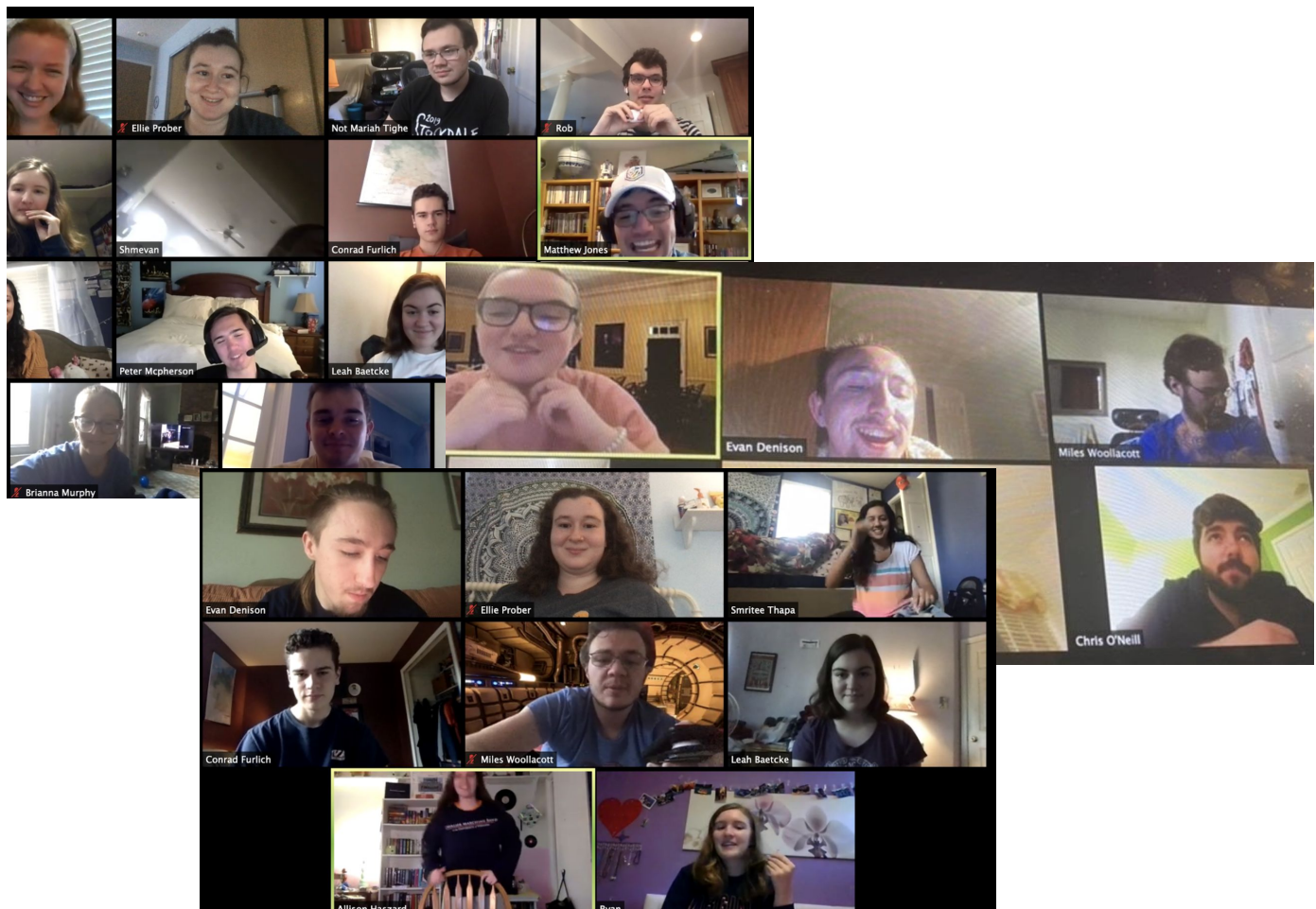


The Beta Chi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at the University of Virginia

THE BETA CHI CHRONICLE

Fall 2020 Edition



About Beta Chi

Originally founded on September 23, 1950, and active until 1962, the Beta Chi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi was re-founded at the University of Virginia on April 23, 2005. The original chapter supplied the first President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Northeast District in 1958 and hosted the first annual District Convention that same year. Today, Beta Chi provides support for the Cavalier Marching Band and other ensembles in the Charlottesville community. The oldest active chapter in the Southern Precinct, Beta Chi has welcomed over 250 well-qualified musicians into the Brotherhood of Kappa Kappa Psi.

