

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

Spring 2021
Edition

The Beta Chi Chronicle

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.



Some brothers before the Alpha Eta class virtual third degree ceremony.

From left to right, Row 1: Hannah Yee, Parker Lazear, Shaazia Ahmed, Evan Denison. Row 2: Mariah Tighe, Leah Baetcke, Allison Haszard, Ryan McLellan, Annalee Wisecarver, Miles Woollacott. Row 3: Matt Jones, Kyle McPherson, Peter McPherson, Ben Tharakan. Row 4: Brianna Murphy, Conrad Furlich, Rob Siebers, Chris O'Neill.

2021-2022 Officers



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Rob Siebers
Richmond, Va.



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Leah Baetcke
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Beta Chi Chronicle

Spring 2021 Edition

Beta Chi Chapter, Southern Precinct, Northeast District 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.

Letter from the President

Dear Brothers, Alumni Brothers, and Friends of Beta Chi,

This past semester has been an especially challenging and seemingly endless semester for a lot of us. Still, our chapter and Brothers persevered and have now made it to a well-earned summer break. We have become experts at Zoom classes and Zoom chapter meetings, and we all look forward to a return to a more normal semester next Fall. Despite the challenges posed by an online semester, we managed to welcome in a new MC class, spend some great times at socially-distanced and online social events, and serve the CMB by providing a note of appreciation to members of the CMB and a picture to the graduating class.

Our newest Brothers, the Alpha Etas, have been such a bright spot in our chapter already. They managed to navigate a rather bizarre and, at times, disappointing, MC semester due to COVID limitations. Their passion for service and our chapter is evidenced by their upbeat attitude at our online and socially-distanced recruitment events, online MC lessons, and our chapter-wide social events. As restrictions began to lift near the end of the semester, the AHs were excited to transition to in-person MC lessons and more chapter-wide events. They are truly invaluable additions to Beta Chi and I am eager to watch them grow as Brothers in our chapter!

As we move into the summer and a new semester, I am excited to see how our chapter grows as Brothers as we recommit ourselves to our purposes. Though a return to a more active semester will be challenging, I trust that our chapter will accomplish our goals. I look forward to a return to our old service events as well as new ones. Our chapter is eager to get back to these events, which is something that will serve us well as we become more active again. We are lucky to have a chapter filled with so many motivated, enthusiastic Brothers that are always willing to serve our community and help each other.

Whether you are a current or former student, this year has been challenging for all of us. I wish everyone a well-deserved break and a restful summer.

