

MBU Zeta Chapter

Spring 2008

Alumni Newsletter

Letter from the President

Greetings from the Great White North!



I want to start off by welcoming you to another wonderful edition of the Alumni Newsletter. Things at Zeta Chapter have been going swimmingly with the Brotherhood taking the many changes at Michigan Tech in stride.

It has been a year of adapting to new changes and solidification of the Bonds of Brotherhood for us. This year we've moved our weekly meeting room due to remodeling of the Walker Arts and Humanities Center and relocated our annual scholarship fundraiser concert featuring Gary Tunstall, among other changes. We've taken over ticket sales for a number of Visual and Performing Arts Department events, bringing in a new source of revenue for the Fraternity

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Last semester, we decided as a Brotherhood that having a pledge class was not right for us at the time, and spent the semester focusing on group unification as well as recruiting a strong batch of Prospectives for a spring pledge class. We held a day long retreat off campus at the Canterbury House to help with this process. Though many had their doubts going into the event, we all ended the day with a feeling that we were closer to one another than ever. (cont. on pg 2)

In the spring of 2007, the Brotherhood welcomed Open Fifths into the Brotherhood and they have all taken an active roll, each either holding an officer position or chairing a vital committee. Ben Anderson is serving as Treasurer for the 2007-2008 school year, Heather Vingsness as Historian, and Rob Smith has taken on the chairship for the Scholarship Committee.

As I write this, our spring pledge class, The Mix Tape is finishing up their fifth week of pledging. We are all very proud of them, and are certain that Katie Sheets, Nicole Geer, Mary Kennedy, Brandi Lundquist, Victoria Demers, and Lucas Showerman will make an excellent addition to the Brotherhood. Our first pledge class of six since Abstract Harmony in fall 2005, this group of pledges has done quite well thus far. Look to be seeing more of them very soon.

Here's to another strong year of Music, Brotherhood, and Service!

In Brotherhood,
Bryan J. Sebeck, The Purple Peep Oo3

Brotherly Additions

I'm Heather Vingsness. I hail from Livonia MI, and am in my third year at Michigan Tech. I am studying to be a Biology teacher. I pledged with Open Fifths; my big brother is Andrew Spina! I'm currently the chapter Historian. My twin sister Haley is also a brother. I keep myself busy working at a flower shop, painting theatre sets, fencing, and trying new things. I love broomball, gardening, and Jeeping.



Heather Vingsness, Ben Anderson, and Rob Smith

Ben Anderson failed to submit a biography. He is currently treasurer and chair of the Information and Technology Committee. His big was Alex Dimitrijeski, and his hometown is Denmark, WI. He plays the trumpet, and is majoring in Computers Systems Science.

(Brotherly Additions continued on pg.3)

Salveté (plural "greetings" in Latin) to all the brothers out there. My name is Robert D. Smith, a.k.a. ((dB)) I pledged in the Spring 2007 semester with the class Open Fifths (so named because we were so open-minded to each others' ideas). I'm an EE major, and am also pursuing a minor in Jazz. I play trumpet, and a lot of it, hence the sig of "decibel." I'm in the Jazz Lab Band, the Huskies Pep Band, and the jazz combo Momentum. I must admit that I'm a jazz fanatic. It's my drug, my high. I can have a horrible day and every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday I walk into the band room and it all goes away. I joined Psi to find a lot of kindred spirits and to further entrench myself into music at Tech and in the community. I've found exactly what I wanted and much more in the Brotherhood of Mu Beta Psi, Zeta Chapter.