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Mission Statement: Kappa Kappa Psi is a fraternal organization that promotes the advancement of college and university bands through dedicated service and support to bands, comprehensive education, leadership opportunities, and recognition for the benefit of its members and society.



2020-2021 Officers



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Columbia, SC



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Richmond, VA



Rob Siebers
VP of Membership
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Chris O'Neill
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VP of Finance
Springfield,



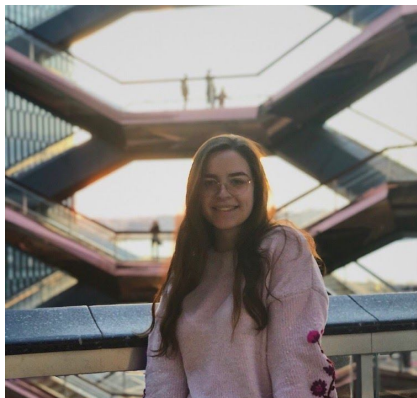
Brianna Murphy
Ritual Master
Fairfax, VA



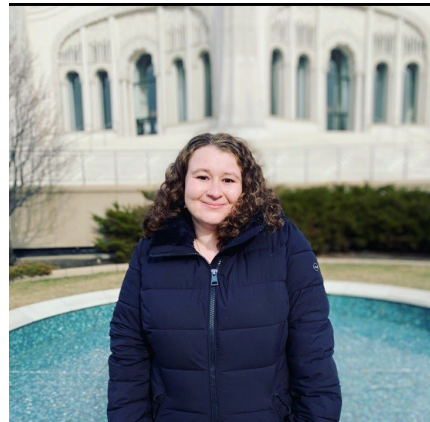
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Eliana Prober
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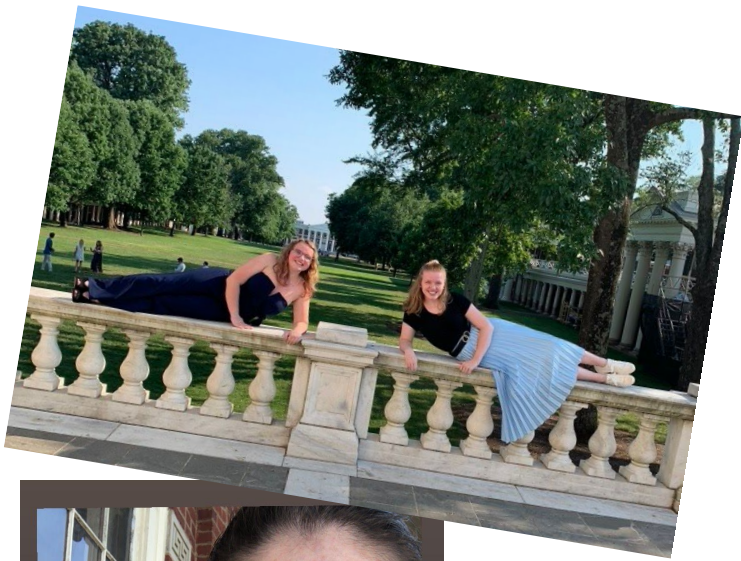


Kyle McPherson
Parliamentarian
Fredericksburg, VA

Sponsor: Mr. Michael Idzior- Assistant Director of Bands, Cavalier Marching Band

Highlights from This Semester





Letter from the President

Brothers, Alumni, and Friends of Beta Chi,

This semester was, yet again, unlike any other previous semester at the University of Virginia. From the COVID-19 pandemic to a storming of the Capitol to the United States' first female vice president, we are constantly living through historical moments. Some of these moments are reasons for joy, but an overwhelming majority of them are reasons for depression and anxiety. This semester, many previously obligatory aspects of our chapter, like the points system, were removed. Chapter meetings were reduced to once a month, and the focus has shifted to prioritize everyone's wellbeing. From virtual game hangouts to Bodo's on the Lawn to stargazing, Brothers have stayed connected during these isolating times. We have been focusing our efforts on the Black Lives Matter Movement through launching a CMB-wide fundraiser for our Brothers in the Iota Xi Alumni Association of KKPsi at Norfolk State University, as well as organizing a CMB-wide social identities workshop with the Multicultural Student Services (MSS), Tau Beta Sigma (TBS), and the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CDEI). There is still so much that we can do to stand against racial violence and support people of color, and we continue to make this one of our goals in the spring.