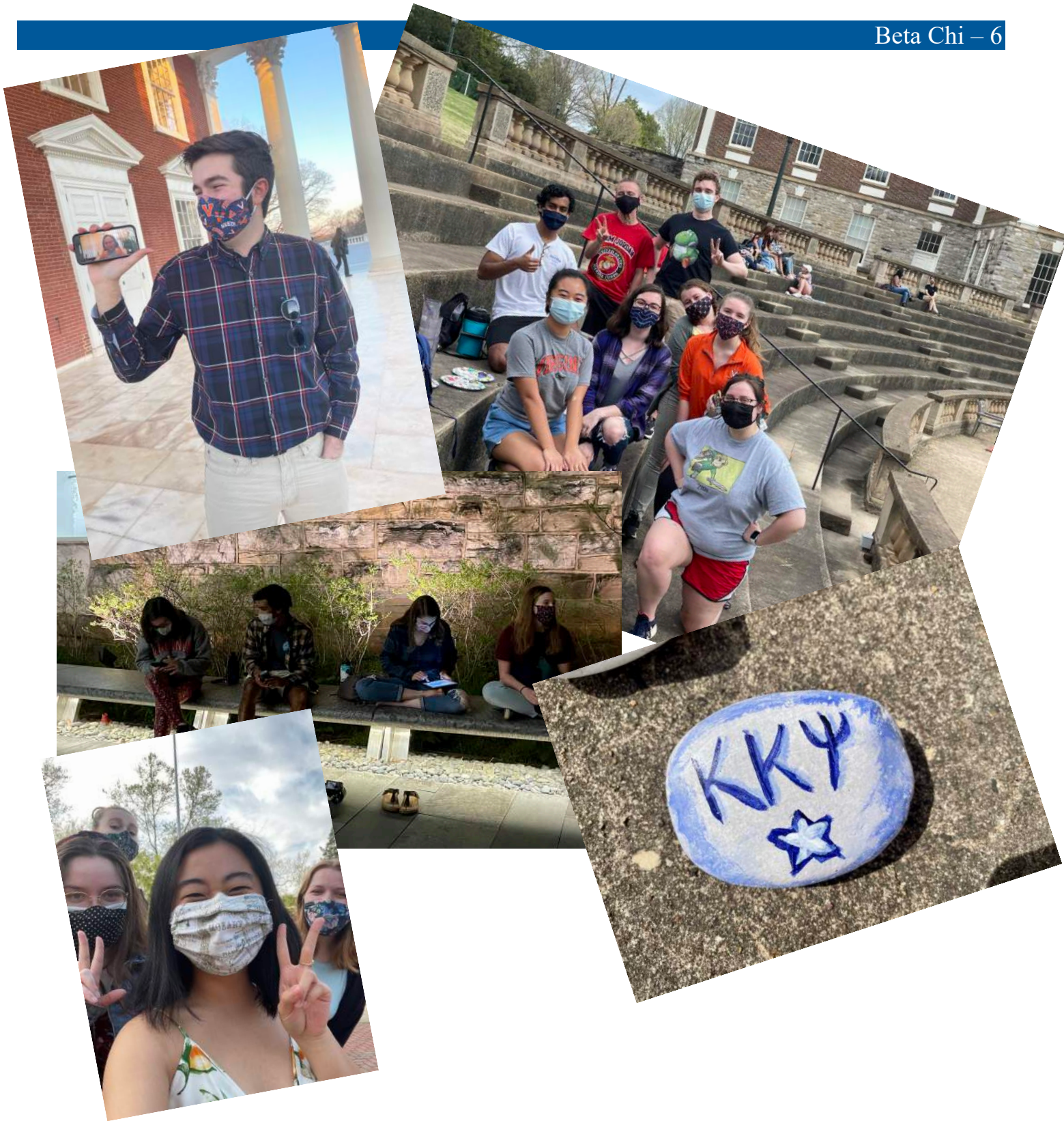
AEA,

Robert Jeffrey Siebers
President, Beta Chi

Highlights from the Semester



Top left: Brother Haszard takes a selfie as Brother Eley lifts Brother Denison during a stepping rehearsal for DBC. **Top right:** Brother K. McPherson took a photo of some Alpha Zetas on the lawn with his fancy film camera. **Middle left:** The Alpha Eta Class showed off their hand sign during Zoom bid night. **Middle right:** Brother Tighe and Brother Baetcke take a photo together after DBC. **Bottom:** Some brothers attended lunch on the lawn together for a spring picnic.



Top left: Brother O'Neill reveals that he is Brother del Corso's big via Zoom. **Top right:** Brothers attended the Alpha Etas' rock-painting service project (see **middle right** for a beautifully painted KKPsi rock). **Middle left:** Brothers McLellan and Baetcke attended MC lessons with their littles, Brothers Tharakan and Wisecarver. **Bottom:** Brothers Murphy, Haszard, Yee, and Tighe pose for a selfie together.

KKPsi During COVID

Miles Woollacott, Alpha Zeta Class

No events were in person except degrees, DBC, and weekly picnics. Even recruitment events were virtual. Very sad. Everyone tried their best to make the most out of the year, and they did. Really, the year was made so much better by people's commitment and effort to the chapter.

Going into college I didn't plan for this. Oh well. Now it happened though, and I'm sure next year will be unlike any other before it. Now I have to figure out what hours are and how they work. Amazing.

Glad to see most of the brothers, I was. I loved going to the picnics, because that was about half of my social life, which is what happens when the BAND frat doesn't have BAND. Very good. Ecstatic I was for recruitment events too, and we got a class size greater than zero, so hey.

Y'all fourth years will be missed, and I guess my last year is approaching. Oof. Unsurprisingly it went by quickly, and COVID-19 made sure that I learnt nothing in virtual classes, rip education.

