



# BETA OMICRON

“We dedicate ourselves to the Sun Devil Pride”



Hello Everyone!

It is my honor to present to you the September Edition of the Beta Omicron Monthly Update Newsletter.

It is the start of a new biennium and Beta Omicron has been hard at work since National Convention. Chapter Leadership has met twice to strategically plan the semester and year while Band Camp has come and gone.

It has been an exciting time for Beta Omicron as every committee eagerly set forth on their plans for the year.

This Edition features stories from Brothers from over the Summer, Q&A from an Alumni and Honorary Brother, and our Committee Updates.

Thank you,

- 2017-2018 Alumni and Public Relations  
Committee



## Stories from Brothers

### Study Abroad

This summer, I was given the opportunity to study abroad in Amsterdam for two months. I was studying Dutch Design and Society, and I was there from the end of May to the end of July. I learned so many things, and I had a wide variety of experiences. I biked the city, had some amazing food, and met so many great friends. But I'm not here to talk about my whole summer. Who would I be without talking about Kappa Kappa Psi? One of the major downsides from my trip was that I was unable, for obvious reasons, to go to NatCon this summer. At the time of NatCon, I was working on two major projects that would count for my final. One of the most amazing experiences from my trip was taking a break after working all day long to check in on my brothers in Florida, having the best, most sleep deprived time. While I was busy doing research, and going out in the city to talk to people who barely spoke English, brothers from around the country were deciding the future of the fraternity.

One of the strongest moments of the whole trip was taking a break at about 2 in the morning to check into Facebook, and seeing a video of all the brothers singing our national hymn after passing the Road to Wisdom. I was so proud and was filled with so much love at that moment. It was amazing to me that more than anything else, it was music that connected me with my brothers. I went through the rest of my trip feeling more encouraged and filled with love than I could have ever hoped for. While I am so grateful for the opportunities I was given abroad, I will always value spending time with my brothers, and will always share a connection with them that goes beyond words.

- Elisabeth "Newt" Partin



## DCI

This past summer, I was able to experience Drum Corps from an administrative point of view. I was a member of The Phantom Regiment merchandise team, along with two other girls from my independent winterguard! One of our instructors, Brian McCormack, is the Summer Merchandise Manager for the Regiment and he presented the opportunity to join the team at one of our rehearsals; we jumped at the chance right away!

After arriving in the humid state of Illinois on June 1st, the four of us hit the ground running by organizing the entire Regiment store. There was so much clothing! We spent our days at the Regiment office, which was in an old building that was definitely creepy at night. We painted and stocked racks with shirts, carpeted the trailer we were to sell out of at every competition, stuffed bins full of Phantom Regiment goods in the back of the truck, and got ready to head out on the road!

Although we are volunteers, we are considered staff and had the pleasure of riding in an entertainer bus for tour! The buses had a front and back room along with twelve bunks, two rows on each side of the vehicle stacked three high. It was really easy to fall asleep while travelling through the night!

Pretty soon after embarking on tour, the merch team and I fell into our routines: rehearsal days meant relaxing and sleeping in, and doing whatever odd jobs were needed for us to be successful in sales at the next competition. Competition days meant we woke up and left for the show site around noon, dropped off the trailer, got food for the day, then went back to the show site and began setting up shop. We were ready for customers once gates opened and usually stayed half an hour after the final performance.

My summer was filled with selling shirts and repeatedly informing customers of cotton content ("Yes, it might shrink just a little"), watching different corps perform, watching shows again and again, and constantly being moved by The Phantom Regiment. I still get chills thinking about that one specific part in the ballad, or the final hit in the finale, or the one performer that would always catch my eye. It was an experience unlike any other, and gave me a taste of what drum corps really is.

Unfortunately, during tour, the bus which my team and I were on crashed in the middle of the night onto the driver's side. Myself and all other passengers made it out with minimal to semi-serious injuries, but our bus driver, Donna Howard, was lost. She is so very missed and her hearty laughter will never be forgotten. I also would like to thank The Academy and all other drum corps and marching programs for the support and love that was expressed. As Phantom Regiment's executive director has said, when we're on the field it's competition, but when we're off the field, we're all Phamily.

