

# MBU Zeta Chapter

Winter 2006

## Alumni Newsletter

### *Letter From the President*

It's going to be another Awesome Possum year for us at Zeta Chapter. We've taken on some new projects, rededicated ourselves to the Music Department, and continued our service efforts on campus.

#### **Service Projects**

My first goal was to do something for each of our advisors, and that started this summer when Milt Olsson asked us to paint the entire second floor of Walker Fine Arts Center. It took many weekends and lots of pink paint, but before the leaves fell, the hallways were given a much-needed boost.

After the painting project in Walker was completed, we turned our sights onto other opportunities to help. We took our newfound painting skills north to Copper Harbor and painted Joe Kirkish's cabin, which needed a fresh coat as well. We also tightened the stands in the band room – one of those little things that needs done every year but nobody wants to do it.

We asked Mike Irish if he had any projects we could do for the Fine Arts Department and that was when he told us about the jazz band carts. These carts were made by Mu Beta Psi back in the 1970s or 1980, and were in bad shape so he asked us if we could repair them. We haven't started on that project yet, but we plan to give them some much-needed TLC later this spring. Once that is out of the way, Zeta will have done a service project for each of our three advisors this year.

We're also beginning to take on tasks from the new Fine Arts department chair, Dr. Held. He asked us to conduct surveys at each fine arts show this year, and see how they found out about the show. We're doing this ongoing project this year and hopefully it will shed some light on how to get the word out for our spectacular fine arts events in the future.

#### **New Projects**

Two big ideas have come about this year, one of which is a continuation from last year. Excursions in Sound returned from inactivity in spring 2006 and was a great opportunity for us to learn the ropes and get a routine for future shows. This fall we built upon the success from last spring and asked WMTU for assistance finding bands and getting the word out. It turned out to be a great event with over 100 in attendance for both shows. All proceeds from the show were then donated to VH1 Save the Music campaign, to help (continued on pg 2)



## Letter From the President (cont)

restore music education programs in public schools across the country. With luck we can continue fine-tuning Excursions in Sound so next year can be even more successful.

Also, we're turning our sights uphill to the MacInnes Student Ice Arena. The cedar organ inside the arena originally came from a theater in Chicago scheduled for demolition, but Mu Beta Psi helped to install it into the ceiling of the arena in the early 1970s before the complex was known as the SDC. Today the organ is only used for the Commencement ceremony in the spring, but with our help that might be changing for the better. Thanks to new Brother Mike Maksimchuk and his interests in the rare instrument, we're finding more information on the complex machinery that runs it and trying to find an organ professional who can help us repair the organ and bring it back into routine use.

Finally, we're also beginning an ambitious project that you can help with! Fellow Brother Andrew Spina is helping to reconstruct the Family Tree for the Brotherhood, finding missing names and tracing each branch all the way back to our founding fathers in 1967, or even further! As we compile all the individuals we're organizing them into a large spreadsheet so we can find individuals, pledge classes, or big-brother branches with the greatest ease. But it's no easy matter – we're looking for help from our Alumni to compare notes and help fill in any missing pieces. If you would like to help us rebuild the Family Tree, or if you'd just like to take a look at what we have so far to reminisce about days gone by, don't hesitate to let any of us know.

As the snow is already accumulating in the Keweenaw valley we all used to call home, I send you warm wishes. Zeta Chapter is going strong and getting stronger, and it has been my pleasure to help rekindle those memories from long ago.

In Brotherhood,  
☺Sandy Orlowski☺

---

## 2006 New Brothers

### Spring 2006: Over Blown

They began as six, but through tough times, four weathered through. Certainly an enthusiastic bunch, Overblown has thrown themselves full force into everything they do.

**Brad Champagne**, Pledge Class President

Hometown: Iron Mountain, MI

Major: Was CS, but now taking a year off

Big: Andrew Stephens

I've always been really big into all forms of music and the arts, so I was all too happy to attend Psi rushes and accepted my Bid whole-heartedly. The pledging process was pretty tough for me because by my 3<sup>rd</sup> week I knew I wasn't going to be at Tech anymore, but I knew I could still be a Brother even if I wasn't there. Anyway, I've become involved in the local theater, and am planning a record and will hopefully produce my own music this summer and fall. If there is anything you want, or want to know, don't be afraid to drop me a line.