Unique year it was, and the bar is set very low for the 2021-2022 academic year to be better, which I know it will be, now that band will actually be a thing next year, and we get to see each other in person too. Pretty much sums up KKPsi during COVID-19.

Some Things Never Change

Evan Denison, Alpha Epsilon Class

This entry isn't about any single event... but instead a recurring theme from ALL EVENTS. To be a fraternity during such an isolating time, SURELY our spirit of Brotherhood was going to suffer ... yet every moment we shared this past year, there was laughter and conversation and good times like nothing had changed. In spite of the pandemic that challenged mental health and tested relationships GLOBALLY ... being with my Bros was simply as memorable as ever.

I was a conditional status Brother on a Leave of Absence from college ... and for me to feel AS INCLUDED AS a full time Brother... that truly speaks volumes for the love and support of Beta Chi. There's no group of people I would've rather gone through 2020 with than you all 🏴‍☠️❤️🤘

Still Learning After MC Lessons

Leah Baetcke, Alpha Zeta Class

While good ol' TJ may have a problematic legacy, this semester in KKPsi has taught me to appreciate his decision to label university students as first years, second years, and so forth on the basis that one's learning experience is never completely finished. My MC lessons concluded in spring 2020 on the typical timeline of a normal semester, but weren't supplemented by second or third degrees or debriefs about them. Additionally, COVID prevented me from participating in the typical service events of the fraternity or being held to the usual point system, so needless to say I was coming into this year's MC semester with gaps in my experience. While I felt qualified enough to be a Big to an AH, I was surprised how much I learned this semester about our chapter's functions during normal times.

First of all: Second Degree is apparently supposed to be in the chapel? And there would be some more theatrical elements? Wack. But also I wish I could've seen that. Second, on the theme of locations: Third Degree was supposed to be in Jeff Hall? And DBC is usually in Jeff Hall too? Brothers just live in Jeff Hall during the spring I guess. I've been there exactly once for my first First Degree and then never again. Third: there's stepping at DBC? I had a fun time learning the routine and performing it, but I was completely unaware that stepping occurred any time other than typical bid nights. And a bonus fourth lesson: Cher's career has been that long? This isn't directly relevant to the fraternity but it felt like her achievements just kept coming and coming during the Musical Update.

These things mostly apply to the membership front of our chapter, so I'm sure I'll be learning just as much next semester when I serve on Exec and when the point system is likely reinstated. All this is to say that unfortunately COVID hampered the AZs' experience in more ways than I was previously aware of. But the ADs and AEs have been champs at being patient and helping us out, and I'm looking forward to close-to-normal functions in the fall!



Bonus pictures from the semester! Left: Brothers Tighe, Murphy, and Lazear pose in front of a pretty sunset. **Right:** Brothers Baetcke and Prober found some plastic eggs during the Grounds-wide egg hunt.

Analysis of why the Alpha Eta (AH) Class is an Exceptional Class

Kristin del Corso, Alpha Eta Class

Rob, as Vice President of Membership, had his hands full with the Alpha Etas. But honestly, what better of a class could he have asked for?

Firstly, the AH name is incredible. Although it stands for Alpha Eta (which is crazy because Eta doesn't even have an H– what were the Greeks doing?), AH has so many possible meanings. Here is a poem of the AH meanings

The AH poem, the Chronicle Submission within the Chronicle Submission

Alpha Heroes with Alpha Hype

A**holes After Hours

rep in Arts & Humanities

in All Hemispheres

so hot like Absolute Humidity

so fresh causing

Auditory Hallucinations

Attack Helicopters who are

Approximately Homosexual

And Have never liked

Adolf Hitler

we promote Affordable Housing

watch out– we might (electro)'cute you with

Ampere Hours

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

—————Dramatic Effect Pause—————

Each and every one of us is incredible.

We have Hannah Yee, a rising fourth year in drumline, DOUBLE MAJORING in BIOLOGY AND MUSIC!!!!!!!!;

Annalee Wisecarver, a rising third year in color guard majoring in ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING;

Ben Tharaken, a rising second year horn player, majoring in MAYBE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING;

And ME (Kristin Del Corso), a rising second year horn player majoring in BIOLOGY (?!!!)