I'm so thankful for the Brotherhood of Kappa Kappa Psi. I received so much concern from Brothers about my wellbeing and I am forever grateful for their friendship and love. I am truly touched whenever my chapter comes together to sing Nationals; the hymn means so much more to me now than it did before, and reminds me of what it means to be a part of this national community of amazing people.

"...but this I know, if I must die, I am a Brother of K K Psi..."

- Emily "Cwtch" Brezinski



## Stargazing

I work as a Mentor for first-year students in ASU's School of Earth and Space Exploration (SESE), and every year we travel to Payson in northern AZ for Camp SESE. Each night of our stay, we watch one of Ric Alling's famous "Star Tours," where we look out at one of the clearest skies in Arizona and hear some of the stories that we have told about the stars for thousands of years. I recently wrote about this experience and would like to share "Stargazing" with you all.

- Megan "GEMelody" Bromley

I place my spine into the curve of the earth place  
myself where the distant suns might shine vertebrae by  
vertebrae waterfall of light and bone  
dense collection of mass and milk  
to pour.

I place myself where I can feel the tilt of the body in  
space the roll of us. I place myself in the curve of the  
earth where the skin atop the roil meets mine. I place  
my skull tight to the grass and hear the blood and the  
crush of mantle.

Patterns in the light are asterisms. There are no stories  
but our own.

Magma churns between my head and the other side of  
the world a plot of the ocean where the fish talk about  
us behind our backs where plankton whisper  
"What does it take to make a body heavenly?"

Where we can hear the gunshots of the land and we can  
hear the screams of the land but we can only blow  
bubbles. If we press ourselves to the crust we can  
pretend we are strong. This is how flowers bloom how  
their crystalline bodies open to the daylight and slip to  
buds when the stars roll over.

We are pink and fractal and we repeat ourselves in the  
endlessness because there is no other way to fill it and  
we fill it with ourselves our bodies like paper to absorb  
water and home and death through the capillaries.

I place myself I place my spine on the grass and in turn  
my gut my heart my face and all its trimmings to the  
sky as though offering them to gods we have made in  
the night unaware of how they might gaze back.



## Alumni

### Travis Breedlove

#### **Q: How have you been involved in Kappa Kappa Psi since graduating?**

With Kappa Kappa Psi it's hard because there are weekly meetings and degrees, but my family has to come first with sports & dance, but I keep tabs on the chapter through social media posts and reading the Chapter Newsletter. I have come back to talk about the Beta Omicron Hymn when I've been asked and have also done a lesson on the SDMB history on A Mountain when Leslie Anderson couldn't make it. Now for just general marching band involvement I was one of the main forces with organizing and communicating to the alumni about Homecoming and getting Devil's Horns (SDMB Alumni Band) restarted for the past 10 years. My biggest thrill was getting to put together the 100 year celebration which was about 5 years worth of prepping & planning. All accomplished with a small group of 8-10 people.

#### **Q: What did you learn as an active that has helped you in life?**

I learned how to be a better leader. Not just in the "I'm in charge" type role but in the "I'm just going to get it done" leadership. If someone else was taking the lead I would give them any and all help I could. It was their project and I was there to help make them successful. I always had the idea when I was VP and President that I should be training everyone else in the chapter to be able to do my job/role and that is what I feel makes a good leader.

#### **Q: What did you do during your time as an active?**

Let me rewind back a little first. Do you remember getting the question from all the prospective members during interviews about "Why did you join KKY?" I always turned that question around a bit. See I originally joined because I had lots of upperclassmen friends in it and really didn't know what I was doing as a freshman. I left for about a semester, but I came back, so I would always answer the question, "It's more important to know why I came back." I came back because I felt I not only was missing something but that I really could help the chapter. I assumed the Vice President role halfway through the year when our prior VP could no longer complete her duties (we only have one VP which was membership training FYI). I did an overhaul of the membership program and brought in at that time two of the largest classes to Beta Omicron. I also actively recruited people to join and provided them with information instead of our normal way of having them come to us with interest. I looked for people I felt would be good for BO but also the band as well. I enjoyed being VP much more than President. I loved to teach the history and classes. I was VP the following year as well before being elected President after that. During my year as President the Western District MAL was abandoned and I took over that role for half a year with the Chapter's blessing and then my last year I was only WD MAL where I researched the District History and began that process/program.



