

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

THE BETA CHI CHRONICLE

Spring 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.

2020-2021 Officers



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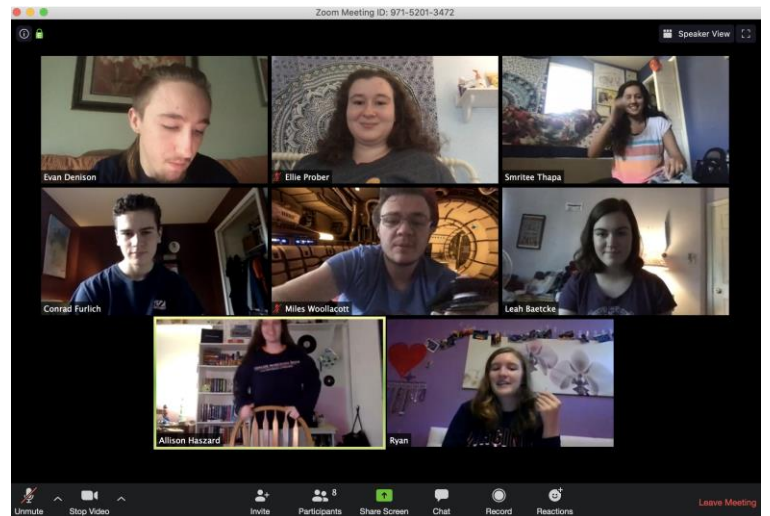


Mission Statement: Kappa Kappa Psi is a fraternal organization that promotes the advancement of college and university bands through dedicated service and support to bands, comprehensive education, leadership opportunities, and recognition for the benefit of its members and society.

Highlights From This Semester



Zoom Highlights



Letter from the President

Brothers, Alumni, and Friends of Beta Chi,

This past semester was unlike any other previous semester at the University of Virginia. The COVID-19 pandemic caused an abrupt shift from in person to online in every sense of the word. While in person at UVA, we were able to continue our service to the Cavalier Marching Band and the greater Charlottesville community through truck unloading, instrument cleaning, ushering, Greenbrier, and tabling at the Virginia Discovery museum. Since our transition to online communication, we have been able to hold virtual chapters, elections, MC lessons, creed recitations, and even a singing of the hymn all over Zoom. While the pandemic made it difficult to see each other face to face, we have been able to feel the spirit of brotherhood through Social Saturdays and Share A Songs.

Beta Chi welcomed a truly amazing new class of nine members into our brotherhood this spring. The Alpha Zetas showed the utmost perseverance and dedication throughout their unique membership education process. Online Zoom MC meetings were always a blast, and their many Tik Toks and bright energy brought genuine joy and entertainment to the entire chapter. Each member of the Alpha Zeta class has something so very special to bring to this chapter. Beta Chi is lucky to have such a phenomenal group of new members.

As we transition into summer vacation, we will begin setting new goals for the upcoming semester. In light of recent events, it has become clear that we all can and should be doing more to support the Black community and people of color. I hope we as a chapter can take an active stance against racial violence and injustice through amplifying Black voices, educating one another, and taking action to support the Black Lives Matter Movement. Take care and be safe during these uncertain times! I cannot wait to see you all soon, whether that be virtual or in person!

AEA,

Mariah Wallace Tighe

President, Beta Chi

Slinkies and Sound

Shaazia Ahmed, Alpha Delta Class

One of my favorite service activities that KKPsi does is kidvention. I never would have thought about a music/service fraternity spending a whole day teaching young kids about science, but it actually works out really well! Especially when free slinkies and boomwhackers are involved. I've never done kidvention for the entire five hours but I committed this year and was definitely not sure if I was going to survive being on my feet for so long.

The day started out at around nine in the morning when the hype morning squad (shoutout to Sandy, Evan, and Chris) made our way to Key Rec Center (and possibly parked in the wrong parking garage but it was fine) to set up for when the children would start arriving at ten. We had a slow start, both because not many kids had arrived yet and because we were figuring out how to make sure the science of sound wasn't too complicated for little kids to understand. After a while, we got the hang of it and I personally had a really great time interacting with the kids and letting them try and make fun sounds with the boomwhackers. They all had very different and creative approaches. Some banged against the table as hard as they could, some banged the boomwhackers together, and some hit them against their hands. Sandy, Evan, Chris, and I even entertained ourselves when there were no kids coming up to the table by trying to play nursery rhymes with the boomwhackers.

By the end, I was exhausted like I had predicted but it was well worth it. Being able to interact with so many young minds and spread some knowledge about music and science was extremely rewarding.

I think all the service events KKPsi does are really important, but the ones like kidvention that help with the greater Charlottesville community are some of my favorites because we get to give back to the place we now call home. Plus I got to keep a slinky!!

A Second First Degree

Rob Siebers, Alpha Epsilon Class

High on the excitement of being a new Big during Clue Week, you can imagine the panic that ensued when I received a message from my Little saying that she was going out-of-state for the weekend (unknowingly missing First Degree).

I frantically texted Mariah and went into full panic mode because I handle stressful situations very well if you didn't know.