We are all SO SMART!!! AND TALENTED!!! IN SO MANY WAYS!!!!

Everyone in KKPsi is gifted and talented and amazing BUT the AH class just takes it to an extreme.

- We had to combine positions (PRESIDENT AND SOCIAL BABEE) because our raw power could not be contained within the confines of KKPsi Law

- Not to mention the voting experience was Supreme
- Our entire KKPsi experience has been ~COVID~ yet we've flourished
- ROCK PAINTING WAS AWESOME
- ALSO?? WE HAD SUCH AN AWESOME FUNDRAISER IDEA BOIS JUST GET READY FOR IT!! IT WILL KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF!!
- -Hype level too high



Wholesome content award goes to the AHs

I leave you with a parting meme.



KKPSlam

Annalee Wisecarver, Alpha Eta Class



The score was love-40. I stood behind the baseline, bouncing the ball between my racket and the court below. I took a few deep breaths, but nothing I could do would ever make me an even match for Ryan McLellan, a tennis god. I took one last breath before throwing the ball in the air and swinging my racket to serve. I connected with the ball with an immense speed which sent the ball flying from where I stood all the way to where Ryan stood, nowhere near the service box. Feeling defeated, I took a moment to prepare myself for my

second serve. This was match point, and even if I were to make this point, there was no way I could come back and win this set, let alone the match. Snapping back to reality, I placed the racket across my back and served a second time. This serve had less power and more control, however I controlled it right into the net. I had been defeated and Ryan stood victorious.

This was the first of many tennis matches I partook in during the semester. It started with this match between Ryan and I. Neither of us had played in well over a year, but we had a blast and Ryan instantly picked it back up and showed she was low key a savage. I was happy to be playing again, but I was even happier to be able to spend time with Ryan. She's an awesome big and we're kind of the same person in a lot of ways. We're both women in STEM, big fans of chicken tenders, we have the same water bottle (decorated the same way), and now we were both aspiring to be Serena Williams.

I sent Rob (my grandbig, Ryan's big) this photo to show him what he was missing out on, and he wanted in. The three of us played at least once a week for the rest of the semester. Instead of a new match each time, we accumulated scores throughout the whole semester, with a final game score of roughly 55-52-50 (Ryan-Rob-Annalee).

Our little tennis squad gained new members when Ryan was unavailable and instead I played with Rob, Conrad, and Kyle. We actually had enough players for doubles and I finally wasn't the worst player (sorry Kyle). From here on out, we usually played with five of us and whoever Rob seemed to pick up on the way, always a fellow member of the CMB. These tennis sessions were a very welcome break from zoom university and probably my favorite part of the semester. I loved getting to know my family and the other brothers who joined in. I hope we're able to keep doing this next semester and keep an eye out for KKPSlam, our tennis tournament (coming soon).

Stepping Up at DBC

Anna Faulks, Alpha Epsilon Class

When some Exec members announced that they needed some people to step for DBC, I was hesitant, yet interested. DBC was right in the middle of finals week, on a reading day, and I needed all the time I could to study. However, I remembered all the time and effort the fourth years have put into making the chapter what it is today. Even through the strangest and hardest year we've ever gone through in our lives, they showed leadership and initiative to continue what we stand for. I felt like that deserved a proper sendoff. Plus, I had stepped before during last year's bid day and had a lot of fun with it, even though it is not the easiest thing in the world to learn.

Before I talk more about stepping and DBC, I think it's important to acknowledge the origins of stepping and why we incorporated it into our chapter. Stepping started in the early 1900s when a greater number of African American students began to attend colleges in greater numbers. They created a number of Greek letter organizations, known today as the Divine Nine, and members engaged in stepping to express their love and pride for their chapters. Today, we step for the same reason: to honor the traditions of Kappa Kappa Psi and its chapters at historically black colleges and universities. Stepping is also a great way to embrace the musicianship that we value in our chapter due to the rhythmic nature of its dance moves. Even with these reasons, I think as a chapter we can go even further to learn about stepping and its place in our organization within the Black Lives Matter movement. For example, this might involve reaching out to KKPsi chapters at HBCUs to learn about their experience with stepping.