**Q: What are you doing now?**

First, I'm a father to 3 wonderful kids. 12-year old daughter and 9 year old twins one boy one girl. I also have an awesome wife (fellow SDMB alum) who deals with my passion. I got my degree in BIS with the idea I would go into Public Relations but after having my dream internship with ASU Athletics I realized that job would not mesh with my desire to have a family so I am in insurance sales for 15 years now. My kids keep us busy with sports and dance and we have ASU Football season tickets where we sit & tailgate with fellow SDMB Alumni each week.

**Q: What was your favorite memory or project during your time in Beta Omicron?**

Hands down the hymn. While I think neither Mark nor I could imagine the impact it still has today it brings back so many memories and emotions. Second would have to be the children's instrument petting zoo we did one semester. Homeless kids getting to try out an instrument for the 1st time was pretty cool to see their faces light up. (we made a memo to bring extra mouthpieces for the next time). I also really enjoyed doing B.O.R.T.s with fellow BO brothers. nothing like bonding in a car for 6+ hours to go sleep on someone's floor at UCLA or Ok St.

**Honorary Member**  
**Melanie Brooks**

**Q: How are you involved within the music department at ASU:**

I'm a grad student in the music department at ASU. I've worked with both concert band and the SDMB, and I also work with saxophone ensembles in the school of music.

**Q: How has Kappa Kappa Psi impacted you?**

Becoming an honorary member helped me connect to my big brother, Rachel Quirbach, in addition to other brothers within Beta Omicron. I also became more aware of how brothers can help during set up and tear down, especially during concert band, and helped me learn more about Beta Omicron and Kappa Kappa Psi as a whole.

**Q: Why did you choose to come to ASU:**

I came to ASU because I worked with Gary Hill at a clinic, and really valued his comments. When I was looking at schools for grad programs, that experience with him really influenced her to keep ASU at the top of my list.



## Executive Council

Welcome back, Brothers and friends of Beta Omicron!

Executive Council is off to a great start coming into the next biennium of Kappa Kappa Psi. We have had a busy summer and beginning of the semester coming out of National Convention, where we were a finalist for the Scroggs Founder's Trophy. This was a great experience for many of our Brothers and gave us an inside look into the goals of the National Council for the coming biennium, and we are excited for what is to come!

For Beta Omicron specifically, we have a busy semester ahead of us! We have begun strategic planning for the year and the biennium, have plans to reach out to members of the National Council for their guidance and support, and are in the early stages of preparation for our biennial visit from National Chapter Field Representative, Justin Chesak. Additionally, we have commenced our planning as the host chapter of the 2018 Arizona State Days event. We are still off to an early start, but this chapter is eager to serve and lead. I am looking forward to seeing us grow as musicians, servers, leaders, and Brothers this year

- Aliyah "AYE" Qualls

## Membership Education Committee

### **Music Mixer:**

The music mixer showcased numerous musical interactions between various brothers and outstanding band members, as well as Kappa Kappa Psi's National Vice President of Programs, Nicholas Bratcher. There were different performances by Brothers, both active and alumni, including a Kazoo Band, ukuleles, singing, colorguard show and tell, french horn duet, and finishing the night with singing the National Hymn and the Beta Omicron Hymn.

### **Service Mixer:**

This year's service mixer took the hands on approach to teaching outstanding band members how to help our college bands in service. This mixer featured a relay race where actives and outstanding band members broke out into teams to perform tasks that included setting up and tearing down yard markers and podiums, and filling water jugs. Not only did everyone learn how to serve, but groups were then broken down into smaller-sized groups to pick out words that resembled leadership and explained what it means to be a leader. The last event of the service mixer was a speech given by our drum major and Beta Omicron member, Dale Ramirez, on what it means to be a leader. This mixer had high energy and made everyone more knowledgeable of how Kappa Kappa Psi helps our college marching band.

**Joint Mixer:**

The Membership Education Committee held the first ever Joint Mixer with SAI and PMA. We played in the Gammage field under the hot sun, got to know one another better, and played some fun bonding games. Our relationship with the two organizations continues to improve, and though only two non-members of any of the organizations showed up, it was still a pleasant time."