Being the worrywart that I actually am, I dismayed at the thought that my identity might need to be revealed, that my Little might not get to participate in First Degree, or that I would disappoint Mariah (the worst of them all, of course).



Luckily, a backup plan was created. My identity remained a secret, my Little would get to participate in a make-up degree, and I didn't disappoint Mariah.

First Degree Sunday came along and I was super excited to finally get to officially meet my Little as her Big. Due to her needing to take a train back from home, my Little's First Degree wouldn't be until the evening.

Everyone knows how early First Degree starts. I was super happy to be welcoming in the Alpha Zetas as the new MC class, but at the same time I was anxiously waiting for the evening, when my Little would be welcomed in. At the same time, I was worried that not many people would come to the evening First Degree, having already woken up early for the normal one anyway. On top of that, we had chapter that day too and so I resigned to the fact that nobody would be going

to my Little's First Degree. I couldn't blame them either, it was a Sunday and people had homework and couldn't be expected to give up another couple hours of their time.

To my surprise, a large portion of the Chapter showed up for my Little as well as most of the AZs, who were willing to go through a second First Degree in one day.

Being the emotional mess that I am, I couldn't help but tear up. It made me so happy that my Brothers and future Brothers were willing to be there. I truly felt the spirit of Brotherhood that night.

It made me so proud to welcome Ryan into my family and into KKPsi this semester. We may not have had the semester we wanted, but I am comforted by the spirit of Brotherhood that is alive and well in our Chapter.

Breaking into the SAB

Mariah Tighe, Alpha Delta Class

It was a dark and stormy night, a little before 7 PM on a Sunday. I was alone. The Student Activities Building looked desolate, not a soul in sight. A flood of memories surfaced in my mind of game days at this fateful building. I could almost smell the pizza, sweat, and exhaustion from the outside. "Good times, go hoos" I thought to myself with determination. It was time to get this joint KKPsi & TBS tie dye recruitment event rolling. Not only was this a brand-new event for KKPsi, this was also going to be the very first event for both KKPsi and TBS recruitment. A lot was riding on this event, so it was pertinent that it went off without a hitch.

I went around to the front entrance of the building and whipped out my split in half ID held together with some library tape. I tried swiping. Nothing. I tried swiping again. Nothing. Panic started to wash over me as I realized the doors were not unlocking. I checked my email frantically. Everything seemed confirmed with UVA, as I had booked the SAB for this night at this specific time weeks ago. It should be ours for the taking.

A noise brought me out of my thoughts, and I looked up. A shadowy figure was approaching and without my glasses on, only time would tell who it was. After saying a quick prayer about please not being murdered in this parking lot, I called out to the figure. To my relief it was one of our sisters, Anthony Malabad. After explaining that the doors weren't unlocking, we made our way around to the back of the SAB. Anthony tried the back door and to our surprise, it was unlocked and swung open. The feeling of triumph only lasted for a millisecond as a horrible screaming alarm began to sound. Anthony and I entered in a hurry, pushing buttons and flipping switches trying anything and everything to get the terrible sound to stop. All I could think about was how if the cops showed up, recruitment was literally done for.

Looking back, I'm unsure what exactly we did to get the alarm to stop. Anthony must've figured something out because after he did something, the blissful sound of silence filled the large space. Now, the tie dye setup could begin. Though everything seemed doomed at the start, the actual event was a fantastic success. There were only a few other minor issues that occurred, ranging from not having enough rubber bands to someone putting bleach in an air freshener sprayer. Everyone had a good time and made some pretty awesome tie dye creations. My start to leading recruitment was already a beautiful hot mess, but I wouldn't have wanted it any other way!

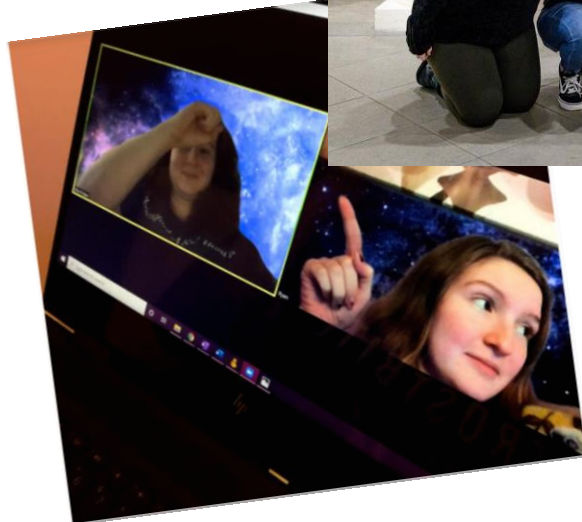
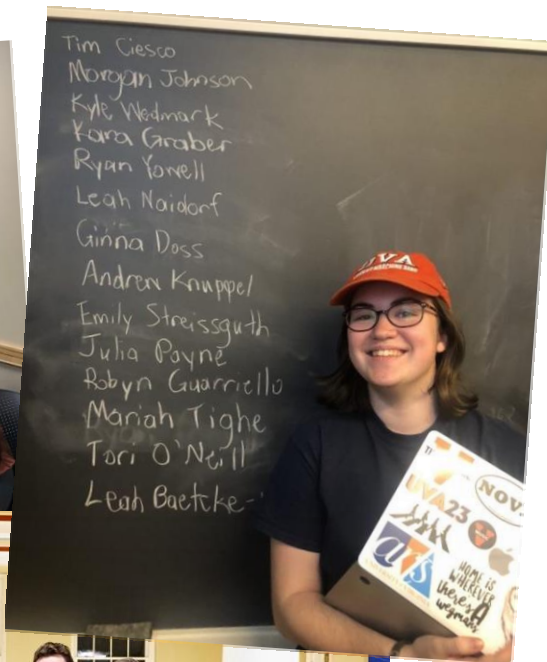
Music in the Library

