

BETA CHI CHRONICLES

Kappa Kappa Psi : University of Virginia

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“Picnic on the Mall,” Fun for All



Beta Chi Brothers at the “Picnic on the Mall”

On Saturday, May 30, the “Picnic on the Mall,” hosted by West Virginia University Omicron Alumni, took place at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 15th Street in Washington DC. Nearly thirty brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi and sisters of Tau Beta Sigma from the University of Virginia, West Virginia University, James Madison University, Towson University, and George Washington University participated in this occasion of merriment and gaiety.

The original “Picnic on the Mall” was held more than a decade ago by the alumni of the Alpha Kappa chapter at George Washington University. Unfortunately, the chapter became inactive and the gathering was discontinued. Omicron Alumni, from West Virginia University, longed for the same excitement of old times and reignited the tradition. The Alumni hope to make it an annual event. As a matter of fact, this year’s picnic was such a success that the 2010 picnic is already scheduled for Saturday, June 5th. Mark those calendars!

It was a beautiful spring day. I was joined by Abby Heider, Christina Mattaliano, Christina McLeod, Hillary McClintic, Kara Graber and Max Fieldfeld, as we represented the Beta Chi chapter. We chatted among alumni and other brothers, as well as a few sisters of Tau Beta Sigma. We compared our rush experiences, observed the similarities and differences between chapters, and experienced the essence of how other chapters tick.

After indulging in sandwiches and demonstrating our remarkable athletic skills in a few rousing games of Frisbee, the Beta Chi brothers set out on a sightseeing adventure in our nation’s capi-

tal. We toured the WWII, the Korean War , and the Jefferson Memorials. We were even lucky enough to sit in for a concert presented by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

We then explored the mysterious treasures of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. We gazed upon massive dinosaur skeletons, terrifying stuffed llamas, and a ferocious 24-foot-long female giant squid. We also witnessed the hypnotizing wonder of the Hope Diamond. As impressive as these things may be, all would agree that the definite highlight was the soil exhibit. I personally have never seen a more glorious collection of dirt in the all years that I have existed on this planet. If you are ever in the neighborhood, you should check it out.

Before departing, a few of us had dinner at Ruby Tuesday’s. We scored free appetizers, which I believe we received due to our collective good looks and charm, not the unexpectedly long forty-five minute wait for the table.

Overall, the experience enforced in us the magnitude of the brotherhood shared by our fraternity. The event also served as a good reminder to why we should continue to strengthen our bonds within our own chapter, including during the summer months. I’ve got my shades and patch of grass reserved. Join brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi for the next “Picnic on the Mall,” on June 5th, 2010!



In front of the Jefferson Memorial



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A National Convention to Remember

Imagine going to a Precinct meeting, being able to meet brothers from near by, getting the opportunity to exchange ideas, and learning more about the fraternity. Now multiply that to include over one thousand brothers from all across the nation—now we're close to what National Convention was like this summer.

For a week in July, brothers old and new converged together in Phoenix, Arizona, for the Kappa Kappa Psi Tau Beta Sigma National Convention. Officially, we were there to set the national agenda and elect the national officers for the upcoming biennium. But really convention was a great opportunity to meet brothers from all over the place, learn about the history and traditions of the fraternity, and talk about different ways in which brothers and sisters are serving their band programs.

I had the wonderful opportunity to spend almost the whole time with brothers from the Eta Omicron chapter at JMU (the HOs!). The brothers shared a hotel room with me and we spent a lot of our free time together. I really appreciated the kindness they showed in taking me in and enjoyed getting to know some nearby brothers. I hope I'll be able to introduce you all to them sometime during this year, like at Field Day, Version 2.0!



HO and BX at National Convention

Every chapter delegate was assigned to a committee, which was charged with certain tasks or objectives. I was on the Chapter Leadership committee, which was responsible for evaluating chapters for the prestigious A. Frank Martin Award, a recognition of the best chapter in the country. The committee evaluated ten of the top chapters in the nation before selecting the Alpha Beta chapter at Butler University for the award.

The convention offered plenty of opportunities to hear and practice music as well. The National Intercollegiate

Band performed a stellar concert after rehearsing for two days prior to the start of convention. The NIB debuted a commissioned piece by Mark Camphouse. The next night, we were treated to a concert by the Salt River Brass, a 40-piece brass band that was outstanding. Along with a reading band and auxiliary clinic, aspiring musicians could attend a conducting clinic featuring Mark Camphouse and a former director of the "President's Own" Marine Band.



HO, BX, and EB out to dinner

National Convention was unlike any other convention I had been too. We got to learn more about the rich history of the fraternity, including a history about artifacts from the early history of the fraternity. I also got the opportunity to meet brothers from West Virginia to Houston to LSU to Oregon State. But my favorite part of convention? Singing the hymn after every delegation meeting, filling up the large ballroom with hundreds of voices singing the hymn.



Summer Travel Blog

Rachel Brown Glazner—Venda, South Africa

For six weeks this summer I worked on a community development project in Venda, South Africa. Along with other UVA students, University of Venda students, and community members, I worked on a water filtration system in a rural village.

The experience was nothing like I could have anticipated. I learned so much from everyone I worked with, and not just about the technical aspects of the water system. It was a great opportunity to find out about community partnership and development, South African culture, university politics, and group dynamics.

South Africa has eleven official languages. I learned a bit of the local language, Tshivenda, which sounds a lot like Italian. To ask how someone is, you say “Vho vuva hani?” meaning literally, “How did you wake?” The response is “Zwavhuḏi”, meaning simply “I woke.”