Tales of Pledging

Hello, my name is Mary Kennedy, and I am one of six pledges in "The Mix Tape," the Spring 2008 pledge class. Coming in pledging, I was completely unaware of the process and what would be required of me, but I knew I would be very busy for the next six weeks: that is an understatement. As pledges, my pledge brothers and I were required every week to learn many important facts and statistics about the Fraternity, including the actives list, the Greek alphabet, and the Chapters list. Needless to say, it was a hectic time trying to fit studying into our schedules. Along with learning much information, we were required to obtain weekly signatures from the Chapter officers and our Big Brothers. There was many a time when I stalked a Brother after his or her class or during office hours to obtain a signature. On top of all this, we were required to interview all the active members, the advisors, and each pledge brother. I was very hesitant about interviewing the active Brothers, but I soon learned the Brothers were not some group of untouchable gods, but rather students like myself, and I soon became confident when it came to speaking to anyone in the Brotherhood. I found myself tired rather often, but I also had a smile on my face nearly every day before I went to bed, and I finally realized around Week 4 that I was so very happy to be pledging such an interesting and caring Fraternity. I believe that anything exceptional requires a great deal of effort, and this is certainly an exceptional organization.

Scholarship

Hello from Zeta Chapter's Scholarship Committee. This year we have two major goals, with another project planned for next year. This year the first thing on our "to-do" list is to hold the annual scholarship fundraiser concert. Gary Tunstall has graciously agreed to perform again for us, and we look forward to enjoying his talented performance. This year we decided to move the performance to the MUB ballroom. This would provide a nice, central location, plenty of parking, ample space, and more. Now that the concert is done, the next thing on our list is to revamp/expand the music scholarship. Currently, we have the John MacInnes Memorial Scholarship, awarded to an outstanding Huskies Pep Band member. With the small financial reserve we have built up, we were considering adding a second scholarship, perhaps to all MTU music groups on campus. Next year we plan to spend a lot of effort towards the HPB Songbook, and begin sales alongside programs.

Music

The music committee has worked this semester to ensure all Fine Arts (now Visual and Performing Arts) shows have enough ushers. Brother Sandy Orłowski has worked with the new Department head, Dr. Roger Held, to negotiate a contract between the VPA department and the Brotherhood for taking over the house-managing duties for McArdle Theatre. This saves the VPA department a great deal of money, allows the Brothers to do more service, and we also get a nominal amount per person in attendance of the show.

This fall, we also put on the third annual "An Excursion in Sound", which featured great local performers, including Hannah Bethel, Ben Pancy, and two great bands, Anarkinda, and "This is Deer Country". We raised \$100 for the VH1 Save the Music Campaign, which was a National service project of the Fraternity last year. This next year, we will work to organize a local fund, so that Mu Beta Psi can help out local music groups, from the high schools and university, so they may apply for funding for different instruments.

This spring will be a Pasta Dinner, slated to be in conjunction with the Calumet Theatre. Last year, we gained a net profit of ~\$800, which far exceeds past years. This spurred the Brotherhood to ask the directors of all the MTU ensembles for ideas on how to spend the money. The idea of making a permanent display for Don Keranen with these funds has been tossed around, but has not come to fruition yet.

Mmm, Pi (And Other Expansion News)

After 8 months of deliberation and a lot of legwork by the National Merger Committee, the brothers of the Mu Upsilon Alpha from Rutgers University were installed as Pi Chapter on October 7th, 2007. Mu Upsilon Alpha chose to become a part of Mu Beta Psi, as a result of a Rutgers University mandate for all local fraternities to join a National Organization, but has already become an integral part of our national fraternity. With the beginning of the spring semester,

the National Expansion Committee has already started recruiting for new chapters around the country, including Michigan Tech's long-standing rival, Northern Michigan University. We can only hope that by this time next year, we will be able to welcome Rho chapter into our ever-growing Brotherhood.



ZetaCon '09

As the 2008 National Convention approaches, the brothers at Zeta begin the long process of planning of the 2009 National Convention, officially dubbed "ZetaCon'09." As of right now, we have a general idea of the extra activities to take place on the Friday night of convention. The current plan is to give the national brotherhood a classic night at Zeta, complete with games and movies. The vast majority of committee meetings will occur on the first floor of the Memorial Union Building, with General Assembly taking place in the Minerals and Materials Engineering Building in U115. The idea is also to have the banquet held and catered by the Irish Times in Calumet. With a year to go before the start of ZetaCon'09, the brothers of Zeta Chapter are ready and well prepared for the challenge of planning convention.

