

# THE BETA CHI CHRONICLE

Spring 2019 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.

## 2019-2020 Officers



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Parker Lazear  
Richmond, VA



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# Beta Chi Chronicle

Spring 2019 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.

## Highlights From The Semester



**Top:** (left) A group of brothers hold up the fraternity flag on Bid Day morning. (right) Some Big Brothers after painting Beta Bridge the morning of Third Degree. **Middle:** (left) Brother Yi and Brother Davis showing off their face paint on Bid Night (middle) Brother Murphy keeping the carnations for the departing brothers safe during DBC (right) The chapter waiting for the MC's to arrive on Bid Night. **Bottom:** (left) Some brothers playing a game of Life during the joint KKPsi and TBS Recruitment Event (right) Brother O'Neill, Brother Tighe, Brother Guarriello, and Brother Payne taking a fam photo in their matching dresses during KKFormal



**Top:** (left) Brother Coates, Brother Mcpherson, and Brother Olsen pose for a fam photo after first degree (right) A group of brothers at the sunrise hike the MC class planned **Middle:** (left) Brother Sharpe and Brother Hostetter take a Rotunda pic before KKFormal (right) Brother Tighe and Brother Lazear after Band Banquet **Bottom:** (right) Brother Payne and Brother Hostetter cheering on the team at a basketball game (left) Brother Clark, Brother Schoorens, Brother She and Brother Powell pose for a fam photo featuring some stuffed animals

# Letter From The President

Brothers, Alumni, and Friends.

This past semester has been absolutely wonderful. At the end of the Basketball Season, some of our brothers were able to meet up with brothers from the Pi, Alpha Omicron, and Zeta Epsilon chapters of Kappa Kappa Psi at the Final Four. Importantly, our Men's Basketball Team won the National Championship! Our chapter continued to serve the band and music community here at UVA and throughout Charlottesville through the Clark Afterschool Program, truck unloading for basketball games, ushering for the music department, and helping out another CIO, Kinetic Sound, set up and usher their concert.

Brothers also had quality bonding times through social events such as KKPspike (which became KKPsoccer when the volleyball courts weren't available), the classic KKPsi dates, chapter dinners, two movie nights (one for Valentines day and one for Camp Rock!), and our first KKPsi Semi-formal.

This semester we also welcomed in the 16-member Alpha Epsilon class into Brotherhood. With that came back our beloved task books! From meeting with many of them one on one to seeing them work and discuss together at MC meetings, it is inspiring to see their energy for KKPsi and I can't wait to see how they impact our chapter.

So, as we move into summer vacation we will soon start setting new goals for the upcoming semester. This past year has been one of growth, and this next year is looking to be no different. We as a chapter will always push to do more, and with our growing chapter I'm optimistic about our future. I hope all who read this have a fun and relaxing summer, and I cannot wait to see you all at band camp.

AEA

Parker Nicole Lazear, President, Beta Chi

## FYPit

Lauren Jones, Alpha Delta Class

FYP was a blast!! At first, I was admittedly a little hesitant, because this was my first semester in FYP and it felt like a large time commitment, especially with Hell Week (where we have rehearsal 6pm-12am for an entire week right before exams.. somehow not as bad as it sounds??) looming on the horizon. But to my surprise, Hell Week actually ended up being one of the best parts of FYP, made even better by the excellent leadership under Spencer (THAT'S MY PRESIDENT!!). Honestly, I made some really quality friendships in FYP and garnered a love for theater that I didn't know I had!

The first years are amazingly talented and there's such an awesome support staff without which the show would never have been possible. My heart, though, will always lie with the FYPitties and their incredibly weird show week rituals and goofy personalities. Even if next semester I may not have time to be a part of it, I will sure as HECK be at the shows because FYPit is amazing and so are Spencer and the rest of the pit <3 GO FYP!!!