*Alex Johnson, Dirk Kahl, Brad Champagne, Patty Sly*

My name is **Patricia Ryan Sly**, and so far I have no real musical involvement on campus. I was a social science major here at Tech, but due to a low grade point average, I am now currently enrolled at Finlandia University. While there, I plan to get my grades up and return to Tech as a Forestry major. I am from Sheridan, MI which is a small town between Grand Rapids and Lansing. My big is Nick Rosencrans and I didn't use him very well as a resource during my pledging term, but he was very patient with me. My hobbies include biking, canoeing, coloring, listening to music, playing music on my clarinet, hanging out with friends at the beach in the summer and watching movies. In my first week of being a brother, I went to Convention in Virginia, traveled to Alpha Chapter the day after convention was over, and met in person Milton C. Bliss.

### **Dirk Kahl**

Kingsford, MI

Dirk Lester Charles Kahl

Born: December 4, 1985

After graduating from Kingsford High School I decided that the only place I could think of going was Michigan Tech. For some reason the notion of getting closer to Canada seemed to mean that I would be closer to knowing what I was going to do with my life. I ended up switching my major from mechanical engineering to computer science once I got up here. Then I added a sound design major onto that (a fine arts program at a technical school... what could go wrong). So there I was with even less direction in life than where I came in on, when I was introduced to Zeta Chapter. Since then I have not gained any insight into the future, but I have dedicated myself to enjoying the lack of direction until I get some idea of what I want to do. I am also no longer alone in my search. I am a Brother that helps me through a lot, between responsibilities as a Brother, work at the college radio station WMTU, and being part of the entertainment board at tech, I don't have time to worry about where I am going, and I like it that way. My Big Brother was Bryan Sebeck.

Alex Johnson

Grand Haven, MI

No biography was submitted. Alex transferred schools this fall to be closer to home. His big brother is Michael Toles. Alex's infectious smile and good nature helped anchor his pledge class and keep them upbeat through the toughest storms.

### **Fall 2006: Baroquen Records**

Baroquen Records was another intrepid batch of pledges; they certainly got up to their share of mischief, and more than their fair share of service projects. They were also frequently noted for their unique sense of humor.

### **Michael Maksimchuk**

Good morning! This little story begins at 8:32 am on the nineteenth day of the month of September in the year of our Lord 1987. This day shall forever be remembered as my date of birth. Anywho, my name is Mike Maksimchuk, and I am a second year student here at MTU, studying to get my degree in Biological Science, so that one day, I can explode into the field of teaching (hopefully...)

I am the pledge class president of our AWESOME pledge class, the "Baroquen Record", the pledge class for the fall of 2006. I have an awesome set of Pledge brothers!

Some of my interests to include watermelons, pipe organs, and the Huskies Pep Band, where I play BA! and am one of the music librarians. I hail from the small mining community of Calumet, Michigan, home of the Calumet Copper Kings, the Calumet Theatre and Shute's Ban. Go Tech!

### **Shawna Ivancic**

My name is Shawna Ivancic and I am a second year student majoring in pharmaceutical chemistry. I was born in California, but grew up in a small town outside of Dayton, OH. My favourite things include playing hockey, reading, writing, being a chemistry nerd, hanging



*Melissa Jones, Haley Vinqsness, Shawna Ivancic, Mike Maksimchuk*

out with friends, and perpetually listening to music. Throughout middle and high school I played alto sax in band and, although I haven't had much time for band in college, I hope to get back to it soon.

### ***Haley Vingsness***

I'm Haley Vingsness, a new Brother with the Baroquen Records- a very "punny" group. A second-year student from Livonia, MI (metro-Detroit), I was once a mechanical engineer but with the new year comes a new major: scientific and technical communications! This is because engineering made me sad.

I am very excited to find a place for myself in the music community through Mu Beta Psi, with the help of my amazing Big Brother Andy Stephens and my roommate Katie Becker. I love to support the fine arts on campus, and performed last fall in "Metamorphoses" as well as numerous Student Theatre Association productions. You can also find me with Fencing Club or the Society of Women Engineers; I'm a busy busy bee.