Winter Carnival Updates



Winter Carnival 2007, as always, was a blast. “Ancient Worlds Come to Play in Snowy Drifts for Modern Day” gave rise to the first month-long statue by Mu Beta Psi in about a decade. We took fourth with “Icy Flame and Temple Games”, our tribute to Nickelodeon show “Legends of the Hidden Temple”. We all had a blast during special events. We also sponsored Queen’s Finalist Lian Tarhay (Fall 1999, Mambo #5), and got fifth in the stage revue

competition with “Caveman Rock”, featuring original music by Mark Andrasko (Fall 2000, 14 Left Feet). We took third overall in the Student Organizations competition.

The annual scholarship fundraiser earned 500\$ in 2007, putting us closer to our goal of being able to start a second scholarship. Mark Andrasko once again opened the show, followed by Gary Tunstall, who made it a very enjoyable evening.

In 2008, we returned to an overnight statue for “Frightening Creatures with Chilling Features”, taking first in our category with “Monster Mash”. After last year’s bonanza of events, we took it easy this year, enjoying special events without the pressure of large events, like Stage Revue and Queen’s. Gary and Mark again performed for a wonderful evening, raising less money large due to a change in location. The Alumni Banquet was also a success, with a more potluck-like format making it possible for more Brothers to attend.



Letter from the Chair

Brothers,

It has been another busy year up at Zeta Chapter. We've had both good news and bad news over the last year. Brother Amanda Rowe and Honorary Brothers Adele Meese and Inetta Harris all passed away in the last year, and we mourn their losses. Brother Brad Champagne (Spring 06) joined the National Guard this fall. However, through it all, the bonds of Brotherhood have remained strong. I would like to thank everyone who visited us in the Great Frozen North this year. It's always wonderful for the younger Brothers to meet you all. If you ever plan on being in the area, just let us know! As I wrap up this newsletter, we look forward to bringing a lively batch of individuals into the Brotherhood, each of whom will hopefully soon find the niche.

As always, the best way for us to keep in touch with you is through the psi-alum list. Please email me at kbecker@mtu.edu if you'd like to be added, change your address (email or physical), or any other life updates you'd like to share with the Brotherhood. The national Alumni Chapter (current President is Zeta alumnae, Alice Gerhardt) has their own list, alumtalk-l@mubetapsi.org. If you're interested in being added, contact National Webmaster, Kevin Briton at webmaster@mubetapsi.org.

We hope to see many of you in the next year as Zeta Chapter again hosts National Convention!

In Brotherhood and Harmony,
Katie Becker
Abstract Harmony Fall 2005

Shout Outs!

Belated Babies!

Ben and Susie Davenport would like to announce the arrival of Twin girls. Their names are Ariana Rose and Elyse Nichole. They were born on December 22, 2006.

Jonathon Fielbrandt(Vivaldi Trio, Spring '93) and Sheryl Nugent Fielbrandt (Discords Fall '94) had their second child on 6/8/06 – Jacob Jonathon Fielbrandt

Andrew Fleming-
I love you National
President/fellow Lian little!
-Katie Sheets

To Spina-
I love you!
-Heather

Engagements

Andrew Fleming (Score with Four, Spring '01) and Chrissy Bischoff (Mu) were engaged in June
Bryan Sebeck (Slightly Off Beat, Spring '06) and Katie Becker (Abstract Harmony, Fall '05) were engaged this December

Graduations:

Shawna Welsh
Alex Dimitrijeski
Andrew Spina
Andrew Stephens
Mike White (Masters)
Kris Nitz (Masters)

Congratulations, all!

Kovarik-
Stop tormenting us
with tales of sun and
good weather! You
make us homesick!
-Scott and Katie

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