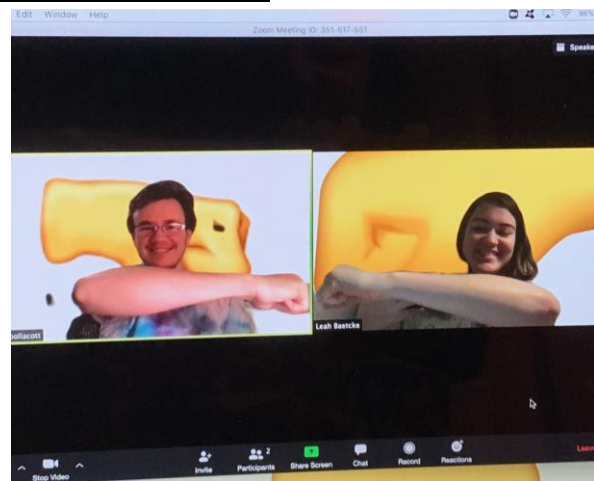
Parker Lazear, Alpha Delta Class

While I had been to Clark in the past, leading up to the first week of Greenbrier I was incredibly nervous. I have interacted with kids of all ages but with kindergarteners and first graders I am always hyper aware of safety concerns and incredibly worried about how to find the line between speaking at their level and being condescending. Furthermore, I had no idea what was going to be expected of me. Thus, I was going in blind in a new school with a program that had never existed at that school before. When we got there Bri showed us how to make a pan flute out of straws and told us how to set up. When the kids came in, I expected mayhem, but was pleasantly surprised when they all sat quietly in their chairs with their jackets placed on the back

of the chairs. After explaining to them how to make the pan flutes, I began walking around and talking with them as they created their instruments. I got to talk with this one girl, Caitlyn, for quite some time as I helped her pick out which color straws she wanted. Then, once the pan flute was taped together I talked to her about how it works and was shocked to discover how easily she understood that the longer straws were for lower notes and the shorter ones were for higher notes. Then, as she colored I talked with Justin as he was struggling to make his straws different lengths. Luckily, the crisis was averted as he cut one of the straws in half and proceeded to finish his pan flute. When the kids had to go to their next thing, I was sad to see them leave, but excited for the prospect of the next few weeks spent with them. In the hours after I remember thinking, "These kids are literally angels and I can't wait to see them next week!" As the weeks went on I started to create genuine connections with the kids. Whether in a drum circle with bottle cap clappers or listening to kids talk about how girls can like girls while making guitars I fell in love with each of those kids. When they walked into the library, they lifted me up, and I always left that school excited for the next week. As the weeks went on they came out of their shells and we got to see them for who they are. Bri, our service queen, planned and organized Greenbrier SO WELL and during the time when we were able to participate (pre-COVID) I really felt the spirit of brotherhood in me as me and my brothers spent time teaching kids about music in such a fun way. For anyone who does not think they have the time for Greenbrier, make the time. It will bring you up in ways you can never anticipate and the joy of these angels is certain to bring a smile to your face.

Beta Chi Welcomes the Alpha Zeta Class





Congrats to Leah Baetcke, Allison Haszard, Conrad Furlich, Matt Jones, Ryan McLellan, Kyle McPherson, Ellie Prober, Smritee Thapa, and Miles Woollacott. Our truly amAZing Alpha Zeta Class!

2019-2020 Award Winners



**Woody Wingfield Musical
Achievement Award**
Adriecce Sharpe



**Deri Bush Big
Brother Award**
April Corwin



AEA Spirit Award
Robyn Guarriello



**Rachel Beaton Academic
Achievement Award**
Taylor Rauch



Ben DeForest Service Award
Brianna Murphy

Departing Brothers

To the class of 2020, from three bowl games to an ACC Championship to a global pandemic, you have truly survived it all! Your service to this band and positive impact on this fraternity have not gone unnoticed. Each and every one of you demonstrate precisely what it means to strive for the highest. Thank you for everything you have done for the CMB and Beta Chi. Congratulations and good luck! We cannot wait to see the amazing things you do.



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, at agf7jc@virginia.edu. If you are Alumni, our Alumni Relations Officer, Evan Denison, can be reached at emd6gbn@virginia.edu.

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