### ***Melissa Jones***

I am a second year Biological Sciences-Pre-Medicine major at MTU. My interests include ice skating, hockey, and singing. Also, I am learning to play the alto saxophone. In addition to Mu Beta Psi, I am involved in Keweenaw Pride, Canterbury House, and Phi Sigma Biological Honor Society.

In the future, I hope to also be involved in concert choir, pep band, and hockey.

### ***Susan Sullivan***

Also inducted with Baroquen Records was new honorary Brother, Susan Sullivan. Susan coordinates ushering in the Rozsa and McArde Theater, and therefore works with Brothers on a frequent basis. She played piano for 10 years. She also plays flute, sax and oboe, and is trying to learn violin. Originally from Gladstone, Michigan, she moved to Oregon before attending college at University of Michigan and Northern Michigan University, earning degrees in Outdoor Recreation and Public Administration.

---

## **Music Groups Updates**

The Fall 2006 concert season began on September 17<sup>th</sup>, with the Fall Chamber Music Series, featuring professional musicians in the intimate setting of McArde. Things were quickly scaled up with Bandarama October 13<sup>th</sup>, during Family Weekend, featuring the Pep Band, Jazz Lab Band, and Wind Symphony sharing the Rozsa stage. Pianist Andreas Klein joined KSO in an all Mozart concert, celebrating KSO's 36<sup>th</sup> season on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

University Theatre presented the Tom Jones' musical "The Fantasticks" November 2,3,4 and 5<sup>th</sup>. In keeping with a busy semester, the next weekend was the Jazz Showcase, featuring the R&D Big Ban and the Lab Band, as directed by Mike Irish. KSO and the Concert Choir presented "When Icicles Hang" December 2<sup>nd</sup>, performing music including the John Rutter choral work of the same name, and portions of Handel's "Messiah". December 5<sup>th</sup>, they moved up to Calumet Theatre to present the "Messiah" Sing-a-long, free to all. December 8<sup>th</sup> marked the end of the fall concert season, as Wind Symphony and Campus Concert Band performed a wide variety of music, as conducted by Nick Enz.

The spring promises an equally rich line up of musical performances. The Jazz Club Cabaret kicks of the season in McArde January 26-27. February 17<sup>th</sup>, KSO is joined by the UP's favorite string band, White Water for the "Classically Folk" concert in the Rozsa. The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jazz Reunion & 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Keranen Memorial Concert will be March 24<sup>th</sup> in the Rozsa. Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, the MTU Concert Choir will be joined by the Cass Tech Harp and Vocal Ensemble. KSO's spotlight night will be Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, featuring Nick Enz and David Olson. The concert season will be wrapped up with the spring Wind Symphony and Concert Band performance Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In spring and summer of 2006, Michigan Tech music groups were able to display their talents to places outside of Houghton. In March, the Huskies Pep Band was selected to be the official pep band of the WCHA Final Five in St. Paul, Minnesota. Some members of the band even took part in the St. Patrick's Day parade while in Minnesota. Over the summer, the Concert Choir toured China. In the words of Nick Rosencrans (The Accidentals, Fall 2003):

*(continued on next page)*

"Every four years, the music department steps into high-gear. This summer, Zeta Chapter advisor and Fine Arts department chair Milton Olsson led the 70-person Michigan Tech Concert Choir on a 2-week performance tour of China. With stops at Beijing, Xi'an, Gui Lin, Nanjing and Shanghai, the choir performed for hundreds of local music lovers. The choir is made of University students and faculty, as well as local community members. Also attending were Zeta Chapter members Tara (Smith) Waybrant, Nick Rosencrans and Scott Veenstra."

Music at Michigan Tech has been steadily growing. We now have four Fine Arts degrees: Theatre & Entertainment Technology (BA and BS), Audio Production and Technology (BS), Sound Design (BA). There are always updates on <http://www.fa.mtu.edu/index.htm> , to find out more about ensembles, and newly added events.

---

## ***Winter Carnival Update 2006***

It was another great Winter Carnival in 2006. This past year's theme was "Cartoon Art for the Young at Heart" which allowed for plenty of freedom in which to find an awesome music-related theme.