The FYP Pit for FYP's production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, including Brother Jones, Brother Culbertson, and Brother Berman

## Step It Up: Beta Chi

Robyn Guarriello, Alpha Gamma Class

Yanno how sometimes when you have a million things to do you just lay on your bed and go to YouTube and spend hours going down the rabbit hole that is YouTube videos until the entire day is wasted and you haven't studied at all for that really important exam you have in two days? That was me. DBC was concerningly soon and there was no step routine organization whatsoever and I realized that I either had to stand in front of everyone and do the Groovin' vocals for a second year in a row or I could find a new! Exciting! Step routine! So I opted for the latter option, fully aware that I would be using this as an excuse to procrastinate all of my class work, and took to the interwebs. I soon realized that other chapters that do step routines do, like, *step* routines. I'm talking about legs higher up in the air than I thought they could go, vocals coming so deep from their guts I was concerned for their bodies, rhythms so complicated I felt like everything I knew about music was fake, and moves so sharp I was afraid I would get cut. And there are no tutorials, okay. The tutorial was putting the video on 0.25x speed and praying you wouldn't have to rewind every 2 seconds. So I found a video of the Gamma Nu (Florida State) chapter stepping at their district's step show and somehow, though a very scientific and meaningful method, decided that this was the step routine for us. After spending way more time than I care to share trying to learn this new routine from a video where half the audio is the audience screaming into the phone they are holding far too close to their face, I decided that I was gonna make "tutorial" videos similar to the ones that we have for Groovin' and Iron Grid. Please never ask to see them because they are not good and I look so sweaty okay anyway I made these videos and was like yeah I definitely know this well enough to teach it to eight other people now (spoiler: I did not).

But by now I had reached out to the Alpha Epsilons as well as brothers who had stepped at Bid Night to find a professional team of steppers. I told them the wild plan to learn a completely new routine and they were all surprisingly willing to go down this dark path of uncertainty. (Shout out to Peter, Brandon, Nelly, Evan, Emma, Parker, Shaazia, and Tori for being literal step gods and goddesses and suffering through my very inadequate methods of teaching step routines.) We got to work and had an initial meeting where we all learned the routine and then got together a second time to finalize partners and positions for the ~big



day~. We were having a great time down in the basement of the AFC, which I did not know existed until that very moment, when Julia Payne walked by our room. *Apparently* swing club meets at the same time we had our rehearsal. We were trying to make this ~cool new routine~ a surprise for the fourth years, but the room divider – the sole object separating us from Julia – was not enough to cover up the fact that the loud and fast steps and claps of our new routine was *not* the same as the Groovin’ routine, which has exactly zero of the same loud and fast steps and claps. So Parker and I started shouting the Groovin’ vocals in an amazingly executed attempt to throw her off the trail, but I don’t think we were successful (I don’t know though, I thought we were convincing).

Anyway by now we were sufficiently okay at the new routine which required exactly three (3) ground slaps, two (2) separate parts, and one (1) trust fall. We’re pumped for DBC morning and get to Jeff Hall about half an hour early to practice when we realize that we’re locked out. So we’re trying to find a place to rehearse where the fourth years won’t see us but the outdoors is a very open space and everyone was coming from every direction so we did our best, eventually settling on this little parking lot type area that was not at all secretive.

But eventually the time had come. Everyone absolutely killed it, and I hope that everyone watching really enjoyed it. Going on what I can only describe as a journey with eight of my brothers was such a fantastic end to the year, and I haven’t laughed as much as I did during our rehearsals in a very long time. Stepping has become one of my favorite parts of being a brother, and I sincerely hope that it’s one of yours also, whether you’re stepping or spectating. It’s something really special that brings our love for music into the fraternity in a way we don’t get every day. If you have never tried stepping, I really encourage you to give it a go at least once – it’s an experience you can’t get anywhere else with people with whom you get far too little time.

AEA and step on.

# March Madness

Joseph Laux, Alpha Gamma Class

I think I speak for a lot of brothers in saying that getting the opportunity to play in the basketball band at the UVA games is an incredible experience. The atmosphere at JPJ is always popping and unlike anything else I've witnessed, especially for the bigger games such as the last home game of the season, the Duke game with a bunch of famous people in our presence, and of course the Cane's challenges. I'd even go as far to say that some of these times alone are fulfilling enough to be called "once in a lifetime" for me and are definitely some of my best college memories.