**Brotherhood Mixer:**

The Brotherhood Mixer was also another very successful event. William Everett did a brilliant job at incorporating the Band Camp BBQ and Brotherhood Mixers into one night at one location, which drew a great crowd and encouraged many SDMB members to stick around after the BBQ to check out KKPsi. We played with water balloons, ultimate frizz, and capture the flag.

**Road to Wisdom:**

The Road to Wisdom is the National Membership Education Program that was approved this summer by the National Council. This plan contains a complete outline of how all chapters are to educate incoming Membership Candidates. This process will continue to match length of previous processes (12 weeks) but the lessons are specifically designed to be taught with certain topics to cover in a more hands on approach. The layout is as follows:

1. An orientation meeting that occurs before first degree.
2. Seven lessons between first degree and third degree.
3. An eighth lesson that completes the Road to Wisdom following third degree.

This is just the generic overview about what is different with the Road to Wisdom than our plan in years past. We are still allowed to remain unique as a chapter like with our A Mountain lesson and inviting sisters to the TBS lesson. The committee is excited to help make this process a reality.

**Pre-Process Interviews:**

In preparation to welcome a new class of Membership Candidates, we will be having Pre-Process Interviews in order to get to know the outstanding band members that are interested in joining Kappa Kappa Psi. These interviews include a variety of panels that aim to learn more about those being interviewed with questions inspired by the pillars of our fraternity. Before these interviews begin, we will hold interviews for our Active Brothers who are interested in being Big Brothers. These interviews allow us to pair Big and Little in a way where their strengths and weaknesses work with each other and they can have the most fulfilling relationship possible.

The MEC has had a busy start to the year, and we will continue to remain so as a new class is selected in the coming weeks. First Degree is just around the corner, and before you know it, we'll have a new set of band members starting their journey in this fraternity.



- Membership Education Committee

### Service Committee

Since early August, the Service and Awards Committee has been hard at work preparing the Beta Omicron's service efforts for the 2017-2018 football season. With the help of service teams, setting up and tearing down the field has gone smoothly and the committee has discussed ways to make tracking brothers who serve an easier endeavor. To take the service teams in a new direction, the SAA committee came up with a new system called Service Team Challenges. Teams will compete for points by completing challenges together each month that revolve around our three pillars as well as other areas like Correspondence and History. These challenges are completely optional and are meant to encourage brothers to engage with the chapter in new ways.

The SAA Committee also recently planned and held a Service/Leadership Mixer where current brothers and SDMB members interested in Kappa Kappa Psi learned how to set up and tear down the field by playing a relay race activity. Attendees also partook in a short leadership exercise lead by our Leadership Chair, Austin Cahoon, and heard from Western District President and SDMB Head Drum Major, Dale Ramirez, about the importance of service in the Fraternity. Currently, the SAA Committee has been reaching out to local musical organizations such as The Phoenix Youth Symphony and SOUNDS Academy to offer our volunteer efforts. Austin is also preparing a series of mini workshops that revolve around the acronym LEADERSHIP and how you can identify the 10 essential traits of an effective leader.

Brother of the Month: Emily Ford has been an extreme help on and off the field during band camp. She was one of the first brothers to complete here SU/TD credit requirements and has completed 2 others as well! She dedicated most of her free time in between blocks to help Sean and Pam hand out uniforms. Her positive attitude is infectious and her love for the SDMB inspires other to do the same. Way to go Emily!

### Leadership Chair

This year the leadership chair will be providing workshops throughout the semester on leadership values by utilizing meaningful examples, impactful quotes, and special guests. One can also expect many recruitment opportunities around the valley. Whether it's attending a high school football game and participating with stand tunes or joining a concert band rehearsal and playing with the students. With these hands-on experiences, the leadership chair hopes to provide a worthwhile musical experience for both chapter member or candidate and high school student.

### Fudget Committee

The Fudget committee has begun researching and planning new fundraising ideas for this semester. After looking back on the past year, the new focus will be on better project implementation and focus as a committee. They will be focusing on raising funds before the



ABODA State Championships and District Season 2018. They are currently reaching out to organizations to place advertisements in the ABODA State Championships programs.

