

THE BETA CHI CHRONICLE



*A Look into the Life of our Chapter at the
University of Virginia, Fall 2023*



Pictured: Syd Roos, Charlotte Baker, Ethan Van Berkel, Rishi Bhogaraju, Kaelyn Bray, Bekah Cubstead, Kristin Del Corso, Allison Douglas, Lara Forstner, Isabella Gattuso, Jillian Gough, Amanda Hail, Kyle Holden, Rachel Nelson, Melanie Palmer, Claire Seigler, Brendan Shea, Silvia Wardell; **Not Pictured:** Connor Brumbaugh, Mariel DiNatale, Jewel Elliott, Rachel McGinnis, Gabby Niculescu, Maahi Vyas

MUSICIANSHIP. LEADERSHIP. SERVICE.

About Beta Chi

The Beta Chi Chapter was originally founded on September 23, 1950 and was active until 1962, when the University's marching band program shut down after a decade of hardships. Without a marching band to serve, the chapter was unable to meet its goals and was disbanded. Over 40 years later, Carl and Hunter Smith donated enough money to establish the Cavalier Marching Band at UVA. With new instruments, uniforms, and spirit, the new marching band took to the field for its premier performance September 11th, 2004.

The Beta Chi Chapter was re-founded on April 23, 2005 with the help of our Big Brother Chapter, Eta Omicron of JMU. Today, Beta Chi provides support to the Cavalier Marching Band and other ensembles in the Charlottesville community. As 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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Who is Kappa Kappa Psi?

Kappa Kappa Psi was founded in 1919 at Oklahoma State University as a *National Honorary Society for College Bandsmen*. Bohumil Makovsky, was the Band Director at Oklahoma State University, and came together with 10 of his students to create a fraternal organization based around their shared love of music. Since then, the fraternity has expanded to over 300 chapters and 50,000 Brothers in universities across the nation. Kappa Kappa Psi focuses on supporting college and university bands as well fostering responsibility, loyalty, and leadership in each member. Members focus on fulfilling the motto: "Strive for the Highest."

BX Chapter Sponsor

Michael Idzior

2023-2024 Officers



President
Kristin Del Corso



VP of Social
Charlotte Baker



VP of Membership
Ethan Van Berkel



VP of Musicianship
Lara Forstner



VP of Service
Amanda Hail



VP of Finance
Allison Douglas



Historian
Jewel Elliott



Recording Secretary
Melanie Palmer



Corresponding Secretary
Gabby Niculescu



Alumni Relations Officer
Maahi Vyas



Ritual Master
Connor Brumbaugh



Parliamentarian
Brendan Shea

Letter From the President Kristin Del Corso, Alpha Eta Class

Hey brothers!

I am not the best at words, but I will try my best. I want to first start this letter off by saying how proud I am of each and every one of you. I have absolutely loved getting to know you all this semester, and it is *such* a pleasure to serve the best KKPsi chapter.



Of course, I witnessed moments that made me question you guys. Like when Amanda, a vegetarian, ate the hotdog bun with ketchup, mustard, relish, and **NO GLIZZY!!!!** Or witnessing those of you hoo trekked into the rain to find the *BIGGEST STICK*. Despite being soaked to the bone, you were determined to win the scavenger hunt.



Or Syd's musical update on Black Midi. Truly masterful and confusing work.



Despite your goofiness, you work so hard!! I loved talking to you at president dates to learn all about what you do (if you haven't had one yet, don't worry! We'll have one in Spring!). From nursing to engineering to politics to music, everyone is so talented. Sometimes it can be hard to feel like you're doing very well, especially at such a competitive school. When you feel overwhelmed or down or sad or frustrated, please

remember that I am proud of you. I am here for you, not just in a KKPsi sense, but in a personal sense. If you *ever* need *anything*, don't hesitate to reach out.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Evan Denison in this letter. This past summer, we lost an important member of our band community. Beyond just band, though, Evan was a brother of KKPsi. He went inactive when he began to grow apart from the organization, but in my heart, he is still a brother. When I went through recruitment in the pits of COVID hell, everything was online. I was a baby first year who didn't have band camp (Fall '20) and didn't feel a part of any sort of community. *KKPsi* was my community. Evan was in Ionic with me and was my "Uncle" (my big's twin). My first in-person hangout at college was at his house— OH house— where the Ionic brothers watched March Madness. I was still working on becoming a full member and I used the opportunity to complete my "House Task" (which was a virtual packet at the time). I didn't even know he was a drum major when I was going through recruitment! But I *loved* Evan, and his presence in the chapter was part

House / Section Task

Meet with one Brother from your House and one Brother from your Section to discuss your MC process. List five new things you learned from each Brother. These are the only requirements but we encourage you to meet with as many Brothers as possible.