When we had a few days off, my group traveled to Swaziland. Although this country is encased within South Africa, it has its own distinct culture and terrain. On the way back, we were able to meet up for dinner with Trevor Perrier! He told us all about his experiences in the Peace Corps. It was great to see him and hear about all the interesting work he has been doing.

The entire experience was amazing. Despite cultural and linguistic differences, I learned so much and made many lasting friendships.



Alumni Corner: Josh Richards, CMB Senior Staff

Life has sure been different since graduation this past May. Though it's been the same-old Charlottesville, there have been some definite changes over the past few months. It's strange to say that after 8 years of marching band, I will no longer be stepping out onto the field performing in front of thousands of screaming fans. As I am hopelessly in love with band and could not bare to part with it just yet, I accepted a position as Senior Staff with the Cavalier Marching Band. Now, this title might sound quite fancy, but don't be fooled, my friends. I am nothing more than a glorified office worker. That being said, I've already had a great time getting my feet wet this past summer and learning the ropes of my new role.

My biggest task as of yet has got to be the Summer Band Camps that UVA runs. Imagine 100+ kids, ranging from 6th-12th grade, all depending on you for their housing, food, and activities 24 hours a day for 4 days straight – it's pretty intense, let me tell you. Prior to the camp itself, I was left to plan the camps and all the activities outside of regular sessions. Working with Mr. Koch, I had to develop a series of evening activities, not unlike our own band camp, and devise a schedule that charted out most of the hours in the day. It was certainly a crazy week leading up to the start of camp and the camps themselves were quite exhausting. Besides running the evening activities, organizing all the logistics for the camp, and setting up for each session,

I also ran a short series of ice breaker games, gave a tour of grounds, and ran a discussion on leadership. Luckily, we had some excellent counselors this summer who proved to be exactly what we needed to make a great camp, despite my own personal craziness. The kids all seemed to have a wonderful time, too, and they certainly gave us some funny stories to chat about.

If you're curious about some of these stories, try asking Max who invented the Internet, or ask Abby why you should never chug iced tea, or ask Shantira about Dairy Queen. It may not make sense just yet, but these are some excellent stories and only a small fraction of the material our campers gave us.

Other than the Summer Band Camps in July, I have been working with every member of the staff to plan band camp 2009. It's been a very rewarding experience, though full of frustration and a solid dose of confusion more often than not. Coming to camp this year and seeing everyone return excited and ready for another season has definitely given me new energy and excitement for my job! It's certainly going to push me to do the best I can for the CMB. It is an honor to be selected to serve, and I will serve you all and the band to the absolute limits of my abilities. I know you all are going to be great and I can't wait to see you perform! Best wishes on an excellent year!

A “Brief” Note From *The Rodney Jones*

My beloved Beta Chi Brothers,

As the song says—“it’s the most wonderful time of the year!” Band Camp Week! Oh the fun of the Doubletree, the music, the sectionals, the friends, etc. Well before I begin, I first want to say that I hope your summers have been thrilling and utterly wonderful. As most of you know, I was at Cornell working SuperCamp as a Site Administrator. It was truly exhausting but very rewarding! Now, I am about to go into Student Teaching at Monticello High School, which will be extremely exciting!

Yet, my heart has a small hole in it because this is the first time in eight years that I won’t be at a band camp. You know that I won’t miss playing the saxophone in the 107 degree heat or viewing Mr. Koch’s back hair occasionally. Rather, I will miss seeing your loving faces and spending time with you. So, since I won’t be there, I feel I should pass along my top-ten list of “What to do/not do at Band Camp:”

1. DO help out behind the scenes. Help out Keirstin, Maddie, Rachel, and everyone else,—it makes life easier for everyone.
2. DON’T step...we tried, it failed, we keep it to ourselves!
3. DO be nice to the first years. You all remember being first years, so be good
4. DON’T hurt yourself like Travis. Cuz that would suck and Travis— no tug-o-war, please. I would like to see you make

it out of Band Camp in one piece

5. DO let Josh know that you love him. He has a BIG job to do and it won’t be easy. So if you see him slacking, give him a poke in the side and tell him to get back to work
6. DON’T stay up to 3am every night like Hilary did last year. If it isn’t done by 1am, it can wait until the morning (That’s what she said).
7. DO come up with some catch phrases. “I mean”, “BONNIEEEEE!” , “Rude!” , “That’s what she said!” All from Band Camp.
8. DON’T sneak into the directors room, MAX! It’s awkward...LOL
9. DO have fun. Band Camp is about having fun and enjoying music. Have fun, play games, enjoy it! Especially you fourth years! It’s your last one!
10. DON’T forget to get ready for school. Band Camp seems to stop time...Remember to keep up to date with the world

Well, thanks for reading my mini novel, full of spelling errors (Meredith Pearson, you better pick them all out :) I love and miss you all! And remember, you are always welcomed at my apartment. I’ll see y’all soon!

LOVE and AEA,
Rodney

More Things To Not Do:

- Sneak into the Directors’ rooms while they’re sleeping and sound an emergency “fire” alarm.
- Hesitate about risking your dignity in the cross-dressing competition—it’s for a good cause!
- End up in Ed’s bed.
- Attempt to sample every item at the Golden Corral.
- Forget your “climb” mentality—Mt. Everest is waiting!



Brothers chilling in Ed’s bed after re-doing an endless supply of flip folders.

Things to look forward To:

Everyone Else Arrives: August 16th

KKPsi Info Session: August 20th

Camp Ends/Move-In Day: August 22nd

Sleeping : After Camp

General Meeting: August 24th, 1 PM

Classes Begin/First Rehearsal: August 25th

UVA vs. W&M: September 5th, 6 PM