### **History Committee**

The history committee, though small in size, is off to a great start this year! We are continuously working towards our goal to better educate the Chapter on our past by bringing in interesting artifacts from the office. Thanks to a slide projector Josephine found at a garage sale, we were able to look through old slides from the 90's that have been sitting in the office for years. Travis Breedlove, a BO alum and co-writer of the Beta Omicron Hymn, took the time to attend one of our meetings and chimed in on our lesson of the history of the BOH, followed by a quick discussion on what the hymn means to us. We also got to show Outstanding Bandmembers a taste of what the history committee does by bringing in an old shako and magazine pages from Frank Kush's time at the Informational Mixer.

This upcoming week, the committee and I will be setting up a few days to begin digitizing the KKPsi Office. This has been a goal for many years, but we finally have the resources to do it. It's going to be quite the task but between two portable scanners, two or three laptops, tons of service-oriented Bros, and lots of Dutch Bros, it will get done!

On top of everything else, we've managed to begin hanging up the Family Tree diagram in the office and cleaned up some space in our craft closet. The scrapbook is better than ever with lots of pictures, funny captions, stickers, and of course glitter.

History committee meets every Sunday at 6:30pm in the KKPsi Office, feel free to stop by! 579 always loves to have guests.

### **Music Committee**

The music committee has been working hard and has already put on successful events. Our work this semester began with a School of Music Breakfast, held on the morning of August 30th. A couple of our Brothers handed out donuts, coffee, and recruitment event information to hungry SoM students. This helped us deepen our ties in the school of music and generated interest of our organization in many individuals. Another event we held was the annual Music Mixer on the night of September 6th. At this recruitment mixer, we featured Brothers' performances, fun musical activities, and a deeper talk about what musicianship means to us. We also had Music Appreciation Night during the evening of September 16th, which fostered an appreciation for music by sharing meaningful pieces we have performed and attending the ASU Symphony Orchestra concert.

Coming up in our semester, we have our First Friday Band on October 6th in Downtown Phoenix, where passerby of the event can conduct our arranged pep band. The idea behind this is to provide music to the local community in a unique, interactive way. This is an event we did last semester and it was a successful way to raise money for our committee. Our committee decided that a good way to innovate music buddies is to combine the buddies with bro-dates, so we can increase participation. This also allows for us to have them sit next to each other in the meetings and interact with each other during the Music and Brotherhood Chairs' reports. We



have a lot in store for the Month of Musicianship including: a karaoke night, musical show & tell, and joint greek recital.

### Brotherhood Committee

The Brotherhood Committee has had a busy month! We got a snap jar! It has been a while since we have had one, but we are now going strong with the written praises! We also hosted our annual End of Band Camp BBQ, which was a blast for all who attended. We served hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and Powerade to around 50 people. Nicky Redmond and Kyle Horn were the grill masters and cooked up all the food! We were at Creamery Park so there was a lot of room to play Frisbee and run around!

Once the BBQ was over, we had the Brotherhood Mixer to kick off our recruiting for the year! We had around the same number of people stay for that. Our main event was a water balloon fight/capture the flag combo! Two teams battled it out and had a blast cooling off with every popped balloon. There was also a bracelet making station and sidewalk chalk to write with. We had different categories written on the sidewalk and people wrote their favorite thing that fell under that category. To wrap up the night of food, fun, and bonding we sang both our National and Chapter Hymns.

We also organized a group of people to go and participate in the setting up and taking down of Healing Fields in Tempe Beach Park. This was the 14th year the event has occurred and we were so happy to be a part of it. Healing Fields is a memorial to all those who died during 911, we set up a flag for each victim. So many organizations participated and we were glad to be a part of it.

A few future dates/events to know about:

Fall Retreat (for Actives): October 20th – 22nd

Halloween Rehearsal/Costume Contest: October 30th

Fall BOSS Night: Date TBD

Stay tuned for more updates!!

MLITB, The Brotherhood Committee

Snaps:

Here are just a few of the great things happening in our chapter:

1. Snaps to Marcus for Inviting Nick Bratcher to the Music Mixer!
2. Snaps to Zach Lythgoe for being a model for all of us to look to in all areas!
3. Snaps to Travis Breedlove for coming to our chapter meeting on super short notice!
4. Snaps to Connor Carmody for releasing an awesome album on iTunes!
5. Snaps to everyone who performed at the Music Mixer!



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