Fast-forwarding to the post season I feel fortunate beyond words to have had the experiences of playing with basketball band in the NCAA tournament's first round and final four in Columbia, SC and Minneapolis, MN. From being down 12 points to Gardner-Webb in Columbia during the first round of the tournament to ultimately getting to the Final Four and winning nail biter, heart attack inducing games every step of the way, I think it is safe to say this tournament was the ultimate roller coaster of emotions that ended in the best possible way. In between the thrills of each game in Minneapolis there seemed to be a nonstop barrage of events from pep rallies, street performances, interviews, promotional videos, and playing a combined concert with the other Final Four schools in the Minneapolis Convention Center's FanFest. While these events ranged from strange (promotional videos with hundreds of extras pretending to be UVA students cheering us on while playing?) to incredible (playing on a stage in the busiest block of Minneapolis to a flood of fans roaming the street), it is safe to say they definitely supplemented the experience and ultimately built up the excitement in a way like no other. The feeling of playing in the band for the national championship in front of 80,000+ people was (and honestly still is) pretty surreal, even if many of the songs and tunes we played are the same ones that we've been playing for years back at home in JPJ. Obviously the context of the situation fueled the excitement, but there were moments during the championship were I felt like the band was playing with more energy than I had ever heard before.

Who knows if we will get an opportunity like this again, but with the current trend of UVA sports I'd like to venture a guess in saying the odds are in our favor for more in the future. Winning the championship while being there to play trombone at it and witness it has allowed me to take a step back and come to realize how grateful I am for the memories that band has given me, along with meeting my best friends and brothers along the way. These truly are the "once in a lifetime" memories.

## Beta Chi Brings Back the Task Book

Mariah Tighe, Alpha Delta Class

Former Vice President of Membership Julia Payne fought hard to bring back the membership candidate task book this past year as a part of the Alpha Epsilon Class' membership education. Here is what many of the Brothers of the Beta Chi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi had to say about the renewal of this teaching method:

*"Hey everyone- it's your resident crusty alumna. Bringing back the task book was probably my main goal coming into the VPM position. I really wanted to make the MC process more integrated seeing as the Road to Wisdom doesn't have a lot of (or any) tools that help bring people together. As a part of a great Beta Chi tradition, I wanted to bring back our chapter's task book and make sure that it was approved by nationals. I managed to accomplish this. Part of the reason why I was so adamant about bringing back the task book was because of the really great memories I have of doing tasks when I was an MC. I still really distinctly remember doing certain tasks with certain people (like the code of conduct task in Aldy Cafe with Alana or the Boh task with Elizabeth Harrington in the Castle) and really cherish these memories as part of my introduction to BX. I know a lot of my fellow Brothers felt the same way and I really wanted that same opportunity for our AE class. I think one of the great things about the task books is that not only do they help you learn about the fraternity, but they also are a great way just to feel closer to your brothers. And I think that's really one of the key takeaways of having a fraternity anyway; there's always people around you that will support you and help you learn."* - Julia Payne, Alpha Beta

*“Bringing the task book meant a lot to me given that it skipped a generation of Brothers. It was really great to bond with the new class by talking about important topics to our Brotherhood and getting to know them better!” - Diana Renelt, Alpha Beta*

*“I really enjoyed the tasks because it allowed me to get to know a class much younger and more diverse than mine. Hearing different perspectives is important generally in life, but considering our differences is even more important when you’re trying to teach MCs and show them what brotherhood is about. The AEs are smart, silly, thoughtful, and will be awesome brothers, and doing tasks with many of them showed this fact that I wouldn’t have known otherwise.” - Sarah Vanlandingham, Alpha Beta*

