

The Location: Your University.

The Goal: To get every chapter in the district to do some form of service dedicated to improving the band.

I mentioned this in the Fall edition of the Notes, but wanted to give a little more detail as we approach the first ever Midwest District Service Day. This program is being initiated to create unity in brotherhood and sisterhood on a district level. If you are at a university where both Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma are present, we encourage you to do a joint project to help build joint relations.

The project itself is up to you. It should involve as many people as possible and benefit your band programs. For ideas, try talking to your band directors; they are the ones most likely to know what the bands need done. Some common ideas are: cleaning instruments, organizing the music library, digitizing music, and stuffing envelopes for mailings to perspective students. The project itself should require communication from volunteers to help ties of sisterhood and brotherhood develop and strengthen.

Since this is right after winter break, don't be afraid to do some planning away from school. Most directors still check email when they aren't at school, so you can still communicate with them. Make sure your music building is open on weekends and a room is available, if you need one. Do not be afraid to have a few discussions over email to get ideas on what to do and how to do it.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me at mwdvpsp@tbsigma.org.

Remembering the 8 Essential Factors

By Beth Deardoff, Midwest VPM, TBΣ



As the first semester comes to a close, it is a time to stop and reflect on how far we've come and what we hope to accomplish within the second semester.

Everyone has trials and tribulations but within the sisterhood we can find courage to continue on, and we hold this courage through the applications of the 8 essential factors and 5 purposes.

We learn of the 8 and 5's in the education process but often they are not mentioned again. It is important to reread and reapply them to our everyday lives. I would like to take a moment to take a closer look at the 8 essential factors. They are not any more or less important than the 5 purposes, but they are more centered on the promotion of friendship and respect within our sorority.

- 1.** Physical and mental qualities of an attractive nature; Our actions promote TBS and must be taken into consideration when we participate in any sponsored activities. Even when not in Tau functions our actions others associate what we do to the sorority. We are not perfect people, but with the help of our sisters we will make the sorority great.
- 2.** Demonstrated loyalty and dependability to those persons and institutions deserving of it; Be loyal to the sorority. You have worked so hard during the education process to join our sisterhood and if you cannot be dependable there will be issues. However, by showing loyalty and dependability to others it will help our sorority shine to others.
- 3.** A truthfulness and honesty which instills a sense of trust in others; Where would we be in this world without trust? If we cannot put our trust in our fellow sisters we will fall apart and cease to exist as a sorority.
- 4.** A cheerfulness at all times and under all circumstances, even in the face of great trial; With all of the trials and tribulations we face in today's world, it is most important to be considerate of others. Sometimes we must force ourselves to show the world a mask of

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happiness, but our sisters are there for us to give a shoulder to cry on when times are hard.

5. A mutual interest in the Art of Music in its performance and in the aesthetic qualities it can project to others; We are here for music! Music is our common tie and we must promote it to others of the university and the community. Music has so many good qualities that it is important to share with others so what better way to promote it than through Taus?...

6. Generosity of mind, heart, and hand; By giving, we receive. These words are most certainly true because we all give so much to sorority in our own ways that the friendship we receive in return is priceless.

7. Tolerance, tempered with kindness and a consideration for the needs of others; Have patience. People need to be considerate of others feelings even though we all have our own problems. Smile, you could very well make someone's day.

8. Fortitude and courage to see an ideal, to seize upon it, and follow it wherever it may lead you in Tau Beta Sigma. Be courageous in all that you do. Everyone has so much to contribute to the organization and help make TBS better. Throughout our time at college we are all faced with trials, tribulations, and without our sisters life would be much more difficult.

I would like to leave you all with a quote to sum up my article,

“For there is no friend like a sister, in calm and stormy weather, to cheer one on the tedious way, to fetch one if one goes astray, to lift one if one totters down, to strengthen whilst one stands.”

–Christina G. Rossetti.

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Recruitment Suggestions Needed

Zeta Omega Chapter, TBS

Hello all from the TBS Zeta Omega chapter at Mizzou! This semester was another blessing for us and brought in much to be done. However, this semester we ran into a few problems when trying to recruit. We tried very hard to gain more prospective members, however ended up short (Although we love those new initiates! They are very sweet girls!). Next semester more than half our chapter will be graduating, which puts our chapter in a pickle as far as numbers go. So we're asking you, our brothers and sisters for your advice! Please let us know what's worked for you in the past, recruitment suggestions, events, and other ways you have gained members. Any help will be greatly appreciated! Please shoot us an email at sarrh2@mail.missouri.edu. Thank you so much!

On the Happenings at Kearney

By Alicia Griesman, Theta Mu, TBS

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Alicia and this is my fourth year as a Tau at University of Nebraska at Kearney. Every year we co-host band unity events during band camp to help everyone feel at home and let everyone unwind after a rough day. Thanks to our Kappa chapter, we can do an event every night, and this year our best were a casino night a game night.

