



# ENCORE

Volume V, Issue 2

## Initiation of the Beta Mu Class

Keith Kupper, Vice President, BK

The Beta Mu Class of the Psi Chapter was initiated in the beginning of March, and with much enthusiasm. This class was an outstanding class throughout the Candidate Process. As the Vice President, I had the opportunity to see them mature through the process and watch them grow as both individuals and as a group.

The Membership Education Process began the first week of the winter quarter and lasted eight weeks until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. All in all, this class was very self-motivated and determined to live by our fraternity motto. The class' requirements were similar to those of last year—put on a post 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree party, perform a fundraiser, mandate a service project, and various other tasks. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree party was a huge hit. The theme was “Be a Man” inspired by the Tau Beta Sigma class: “Alpha Nu” (Together



VP Keith and the New Actives of the BM Class!

forming BMAN... we thought it was cute). The fundraiser was a Bowl-a-thon at a local bowling alley, and the candidates got donations based on their performance at bowling. They sent out letters asking friends and family for donations and are still receiving checks here and there. Finally they created an “A-Board” to put on Bruin Walk. This is

basically advertising space for upcoming concerts and ensemble performances on campus. We are now updating it and always have a list of any upcoming events.

This year the interviews were conducted a little bit differently. In the past, there were sheets with lists of questions on them – to stimulate discussion. After talking about this with my committee, we realized that most interviews aren't discussions because candidates feel they have to answer every question on the sheet and then they're done. So, we tried to maintain the “requirement” aspect of it, and altered the style. We split up each interview into three sections: a section on the Marching Band, the Chapter, and Extraneous were all presented in an open-ended form and candidates could ask any question pertaining to that topic. Questions were provided in the back of the booklet, and after all was said and done, both candidates and actives were so happy with the quality of the interviews.

Overall, I felt that the candidate process went very smoothly. Looking back on the quarter, I have to say that this class inspired me to be a better Brother and strive for my highest. Beta Mu has become a valuable asset to our Chapter, and will venture on to great things.

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**Strike Up the Reading Band!**

As a recently initiated active member of Kappa Kappa Psi, one of the aspects of being a Brother that I was looking forward to the most was being able to participate in all of the events, especially service events. Luckily for me, there was a service project the Sunday right after my Third Degree—it was Reading Band, a recently added service project that aims to help music education majors get practice in conducting an ensemble.

Our Director of Service, Michael Branson, and Epsilon Kappa’s Director of Service and Music, Rachel Goldman, organized Reading Band, which occurred on March 8. We had about 50 Brothers and Sisters that came to this event, and we also had some volunteers from the Symphonic Band to fill up the instrumentation.

The ensemble sight read music for three undergraduate Music Education majors, one of which was an active Brother of Psi, Alan McFarlane. After the students finished running through the pieces with the group, Leo Sakomoto, a graduate student in Conducting as well as the Symphonic Band Director and an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, gave the conductors constructive criticism on their conducting techniques and rehearsal style. With this, the undergraduate students could get a hands-on experience with conducting as well as feedback on what they can do to improve themselves, which is something that most music education students may not get the opportunity to experience.

*Mandee Selnick, BM*

For me, Reading Band is a truly unique and meaningful service project because it combines three of my favorite things: concert band, service to others, and the Brotherhood and Sisterhood. I had been in Symphonic Band for two quarters at the time, but nothing compares to playing with a group of people who have become like family to me after my quarter as a candidate. I also felt closer to my Brothers and Sisters on a different level, because playing music together creates a connection with one another that is on a much higher level than just going to class or eating dinner together. Music is the foundation of our Brotherhood, and it’s an incredibly inspiring experience to interact with the Brothers and Sisters through it directly.



**Brothers and Bandsmembers play *Air for Band* as Music Student Melson Varsovia conducts the Reading Band.**

At the 2009 Western District Convention on April 3-5, the joint Psi and Epsilon Kappa chapters won the For Service’s Sake

award for our Reading Band service project. The For Service’s Sake award was the most competitive award amongst the two other awards, which are For Music’s Sake and For Community’s Sake. Winning this district-wide award is an incredible honor for Psi and Epsilon Kappa, but nevertheless we will continue to improve upon this project, which will be held again on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 AM. Being on the Service Committee on my first quarter active, I’m looking forward to helping plan this event, at which the Alumni are highly encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!