Signature / Date - Evan / 3.21.21

1. He lives in Oh House.
2. He plays trumpet.
3. He owns two ottomans.
4. He works at Starbucks.
5. His second favorite animal is the seal.
6. His spirit animal is the Pug.
7. He has two brothers.
8. He is a drum major!

of the reason I ended up joining KKPsi at all. I was drawn by his warmth and humor. He cared about people in a unique way that I can only hope to encapsulate going forward.

I continue to miss him dearly. I want to thank everyone who joined me to honor Evan earlier this semester at the park. Despite the heavy grief, watching Syd and Rishi make out and the jokes we cracked helped make it just a little easier. Evan will continue to live on in our hearts.

I am continually impressed by each of you— your compassion for others, your intelligence, your dedication, your humor. Keep being amazing people who inspire me to be a better person myself. I am excited for our Spring semester and to meet the AKs! Let's make this next semester the best one yet!

AEA,
Kristin Del Corso



Highlights from the Semester



Melanie and Isabella posing with their marshmallows from KKSmores!!



Lara and Melanie weathering the storm



Our beloved matriarch, Kristin



Homer baking cupcakes for Progressive



Lunch on the Lawn



Homer vs. Blandy Bookcase

Retreat



Bros take over Blandy



The Intellectuals



The Resident Bookworms



Brother Star



The AIs



The Creation of BX



Brother Pyramid



POV: you got a photo the moment it wasn't raining



Looking Good in Uniform!



Brothers of Beta Chi (UVA) and Eta Omicron (JMU)



Charlotte, Allison, and Lara on the Lawn



Melanie, Charlotte, Bekah, and Kyle at the Paramount



Jewel and Rachel on the Lawn



Brothers of Beta Chi (UVA) and Iota (Georgia Tech)



UVA x VA Tech Horn crossover!

Rating Sock Wars Immunities as a Sock Overlord Charlotte Baker, AΘClass

Sock Wars has always been one of my absolute favorite KKPsi events and I was absolutely thrilled to be running it this year with our lovely Madame President Kristin! I was also absolutely thrilled to not be a participant! I love playing sock wars, but running it means I got all of the fun, but none of the stress or the embarrassment from a bad immunity. With that in mind, I decided a fun way to reflect on Sock Wars would be to rate a few of the immunities we did this year. These are all just my opinions as one of the overlords, I <3 all the immunities, sorry if I give your favorite a low rating.

Banana Phone- A classic immunity, I loved reading the yikyaks and watching the rest of UVA react to the beginning of Sock Wars. **8.5/10**

Statue of Liberty- Also a classic Sock Wars immunity. Unfortunately, I didn't get to see many people wearing it and for that reason... **5/10**

Most Socks- I love this immunity, especially seeing how hard people commit to it. On the other hand, there were a few socks littered around grounds this year. **4/10**

Biggest Spoon- Obsessed with how random this one is, not obsessed with having to constantly field emails and arbitrate what counts as a spoon **4.5/10**

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson- this was a new immunity for Sock Wars and I was really excited about it. I did not expect the backlash it received though, I assumed more people owned black turtlenecks 🐢 Still gets a high rating because I got to see Dr. Koch dressed like the Rock **8/10**

Bagel Necklace- Okay, so bagel necklace is another Sock Wars staple, but tbh it's not my favorite. People really look forward to it, so we had to do it, but in my opinion it's a little gross and not as fun or silly as other immunities. **3/10**

Gameday Fits- I think this was a really fun immunity, but it got some mixed reviews from the horn section: "This immunity is SICK" "Charlotte I love you so much and this immunity great" and "I need drip the summer uniform is the anti-drip" Truly a full range of emotions. **7.7/10**