We wait in anticipation for the recruitment of the spring 2021 Alpha Eta class. Our Vice President of Membership has done a wonderful job of transforming recruitment into something that any interested individual can attend, being extremely considerate of safety concerns. Some of our old recruitment events will stay the same, but others, like dodgeball, will be removed or altered. Any in-person event will have a smaller group limit, as well as a virtual alternative, in an attempt to make recruitment as safe and welcoming as possible to anyone and everyone interested. COVID guidelines and mask wearing will be strictly enforced in any in-person gatherings. The upcoming recruitment brings up feelings of nostalgia, as we all remember our experiences first joining Beta Chi. May we reflect on this and work to ensure that this new class make some phenomenal memories and connections during their process!

As we transition into the spring semester, we will forge ahead with hope. The executive board and committee members are working hard to navigate this new reality we live in. With the feedback from the end of semester survey, we aim to create a KKPsi experience this spring that will meet the chapter's wants and needs. This navigation comes with successes and failures, so may we all give one another a little grace during these trying times. Enjoy this last week of break, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2021!

AEA,

Mariah Wallace Tighe

President, Beta Chi

Brother Submissions

Reflections from the Top

Ellie Prober, Alpha Zeta Class

This semester was a difficult hike, to say the least. With online coursework, social isolation, no marching band (or any other activities, for that matter), and no breaks, it seemed like sometimes the only thing there for me was another replay of "Folklore."

Even so, I'd have to say all of the highlights of my semester correspond with the elevation of their locations. From venturing up Carter's Mountain to pick apples with KKPsi friends, to an impromptu sunrise trip up Humpback, to an attempt to find a location for stargazing – only to end up learning a TikTok dance many miles lower down – my highest points of the semester were located on higher ground.

The sweetness of Carter's Mountain is anticipated by nearly every UVA student, but venturing to the top during a pandemic was another story. After parking, the line to get in was crazy – an hour of our time there was spent waiting, rather than eating. However, as KKPsi often does, we made it work. The line moved faster because of fantastic conversation with friends. Once we got inside, we picked a ton of apples, took as many photos as possible, and obviously got our cider and donut fixings – the perfect conclusion to a perfect morning. The difficult wait time was made better by the sweetness of the experience – just as the friendships I built with the AZ class made this difficult semester easier.

As a Midwesterner, I don't have much experience hiking. So, when I got a text at 8 p.m. on a Tuesday asking if anyone wanted to hike Humpback at sunrise the next day, I probably should have hesitated more. Alas, I did not. So, at 5 a.m., I woke up and prepared to hike. As it turned out, due to some mishaps, we arrived later than intended at the mountain. Then, because of my inexperience, we were a bit slow to the top – making it just in time to see the very end of the sunrise. Even so, the view at the top was gorgeous, and I felt like I was on top of the world for accomplishing the task which previously seemed difficult. Obviously, we took many pictures, and then made our way back down with only a few mishaps. The bumpy and difficult semester, just like the hike, was made better by some infrequent, fun moments with friends. Spending the morning hiking, taking photos, and then getting breakfast with the other Alpha Zetas who were willing to brave the early morning was probably the highlight of my whole semester, and I will cherish all of the memories from that trip – even the not-as-amazing parts.

Lastly, the KKPsi stargazing trip at the end of the semester was probably one of the most chaotic – and yet incredibly fun – times I had this past semester. What was intended to be a relaxing trip started with me, Miles, and Ryan getting lost in the eerie, deserted forest near the closed Observatory. After hiking to the top of that hill, we called for some help to avert possible horror movie-esque situations. We moved to some lower elevation, but instead of stargazing as we intended, we had an evening that was anything but relaxing, including learning (or amusedly watching) attempts at a TikTok dance. At the end of a tough semester, the laughs from that evening were much needed.

As we enter the spring 2021 semester, which is set to be nearly as tough as fall 2020 – if not worse – it's important to remember that there are always the happy moments at the top of the mountain – the relief of finishing Humpback, the sweetness of Carter's Mountain apple cider, the laughs with friends as you do anything but stargaze – even when you have some low points. Eventually, we'll all be able to be together again to celebrate and enjoy music together, but for now, we have to take the good times when we can get them, and enjoy the little moments that make us happy. Thank you for all the adventures this semester, KKPsi, I can't wait to see the new heights I reach in 2021.