**A Week of Brotherhood-Sisterhood Bonding**

Week Six. In the midst of midterms, papers, and school mayhem PsiEK held our annual Brotherhood Sisterhood Week, which focused on creating and strengthening bonds between the Brothers of Psi and the Sisters of Epsilon Kappa. The week began with the annual reading of the Brotherhood Sisterhood Keynote Address at a Joint Meeting by this year's B/S Chairs, Erin and myself. This speech encapsulates the spirit of Brotherhood and Sisterhood bonding and shows the strength of our love for both organizations. Monday evening we shared a delicious and classic dorm dinner with our Brothers and Sisters, and then on Tuesday, we ventured down to Westwood to eat Chipotle while bonding with each other. These two nights proved that if you put food in front of college students, bonding is certain to persist! Wednesday night we held the

*Heather Dennis, B/S Chair, BA*

annual Opposite Little Potluck in which the candidates brought a dish that they coordinated with their new opposite big they received at Second Degree less than a week before! From amazing pasta dish from Ashley and Ritesh to ladybug strawberries from Helen and Amy, fun times and bonding were bountiful! Thursday night we all played at a Women's basketball game in the Varsity Band together and cheered our Lady Bruins to victory while doing the thing we love most, creating music with our Brothers and Sisters! Finally, Friday saw the first ever B/S Amazing Race—an epic cross campus adventure with joint Brother/Sister teams modeled after the television show! The week was full of events that encouraged the formation and strengthening of the bonds between our Brothers and Sisters that we hold so close to our hearts and are incredibly lucky to share.

**New Colony: Fullerton College**

The Psi Chapter has once again become a Big-Brother Chapter for a new colony in the area at Fullerton College. After receiving word of the news from National, I applied and became the Contact Liaison to the new colony in an effort to coordinate and assist in their journey to become and an active chapter. It may sound like a fancy title, but it simply means that I aid in communication between Fullerton's candidates and the Brothers of the Psi Chapter. The experiences that have come from working with a Kappa Kappa Psi colony are valuable in many ways, but my favorite part has been watching an amazing group of musicians take on increasing responsibilities while looking to the future of their music program and their organizations. The prospective members at Fullerton College had their First Degree on February 7, 2009, 24 hours after our Beta Mu class of the Psi Chapter had their Second Degree. We had to execute a Degree at a new place and for completely new people, with people tired from another Degree, social event, and an early-morning basketball game. However, all the

*Eric Kveton, Contact Liaison, BA*

hard work and stress were worth it. The coolest aspect of the ceremony was seeing the genuine awe and excitement of Fullerton's prospectives, and it truly served as a reminder that our traditions and values remain meaningful and special even when we might sometimes take them for granted. As they stood there and listened to the Fraternity Hymn for the first time, we watched them become overwhelmed with emotion, from huge smiles to tears. It was an amazing moment, and it was apparent that they had the ambition and passion necessary to get their chapter off the ground. Since then, Fullerton's members have (among other things) visited multiple Psi Chapter meetings, drafted a Constitution, begun planning for the Membership Education Process, and above all shown a willingness to learn and participate. They even sent a group to the Western District Convention! All of the brothers are very excited to continue the process, and Fullerton cannot wait to reach Second Degree. This is a new and exciting challenge for both Fullerton and us—the best is yet to come!

**Alumni Spotlight: Reflections from the 60's and 70's***Carl Johnson, Initiated 1968*

I entered UCLA in the fall of 1968 and pledged Kappa Kappa Psi that year. I spent my freshman year in Hedrick Hall and remember being looked at with curiosity by others on my dorm floor when I would go to practice on football game days half-dressed in my marching band uniform.

The next year, our Chapter decided to acquire a house, which was to serve as a living space for UCLA band members. This opportunity gave everyone living there a common point of reference and immediate camaraderie. Pete Kellner was the house financial manager and one year, for reasons I will never understand, I was asked to be the house physical manager. The building was a former fraternity house (on the corner of Landfair and Ophir, as I hesitatingly recall) with their symbols (a palm tree and a pyramid) embedded out front.

In addition to housing our own bandsmen (neither the marching band nor the house was co-ed), the space was used for receptions when other bands came to play for their teams during football and basketball seasons. It was a place of fun, music, meals, and friendship. Psi Chapter meetings and events were often held there as well. It took a bit of effort to convince the KKY national office that it was a worthy project and to get their backing. We were (and remain, I believe) the only chapter of KKY in the country to have had a fraternity house.