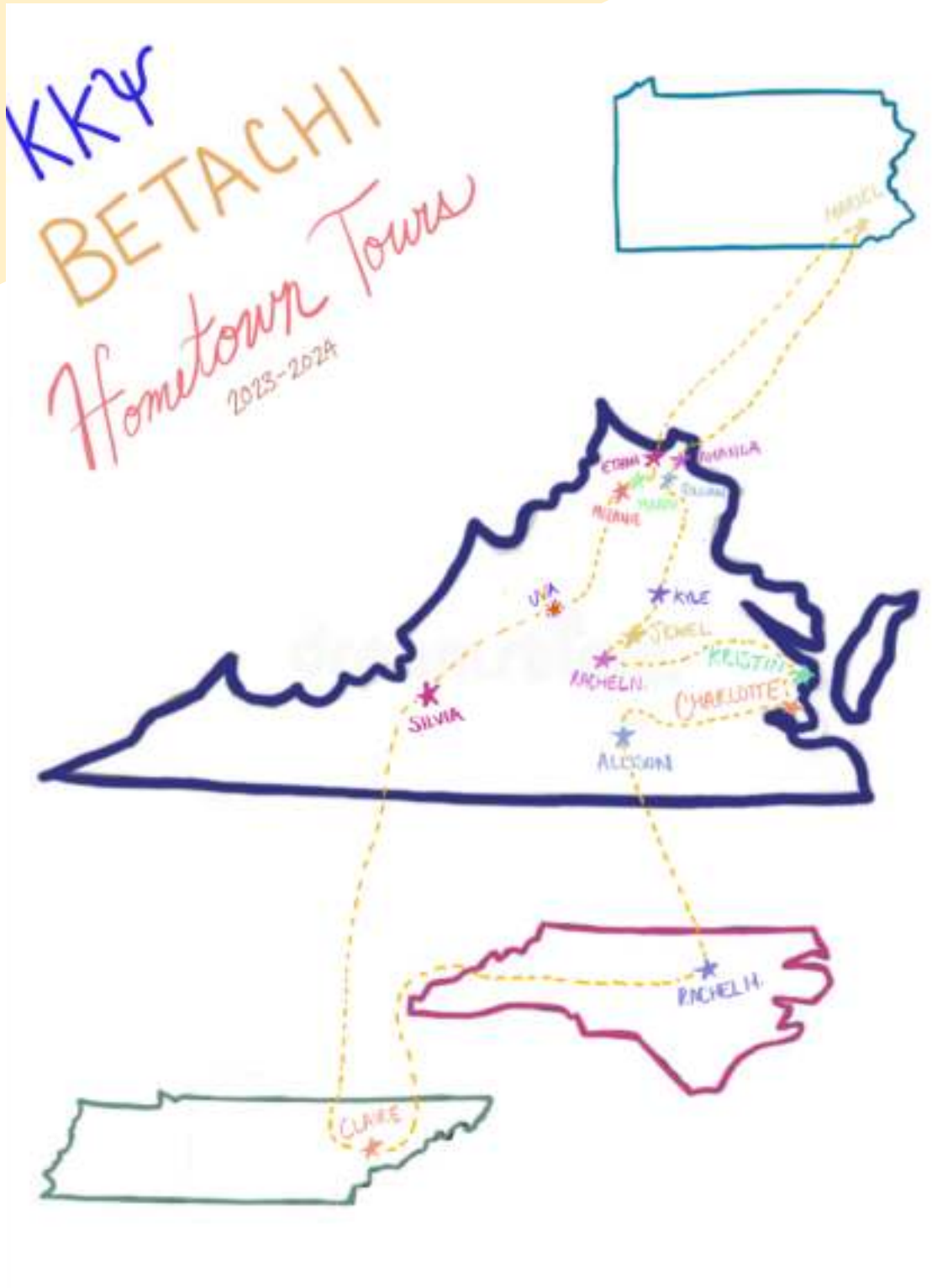
Most Virginia Tech Merch- I actually suggested this immunity last year, so I was psyched when I realized I could make it a reality as sock overlord. Mean-spirited, but in a fun way. **6/10**

Cat/Cow- Kristin came up with this immunity and it's maybe the craziest one we've ever done. I love how it honors stretch block, but it did make band kids look weird. Well, weirder than normal. **10/10**

Honorable Mention: The final sock wars challenge is always to be the first person to tag the gamemakers and normally one other person out. I had gotten too comfortable in my role as sock overlord; forgotten what it was like to be on the front lines of a Sock Wars battle. I was defenseless, unable to protect myself against the attacks of both of the top two players. I even attempted a sting operation, using my twin sister as a decoy so that I could safely get into my class. Ultimately I was tagged out by both players and both times it was so scary and startling that it took a good five minutes for my hands to stop shaking and for my heart rate to return to normal. **-10000000/10**

“What was your favorite moment with the Brothers from this year?” *Claire Seigler, AIClass*

This semester, nothing brought me more joy than our informal Brother lunches at Newcomb. They were always so unhinged in the best way, and they made me feel a lot closer to the Brothers and the chapter. I was kind of unsure if I wanted to remain in the chapter, especially at the beginning of the semester, but these lunches made me realize that I absolutely belong in this chapter and that my decision to join was a good one. I laughed so hard and I always knew that no matter what else was going on, I could rely on time with the Brothers to cheer me up. I have so much love for this group of people, and I am so thankful that I was able to spend so much time with them (even if we had to eat Newcomb food while doing it). I feel like Conrad could be convinced to join a pyramid scheme if it pretended to be for a good cause, like a percentage of money it makes goes to saving the polar bears or something, but is smart enough to realize that it is a pyramid scheme after some research. But instead of leaving it, I think he has the charisma and chaotic energy needed to usurp the whole thing and take it over, either through an intelligent, well thought-out, multifaceted plan, or maybe just by accidentally walking into the wrong meeting and pretending that he meant to be there. He would probably then use the money to actually do what was originally promised (yay for the polar bears). That being said, please consider donating some of your profit to the Cavalier Marching Band; we will happily hand-write you a thank you card, and I bet the polar bears will too.





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, Jewel Elliott at jae8xmg@virginia.edu. If you are Alumni, our Alumni Relations Officer, Maahi Vyas, can be reached at nuh6td@virginia.edu.

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