The casino night was very impressive. We moved some tables into the choir room and got out the chapter's ancient casino equipment. Using some funds from both groups we got play money and prizes. The night of the event we realized most of us don't know many casino games. Turns out, you don't have to be a Las Vegas prodigy to run the games and do pay outs. Most of our chapters were able to help out, and most of the band came to hang out and play a few games.

Our biggest band unity event was a game night. We have a tradition of playing football as a band so a few games started right away. A few other people brought games like Seen It and Apples to Apples so the rest of the band went back to our Fine Arts Building to play. After

about an hour, it started to rain, but that didn't stop our football games. The band kids get hurt a lot, so our un-official nurse watched the rest of the games, just in case. Eventually everyone went inside and started an epic game of hacky sack, even the new directory joined.

The only thing that did not attract a lot of people and was offered both nights was a movie playing in the band room. Though I've had epic movie nights with band kids, you can't really talk in a dark band room while a movie's going. I think we will stick with our humongous hacky sack circles, football in the sun and rain, and letting Helen Keller win in Apples to Apples.

I hope you all find a way to unite your bands this Spring.

LITB,
Alicia Griesman
Tau Beta Sigma, Theta Mu

Celebrating 125 Years of Marching Mizzou with the Zeta Omega Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma



This has been a busy year for Tau Beta Sigma Zeta Omega chapter at University of Missouri. This season celebrated 125 golden years of Marching Mizzou. Needless to say, there was a lot to be done. Marching Mizzou rolled in about 250 members this semester, taking nearly every uniform off the rack (Good thing we're getting new uniforms, next year!). As you can imagine, sewing and altering almost 250 uniforms is no easy task, but thankfully Org. granted us 5 sewing machines to get the job done! Thank you!



August 24th had week long band camp starting again, 12 hour days, inside and out. But it's always worth it, especially getting the chapter back together and meeting new faces. Zeta Omega also gained a new sponsor and Director, Marching Mizzou alumni Dr. Brad Snow, who has been great working with us thus far. Dr. Snow has opened up many new windows of opportunity for service projects and fundraising. We are very grateful to him for taking the time to work with us to improve the bands in many great ways this year.

The band parent's day football game is always a favorite with Marching Mizzou kids. This year, Tau Beta Sigma was able to fundraise by selling band parents shirts. Also, for the first time, we were able to let the parents walk down behind the band in the parade to the field. A couple weeks later Tau Beta Sigma, along with KKY, SAI, and PMA worked together to run the Champion of Champion Competition for local high schools. It is an all day event which requires very clear communication and order. We're glad to say this year was another fantastic success!



Homecoming by far was the highlight of this semester. For the first time (Thanks again to Dr. Snow) we were able to put ribbons supporting Breast Cancer Awareness on our uniforms. It was a good opportunity as well for the new initiates to do their service project and create all those ribbons. Marching Mizzou absolutely loved the idea and proudly wore them during the parade as well as the game. The Homecoming game is always a very large event around here, but this year brought in an especially large crowd due to the fact that Mizzou hosted ESPN's College Game Day and we were playing the #1 ranked team in the Nation. The atmosphere only grew larger when we beat Oklahoma for the first time

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in many years, which also meant we were 7-0 for the first time since 1960, and won against all odds. To celebrate the 125th year of Marching Mizzou as well as the homecoming, TBS and KKY created posters and mugs with our mascot, Al the Tiger and Big Mo and fundraised by selling them at the game. Needless to say, Homecoming was a huge success all around.



After homecoming there wasn't a dull moment for our Zeta Omega chapter. Many social events were in order. We had a wonderful brunch at our former president's new home which was a great time to catch up and relax. Nearly the whole chapter came out a few weeks later at midnight to see Harry Potter 7 part one! It was a fantastic time, the theater that we went to ended up opening every single screen, and we were showing the



movie all night long! Over thanksgiving break the infamous Border Showdown took place, and we were able to meet up with our Kansas counterparts for the first time as a full chapter. They were all very sweet, and we had a great time! The Monday upon our return from break, we had our own Tau Beta Thanksgiving, which was especially pleasant for those who could not make it home to their families over break. Zeta Omega teamed up with our KKY brothers over the semester for many joint events. Two of our favorite things we successfully arranged this semester were a Bonfire which we hosted at a local park, as well as a campus-wide night game of capture the flag. This Saturday we will be wrapping up the time we have together with an Ugly Sweater Potluck. We are looking forward to a great end to this chilly season!



Next semester we are looking forward to tackling a wide variety of events. There are going to be many new service projects tacked onto our normal hectic schedule! We are looking forward to adding routine visits to the food bank, as well a possible annual campout among many other new events to our calendars in the spring. Looking even farther ahead into the future, next fall the University of Missouri will be celebrating 100 years of Homecoming! Our Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa

Kappa Psi chapters are already planning to make the 100th year a memorable one!

In The Bond,

-- Sara Ridley, Zeta Omega Historian/Alum. Liaison.