Despite being in the midst of finals, our stepping group was able to meet twice before DBC, and I felt like I needed all that time to practice. Brandon, Evan, Leah, Ellie, Allison, and myself were a part of the group, and we met on top of Culbreth garage, a place I had not been to in over a year. With a few spectators (including some university police cars) and many internal distractions, we got to work on the routine. After many repetitions and relying on videos from graduated brothers and Brandon's experience, everyone had learned their part and ran it through all the way. All that was left was to perform it at DBC.

Bright and early on that chilly morning, I woke up and headed to the garden where we rehearsed the routine and ran through the ceremony. It occurred to me that this was the first time most of the chapter had been together since the pandemic started. At the same time, it was also the last time we would all be together with the fourth years, which made it truly bittersweet. Beginning with the ceremony, the five-pointed star was a nice connection to the degrees during the mc process. The speeches for graduated brothers were really heartfelt and well deserved, and even though I didn't have a big to speak for, I was happy to contribute by stepping. In my high heel sandals and our Sunday best, we went up in front of everyone and stepped our hearts out. The Canes chicken was a nice bonus afterward. With DBC this year, I felt like it was a reunion of our chapter after many long hours in front of a zoom camera. This fall, I'm excited to go back to an experience like DBC, and so much more. After spending so much of my time avoiding people and spitting so much saliva into test tubes, I will never take brotherhood for granted ever again.

The Betsy Brawl

Kyle McPherson & Conrad Furlich, Alpha Zeta Class

The Setup

Throughout our time living together, the two of us have come across many disagreements we just could not settle on our own. Oftentimes, we will end up using the Groupme as a way to help settle these debates such as: which one of the two of us would win in a fight? Are Billy Joel and Elton John the same tier celebrity? Who is more famous, Jesus or Garlic? The following debate is one we have been having for two months now — could Conrad beat your average dairy cow? Below, the two of us make our cases and hopefully by the end you will have been swayed in one way or the other.

The Scenario

Both parties will enter the arena—a grassy meadow—unarmed and will commence a fight to the death. Prior to the fight, Conrad is allowed three hours of internet research while Kyle is allowed three hours to train Betsy. May the best mammal win.

The Case for Conrad – Authored by Conrad

I am a smart boy. Betsy is not. I will use my three hours of internet research to find the best way to kill a cow, likely by targeting its neck. I shall then commence a three-stage operation.

Step 1: Blind Betsy

Despite Kyle's three hours of training, it is highly unlikely that Betsy will be aware that we are fighting. I will use this to my advantage by lulling her into a false sense of security. I will slowly approach Betsy and give her a few pets before attacking her eyes and rapidly withdrawing. Betsy will be rendered blind and I will hopefully emerge unscathed.

Step 2: Bedtime for Betsy

Now that Betsy has been blinded, I will bide my time. Given her inability to locate me, it should be easy to avoid her wild kicks and stomps. Eventually, Betsy will grow tired and fall asleep, providing me an opportunity to strike

Step 3: Bye-Bye Betsy

Once Betsy finally falls asleep, I will slowly and quietly approach. According to the all-knowing Quora.com, a human can stomp with 12,000 pounds of force, enough to cause serious damage to a cow if directed to the right area. Hopefully one strike will be enough to render Betsy incapacitated. However, if the first strike fails, I will quickly flee before Betsy can retaliate and wait for my next opportunity to strike. Using these tactics I will be able to defeat Betsy the dairy cow while sustaining minimal bodily harm myself.

The Case for Betsy – Authored by Kyle

My plan for the three hours I get to prepare the cow is to aggravate her as much as possible. This will be accomplished by continuously approaching the cow then poking, prodding, messing with, and in general causing a nuisance to her. By doing this, I will have effectively conditioned her to be wary of people

approaching. After this, it will just be a case of endurance that the cow will win. Your average dairy cow is about 5 foot 6, weighs in at 1,700 pounds, and only needs to sleep for 4 hours a day. Meanwhile your average Conrad is a bit taller, weighs slightly less, and needs much more beauty sleep to look that cute. His main problem is she is just going to outlast him. Even if he manages to blind Betsy, all he has done is created a one-ton, angry, thrashing tank on hooves. Eventually it will be bedtime for Betsy, but sooner will it be bedtime for Conrad, a time where Betsy — now blind — will just wander and perhaps even step on a poor unsuspecting Conrad. Ultimately, almost nothing he can do will manage to hurt the cow and all it will take is one unlucky buck or charge to take the poor boy out. Godspeed, king.