Once again, Mu Beta Psi's one-nighter statue received first place. The statue entitled "Icy Broom's Move to the Apprentice's Groove" depicted the classic scene from "Fantasia" with Mickey commanding the brooms. We also placed well in several other events, taking second in curling, fourth in broomball, and taking 6<sup>th</sup> place overall in the student organizations category.

Gary Tunstall once again put on an amazing show at the Franklin Square Inn, opened by Zeta's own Mark Andrasko (Fall 2000, 14 Left Feet). Nearly 800\$ were raised for the fine arts scholarship fund. Gary will be helping us once more this year, on February 9<sup>th</sup>. If you plan on being in Houghton for Carnival, stop by!

Michigan Tech also broke three world records on February 10, 2006: largest snowball, most simultaneous snow angels, and largest snowball fight. The snowball measured in at 21ft, 3 inches in circumference, beating the previous record of 16'9". 3745 people participated in the snowball fight, breaking the previous record of 3084. 3784 people made snow angels, smashing the previous record of 1791, held by Bismarck, North Dakota.

The theme for 2007 is "Ancient Worlds Come to Play in Snowy Drifts of Modern Day". We're doing a month long statue this time around, as well as once again participating in Stage Revue. Brother Lian Tarhay is a Winter Carnival Queen finalist as well. We're looking forward to an amazing time!

Thanks to all the alumni who helped us celebrate Carnival this year. As always, we look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the Brothers still at Tech.

---

### ***Alumni Banquet!***

***Join us for a brunch the Sunday following Carnival, before the long trek home at Victoria's Kitchen.***

***Please respond if you'd like to come, and how many people will come with you!***

***You can mail us at Mu Bet Psi, 106 MUB, 1700 Townsend Dr, Houghton, MI 49931, or email me at***

***kbecker@mtu.edu***



*Brother Katie Becker at the World Record event (wearing letters, of course)*

# ***The Return of an Excursion in Sound***

This spring, we revived An Excursion in Sound. At Excursions this spring, we learned a great deal about what not to do, but still successfully raised money for VH1's Save the Music foundation, as part of the National Service Project. In the fall, we tried again, changing the format to cover two nights, and teaming up with WMTU for a Friday night battle of the bands, and running a showcase of local talent the second evening. We made \$500 for VH1, and got many donations from local businesses for door prizes, and contest prizes. Hopefully, it will again become an annual event, and just keep growing. Next year, we're looking into donating a portion of the proceeds directly to local high school music programs. Everyone involved had a wonderful time, and many of the performers have already promised to come back next year.

---

## ***Calendar of Events***

*Visiting? Here's what's going on for spring thus far:*

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>: KYSO concert

Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>: Chamber Music Series

Jan 26-27: Jazz Club Cabaret

Feb 7-11: Winter Carnival

Feb 9<sup>th</sup>: Gary Tunstall Scholarship Fundraiser

April 1<sup>st</sup>: Harps and Voices Concert, Office Space Rush

April 13<sup>th</sup>: Troupe's Comedy Show, Bad Luck Bowling Rush

April 14<sup>th</sup>: Pasta Fundraiser, Troupe's Comedy Show, KSO "Spotlight" Concert

April 21<sup>st</sup>: Calumet Theater Benefit Dinner

April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Wind Symphony Concert

April 28<sup>th</sup>: Dance Company Show

---

## ***Scholarship Updates***

The John MacInnes Memorial Pep Band Scholarship is still going strong. Once more, the Scholarship committee is working on the song book, and on securing rights to the songs. The committee is also looking towards creating a new scholarship or two, as we are close to having enough money. If you'd like to donate money towards creating a second scholarship, or have suggestions, please email chair [awstephe@mtu.edu](mailto:awstephe@mtu.edu). Since it's been several years since it was last included in the newsletter, here are the recent winners of the Pep Band Scholarship:

- 2005-6: Bret Wazny, BA! and student conductor, is in pep band as well as wind symphony. One of the most energetic members of the ensemble, he does a wonderful job of keeping the pep band fired up!
- 2004-5: Erinn Kepler: a flute player, she had nearly unmatched enthusiasm for the basketball and hockey teams, rarely seen without a stack of signs for each game.
- 2003-4 Eric Greenwald: Eric has been president of DaWGs and a key member of the clarinet section. He even travels with Mitch's Misfits to support the hockey team on the road, proudly wearing his stripes.
- 2002-3 Nate Leatherman: a Concussion section leader and prodigy, he played snare in pep band, and mallet percussion. He also started an ensemble called 5% skill, because they joked he was 95% of the skill.
- 2001-2 Andy Wynn: another Concussion section leader, he was also involved in the jazz program, and played IM soccer with Mu Beta Psi.

# ***Letter From the Chair***

Greetings Alumni!

I'm happy to present to you this year's newsletter. Over the year, we've accomplished a great deal. The original Zeta Petition was returned to its home here in the Keweenaw, and we've been working on preserving it. There have also been major efforts to go through the archives, and cataloguing everything the Chapter has accumulated in our nearly forty years.

The alumni email list has been very successful thus far in helping everyone stay updated and connected. If you would like to be added, just email me at [kbecker@mtu.edu](mailto:kbecker@mtu.edu), and I will get you onto the list. We send out occasional updates regarding pledging, and other important dates, and it is a great cost saver in producing this newsletter. The newsletter also will be available online at Zeta's new website, <http://zeta.mubetapsi.org/>. The Brother's Intranet, a forum for discussion about anything and everything can be found at <http://mubetapsi.org>. If you'd like to join the Alumni Association email list ([alumtalk-l@mubetapsi.org](mailto:alumtalk-l@mubetapsi.org)), or get a login for the intranet, contact Webmaster Kevin Britton (Fall '94, The Dischords) at [webmaster@mubetapsi.org](mailto:webmaster@mubetapsi.org).

As always, we strive to keep our records up to date and accurate. If you've moved, or know someone who has, please let us know so we can continue to keep in touch with you throughout the years.

2007 marks several key events in Zeta Chapter History. In April of 1934, Tri-Beta was founded. 35 years later, we became Zeta chapter of Mu Beta Psi. We will be celebrating these events this fall, with presentations about where we started, where we've been, and discussion about where we're going, as well as time to spend with each other. As the newsletter is being written, details remain up in the air, though it will be a weekend in late October or early November.

Also in 2007 is the 50<sup>th</sup> year that Joe Kirkish will have been an advisor. To honor this extraordinary man, we will be holding a benefit dinner in April, raising money for the Calumet Theatre. We will be attempting to invite as many people as have been impacted by Joe as possible, though they may not all fit in one room.

The last year has been a flurry of activity here at Michigan Tech. We've restarted Excursion in Sound, initiated two pledge classes, and we're still doing many of the things we've been doing for years, like program sales, MDOT cleanup, bringing hot chocolate to the pep band, and all of those other things. We're well into being able to publish and sell a songbook, thanks to the efforts of Andy Stephens, Michigan Tech's Intellectual Properties office, and Alice Gerhardt. We have a new Fine Arts Department Chair, Roger Held. Every month, we go up to Calumet and help out with Club Indigo, and have again started running the occasional poster route for the department. The Brother Boards are being revamped for possible display in the Rozsa Center.

On a national level, attempts to colonize McPherson College in Kansas this spring were unsuccessful, but there remains active interest at the school. Zeta alum Brian Tessin is working towards possibly colonizing Saginaw Valley State University. Plans are also in the works to colonize Northern, and we have just gotten the go from National. An updated history of each chapter is nearly completed, and hopefully will be by convention this year to share with everyone.

If there is anything else you would like to see in the newsletter in the future, don't hesitate to send in your suggestions.

In Brotherhood,  
Katherine M Becker ([kbecker@mtu.edu](mailto:kbecker@mtu.edu))

# Our Amazing Alumni and Shout Outs!

We're introducing a new feature this year: alumni updates. One of the suggestions made was to include more about what the alumni has been happening in one another's lives. Clearly, you all have kept busy!