*“As an MC the task book was a great way to get to know the rest of the chapter. It encouraged me to have long and interesting conversations with brothers that I might not have otherwise talked to and gave me a better understanding of our goals and values and a deeper appreciation for brothers’ varied perspectives on those values. I also liked being on the other side of the task book this year because I really enjoyed the opportunity to share my experience in KKPsi with the incoming class.” - Spencer Culbertson, Alpha Gamma*

*“I think everyone agrees that the task book is hands down the most valuable part of the membership candidate process. It forces MCs to meet the upperclassmen and jump starts the assimilation of the newbies into the chapter! I still remember some of the fantastic conversations I had back when I was an MC. Emma Afferton and I talked about the lab mice she performs experiments on, Alana Castro and I talked leadership styles and how being authentic to your own personality is more important than being loud and brash for the sake of being loud and brash. I had similarly rewarding conversations this year, from the other side of the MC tasks. Julia Payne is a boss and a half for getting Nationals to approve the task book!” - Noah French, Alpha Gamma*

*“I’ve really enjoyed having the task books so far, especially since the ADs didn’t get to have the experience when we were going through the MC process. I found it as a really good way to meet and talk with the AEs. The task book was also a great way to have a discussion about KKPsi and what our beliefs are.” - Brianna Murphy, Alpha Delta*

*“I really loved that the MCs had their task books this year. When Buck first told me about how he had to do tasks, I thought my class (ADs) had dodged a bullet. No mandatory assignments? YEETUS. However, when tasks actually started and I began meeting with the MCs, I realized how helpful the task book process was. They had the opportunity to meet so many brothers while being able to talk with them. Although it was probably pretty difficult to get through all of the tasks since everyone had busy schedules, it was super important to meet and bond with brothers one on one. I’m really glad that the AEs had this experience!” - Jane She, Alpha Delta*

*“Coming in as an MC, I didn’t know what to expect or how I was going to learn the information about Kappa Kappa Psi. The tasks allowed me to clearly understand what I needed to know. They also allowed me to engage with brothers from other sections and houses besides my own.” - Brandon Eley, Alpha Epsilon*

*“I was originally skeptical of the task books, thinking they would just be busy work. But while I was in the process of completing the tasks, I began to appreciate how the tasks forced the MC’s to get out of their comfort zones and get to know the brothers, since we were encouraged to look outside of our sections and houses. All in all, I had a great time completing the tasks and look forward to lending a helping hand to the MC’s next year when they complete their books.” -Emma Duane, Alpha Epsilon*

## Beta Chi Welcomes The Alpha Epsilon Class



Congrats to Will Meynardie, Rob Siebers, Brandon Eley, Chris O'Neill, Peter Mcpherson, James Powell, Tori O'Neill, Emma Duane, Gracemarie Buehlmann, Carlos Perez, Lauren Roos, Anna Faulks, Wendy Tang, Nelly Zevitz, Sandy Tiv, and Evan Dennison

# 2018-2019 Beta Chi Awards



**Becca Hostetter and  
Julia Payne**

Deri Bush Big Brother  
Award



**Taylor Rauch**

Ben DeForest Service  
Award



**Emma Afferton**

Rachel Beaton Academic  
Achievement Award



**Michael Clark**

Woody Wingfield Musical  
Achievement Award



**Josh Davis**

AEA Spirit Award

## Departing Brothers

To the class of 2019: You've seen it all, from Macy's to witnessing a National Basketball Championship! Throughout your years you have always acted as wonderful role models and shown the chapter exactly what it means to be a brother. Thank you for everything you have done for the CMB and Beta Chi. Congratulations and we wish you well in whatever your future holds.



Michael Clark, Sarah Vanlandingham, Savannah Olsen, Julia Payne, Amanda Yi, Becca Hostetter, Ryan Berman, Sydney Clark, Diana Renelt, and Emma Afferton



## 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, Shaazia Ahmed, at [sag3fa@virginia.edu](mailto:sag3fa@virginia.edu). If you are Alumni, our Alumni Relations Officer, Katherine Taylor, can be reached at [kjt4wx@virginia.edu](mailto:kjt4wx@virginia.edu).

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