Thus concludes the arguments for and against each side. Now we can both say that we have presented you with all of the evidence we could think of, so let your opinions lay where they may. Hoo knows, maybe one day you can even be there to witness the event live in person.

KKOlympians

Kyle McPherson & Conrad Furlich, Alpha Zeta Class

In preparation for (hopefully) the Tokyo Olympics this summer, we have decided to compile a list of events and whether we think Kyle or Conrad would win each one.

Summer

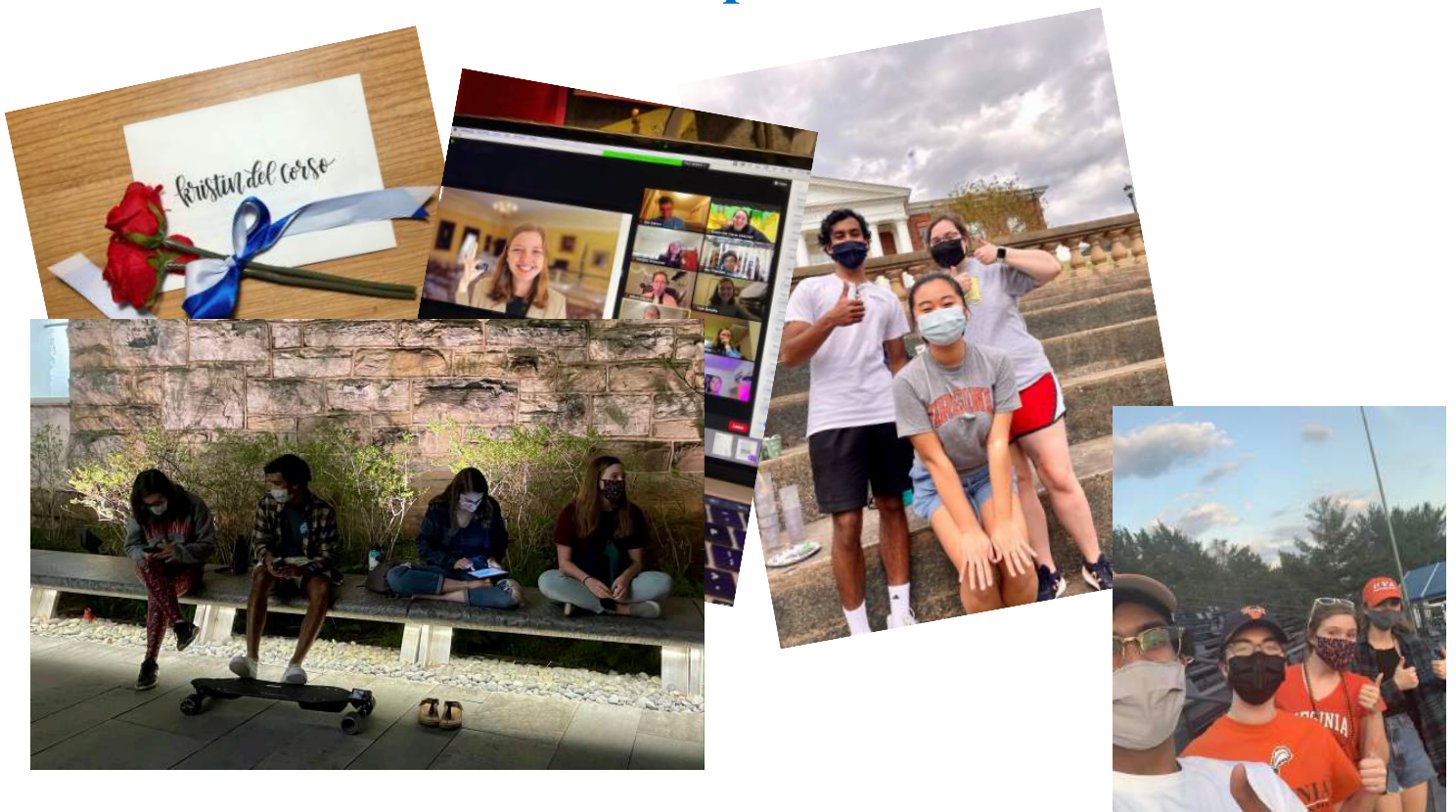
- Diving
 - Toss-Up: Kyle and Conrad are both masters of the pencil dive and can do a passable front flip. No clear winner here.
- Swimming
 - Advantage Conrad: Conrad is a stronger swimmer than Kyle. Expect new world records in the 100m doggy paddle.
- Basketball
 - Toss-Up: Both Kyle and Conrad are self-reportedly terrible at basketball. While Conrad does have a few inches on Kyle, that height difference will likely be irrelevant when they are both launching air balls.
- Cycling
 - Advantage Conrad: Conrad biked 50 miles in a day last summer, an ability that will 100% certainly translate to BMX.
- Gymnastics
 - Toss-Up: Conrad has done a better cartwheel than Kyle, but Kyle has the height advantage. (Kyle did *allegedly* have an amazing cartwheel not too long ago but no one saw it.)
- Equestrian
 - Advantage Kyle: While Conrad has ridden a horse once, it did NOT go well. Kyle has straddled a mini-pony, so he may just have the upper hand.
- Running
 - Advantage Conrad: Conrad beat Kyle by ~2 minutes in their 10-miler this April and the two are currently competing to set the best 5k time. The prize for the winner is a carton of their favorite ice cream.
- Long/Triple Jump
 - Advantage Conrad: Due to his long legs, Conrad's got the edge. Kyle does have some thicc thighs tho ...