## Babies!

Brothers John and Kirsten Holmlund welcomed son Eric to the world February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Joe and Tammy Derk welcomed new addition Darby to the family

I'm Joe Derk (Beethoven's Fifth, 1996). My story goes...

Been at Caterpillar for 4.5 years now after getting BSME (2000) & MSME(2002) at Tech. My wife Tammy and I have two boys and a girl (Joseph (3.5),Asa (2), and Darby (7 months)). We live near Peoria IL but are working on a transfer within Caterpillar to France by mid-next year. Just a quick shout out for Beethoven's Fifth!

## Marriages:

Brother Michael Toles and Meghan Corbett (Aug 5<sup>th</sup>)  
Neil and Andrea Duncan (June 17<sup>th</sup>)  
Brothers Chris Hill and Abra Seelig (Dec 29<sup>th</sup>)  
Brother Tara Smith and Nate Waybrant (June 3<sup>rd</sup>)

My beautiful wife Andrea and I were married this summer on June 17, 2006. We bought a house last fall and are living in Westland, MI.

In Brotherhood,  
Neil Duncan  
Forte Flannel - Spring '94

## Went to China!

Milt Olsson, Scott Veenstra, Tara (Smith) Waybrant, Nick Rosencrans

## Graduated!

Yuta Shokinji, Mikey Toles, Leslie Brown, Matt Good Nick Rosencrans, Ira Hall

Hello there!

I moved to Florida for an awesome job at the Mayo Clinic as a geneticist in a Parkinson's Disease Lab. Then, I got screwed over by the President (yes, of the U.S.A.) because he wanted to cut NIH-grant funded lab work, so my lab lost \$1 million and 5 wonderful people (me included.) Now, I work for Johnson & Johnson still in Florida!

:) Because I'm awesome like that.

Nicole Milkovic  
BASSic Treble. Fall 2002.

Jodi (Cianek, "Three Penny Opera" F'95) and I ("Dischords", F'94) visited San Francisco and Napa Valley for our third wedding anniversary in September. Jodi is now a Process Engineer (Emulsions and Antifoams) for Dow Corning in Midland, and I'm a Manufacturing Engineer (Robotics and Automation) for GM Powertrain in Saginaw.  
-Kevin Britton

## SHOUT OUT!

I would like to give a Great BIG shout out to my pledge brothers: Lizzy Siedlecki, Andy Stephens and Chuck Schulz! I miss all of you. :) AND I wanted to wish Mark Andrasko and Jonathan Kovarik a happy day. AND (I know, I'm long winded) A Happy Holidays to every Brother!

Ok, I'm done now.  
IBH,  
Nicole Milkovic

I've been teaching at Negaunee High School since 1994. Subjects I've taught include Physics, Calculus, Geometry, and Algebra 1. Married with 2 daughters, 6th and 8th grade. We're living in the woods with 50% of our power coming from alternative energy. I got my Master's Degree in Mathematics Education from NMU in 2002

In Brotherhood  
Bill Ellerbruch: Pledge Class of Winter 89-90

I was working in laboratory sales, and then got hurt on the job, had major surgery, and then returned, only to be let go. After struggling to find another suitable field of work...I was blessed with my own business! I took over Pierce Florist in Waukegan, Illinois, established in 1932. The shop sits at the north end of the main street through downtown Waukegan, across from the historic Genesee Theatre! I've never worked so hard for so little money, but it's more than worth it! I've given the shop my personal touch. I'm working to get more pics of the shop on my websites....so check in soon!

[www.pierceflorist.com](http://www.pierceflorist.com)  
[www.waukeganfloral.com](http://www.waukeganfloral.com)

PS-I can send flowers anywhere in the world! (see the sites for local delivery areas :-)) And don't forget I live near Six Flags, Great America, so feel free to crash and coaster it up!

Cheers my Brothers!

Wendy Duby

***Got something to say?***

***Wondering what everyone has gotten up to?  
Submissions for the next newsletter are always***

***welcome! Email [kbecker@mtu.edu](mailto:kbecker@mtu.edu)***

***Musie. Brotherhood. Service. Mu Beta Psi***

Mu Beta Psi- Zeta Chapter  
MUB 106 MTU 1700 Townsend Dr  
Houghton, MI 49931