A Definitive Ranking of The Songs from the Albums *Evermore* and *Folklore* by Taylor Swift

Rob Siebers, Alpha Epsilon Class

Because Taylor Swift saved 2020 by gifting us two (2) albums, I have compiled a definitive ranking of each of these songs. You're welcome :)

1. champagne problems (evermore)
2. betty (folklore)
3. ivy (evermore)

4. 'tis the damn season (evermore)
5. long story short (evermore)
6. marjorie (evermore)
7. exile (feat. Bon Iver) (folklore)
8. willow (evermore)
9. dorothea (evermore)
10. august (folklore)
11. no body, no crime (feat. HAIM) (evermore)
12. hoax (folklore)
13. the last great american dynasty (folklore)
14. gold rush (evermore)
15. invisible string (folklore)
16. closure (evermore)
17. the 1 (folklore)
18. seven (folklore)
19. illicit affairs (folklore)
20. cardigan (folklore)
21. cowboy like me (evermore)
22. this is me trying (folklore)
23. mad woman (folklore)
24. my tears ricochet (folklore)
25. mirrorball (folklore)
26. epiphany (folklore)
27. tolerate it (evermore)
28. coney island (feat. The National) (evermore)
29. evermore (feat. Bon Iver) (evermore)
30. peace (folklore)
31. happiness (evermore)

The ball's in your court, Adele

The Missing Piece

Peter McPherson, Alpha Epsilon Class

Everyone always says that you never truly understand the importance of something in your life until it's missing or gone. When we hear it for the billionth time it seems, we often roll our eyes and just nod our heads. Honestly though, after everything that has happened, it could not be truer when it comes to music and the band community in my life.

I am fortunate enough, like many of us in the band, to say that I have been playing my instrument since elementary school. Personally, that means I have been playing the trombone/euphonium coming up on twelve years now which feels just crazy to think about. Band has always been something that I have loved and an amazing community to be a part of. My love for music, the band, and its community was a huge reason why I wanted to join KKPsi in the first place. I counted myself lucky, often being in a state of denial over the concept that I would be graduating in a year or so. Of course, COVID-19 changed everything, and suddenly, we were in lockdown with zoom university and all this craziness to keep us company. With no basketball band, days on the lawn, or wind ensemble, I stopped playing the trombone unsurprisingly. I told myself at the time, that I would just wait for the fall (throwback to when we thought everything would be fixed by then) but that in the meantime I would try to play my instrument here and there. Unsurprisingly, this never happened, and it just collected dust at home.

Flash forward to the fall and no marching band, though smartmusic for those who decided to do it (could not be me). Flash forward even more to now, almost an entire year since I've played my trombone. The closest I got to playing was during the CMB Scav hunt on discord, kudos to all involved in making it happen. For one of the challenges, I had to buzz the good old song on my mouthpiece in front of our "lord and savior" Andrew Koch. Honestly, at least for me, a both terrifying and embarrassing experience. Koch commented saying something along the lines of, "yep, sounds like you haven't been playing the trombone in a while" and that he, "would not tell Idz for my sake". While all good and fun, the experience was sad in a way. It reminded me of what I was missing.

The only way I would describe how I feel is that it feels like a large chunk of my life is missing. I miss playing my instrument in a wind ensemble or spending my whole Saturday with the rest of the band on football games. I miss going to chapter in person and seeing all my brothers together. Dare I say it, I sometimes even think to myself that I miss marching band practice, though I often quickly take that back. Like many of us, Band, KKPsi, and playing my instrument took up a large amount of my time throughout my time here at college. In hindsight, I have realized that it all really helped make me feel more whole and connected to people. Of course, music is not something that can be taken away from you, something that I need to remind myself frequently. While I still miss many aspects of band and the community, I still listen to a lot of music and I even started playing the piano again after years of not playing. Regardless of whatever happens this semester with COVID and everything, I still feel immensely fortunate to be a part of the band community and KKPsi. Anyway, I encourage you all to find ways to keep music in your life and to keep reaching out to one another. I miss you all and wish the best for you all and that you stay healthy and safe.

AEA, Peter McPherson

KKPsi Original Artwork

Allison Haszard, Alpha Zeta Class



Keeping up with Beta Chi



About the Chronicle

The Beta Chronicle is a bi-annual newsletter featuring articles written by current brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi and Alumni. Articles are written on a voluntary basis and collected by the Historian. If you would like to write for a future edition of the chronicle, contact the chapter Historian, Anna Faulks, agf7jc@virginia.edu. If you are Alumni, our Alumni Relations Officer, Allison Haszard, can be reached at aah3jvu@virginia.edu.

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