- Shot Put/Javelin
 - Toss-Up: Kyle's got those big boy shoulders that could likely launch objects slightly further than Conrad's. However, Conrad did two summers of track and field in elementary school so he's a master of technique.

Winter

- Skating
 - Advantage Kyle: While Conrad has moderate experience in skating, Kyle grew up roller skating which somewhat decently translates to ice skating ability. No matter who emerges victorious, it is sure to be a hilarious event to watch.
- Curling
 - Advantage Kyle: No real logic behind this one, Kyle just gives off curler vibes.
- Skiing
 - Advantage Conrad: Conrad has gone skiing before while Kyle has not, giving him the advantage here. However, Kyle has been shooting before while Conrad has only used a bb-gun so the biathlon is anyone's game.
- Bobsled
 - Advantage Kyle: Kyle is currently training for the U.S. Men's bobsled team and expects he can make it.

Beta Chi Welcomes the Alpha Eta Class



Congrats Kristin del Corso, Ben Tharakan, Annalee Wisecarver, and Hannah Yee! Welcome!

2021 Beta Chi Award Winners



Rachael Beaton Academic Achievement Award

Jane She, Alpha Delta Class



Woody Wingfield Musical Achievement Award

Chris O'Neill, Alpha Epsilon Class



Deri Bush Outstanding Big Brother Award

Bri Murphy, Alpha Delta Class



Ben DeForest Service Award

Peter McPherson, Alpha Epsilon Class



AEA Spirit Award

Mariah Tighe, Alpha Delta Class

Departing Brothers

To the class of 2021: You've done so much for KKPsi and the CMB, and made it through college during a global pandemic. You will go on to do incredible things after your graduation, and we are so proud of you for all you have done! Congratulations on all of your accomplishments.



Shaazia Ahmed, Parker Lazear, John McHale, Peter McPherson, Chris O'Neill, Brianna Murphy, Jane She, and Mariah Tighe.

Keeping Up with BX



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, Ellie Prober, at erp4bu@virginia.edu.

If you are Alumni, our Alumni Relations Officer, Anna Faulks, can be reached at agf7jc@virginia.edu.

Facebook Page: Kappa Kappa Psi – Beta Chi

Instagram: @kkpsibx

Website: bxkkpsi.weebly.com

Corresponding Secretary: Ryan McLellan, rem9au@virginia.edu