I have the fondest of memories around my brothers in the fraternity and my experiences in the Bruin Bands. Two of the most important mentors in my life, who remained friends upon my graduation, were Clarence Sawhill and Kelly James. A wonderful teacher and human being, Dr. Sawhill taught me many things, but most important, the power of treating people with respect. Kelly was our chapter advisor for all of the years I went to UCLA (four as an

undergrad and one as a graduate student to get my teaching credential) and, during that time, helped me understand how to set high goals and acquire the will to achieve them.

I attended two national KKY conventions, one as a delegate at the University of Michigan and one as delegate and Chapter President at the University of Connecticut. For the one in Storrs, Connecticut, we rented a motor home and drove non-stop (except for gas) across the country, until we reached Washington, D.C. and New York City for some sightseeing. Two of us (Don Ainsworth and I) were twenty-one years old, the minimum age required to drive the vehicle, so we had to share the wheel, trying to catch some sleep while the other drove. We survived pretty well on the way there, but coming back the time between shift changes got shorter and shorter. The other passengers were getting nervous about our being able to stay awake and a mutiny was looming when we finally crossed the border from Arizona into California, giving us all a lift.

The convention in Storrs was our first attempt to make a bid for having the national convention at UCLA. Our motor home was a genuine curiosity among the delegates and we hosted several brothers while there. Unfortunately, a combination of naïveté and lack of experience scuttled our plans. We had no idea how elaborate the presentations would be. Some of what we learned, however, eventually led to UCLA winning the bid and hosting the convention some years later.

All of this reminiscing only brings back more memories. I hope some of my Psi Chapter Brothers from those years will write in to correct the inaccuracies of my faulty memory in this and any future articles. Meanwhile, best wishes to you all.

## Meet Your Brothers!

### *David Levy, BΘ*

Hey ya'll! This is David Levy, and I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> year clarinet from Fresno, California. I just graduated a couple of weeks ago as of March 22<sup>nd</sup> with a major in Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics and a minor in Music History, but I will still be an active member throughout this coming spring quarter. Now, I am hoping to pursue a career in medicine and I will be applying to school this summer, so I still have a long way to go!

I've thoroughly enjoyed being a member in band and a Brother in our Fraternity, and I truly see these experiences as the highlights of my college experience. But

band and Kappa Kappa Psi were not the only organizations I was a part of at UCLA; I was a Student Leader my sophomore and junior years for my college dorm, and my fourth year I became an RA. Although these commitments took time away from my participation with the band at times, I always had our Fraternity to stay involved with and my Brothers to support me with every decision I made.

By far, my favorite part about being a Brother is having this lifelong bond with everyone. But I especially love the tight bond that I have with my awesome family, and in this Encore you get to see my amazing side of the family! I do not have a clue where I would be without everyone in this organization, and it has been a blessing having this Fraternity as a part of my life. Also, I love attending conventions and getting to know Brothers from other chapters throughout the Western District

and the United States. I will be attending both district and national convention this year so I hope to see you there!

### *Heather Dennis, BA*

Hello! I'm Heather, David's little and Derek's big. I am a second year Geography/Environmental Studies major, Spanish minor, and maybe Conservation Biology minor as well! Ah! We'll see if I can graduate on time with all of that! I play the Alto Saxophone in the UCLA Marching Band and serve as the current Brotherhood/Sisterhood Chair of the Psi Chapter. As many of us in Psi feel, the Bruin



*David, Heather, and Derek at Derek's 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree.*

Marching Band and Kappa Kappa Psi have made my college experience thus far. Having never marched before college, it was great to be welcomed in so warmly and equally to a Brotherhood of hardworking and loving individuals. I love being surrounded by

people with such similar interests as my own and an undying desire to serve and give back to the band, something that has given so much to each and every one of us. I am so happy to have found such an outstanding group of friends here at UCLA, an exceptional Psi family, and a group of people I can truly call my Brothers. I know that the ideals and friendships of this Fraternity are things that will stay with me my entire life, regardless of where I am and I feel truly blessed to be a Brother of Kappa Kappa Psi! Go Bruins!  
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**Derek Lee, BM**

Hey! I'm Derek Lee and a recent active of KKPsi. Currently I'm a Biology major on the pre-med track. I'm not really sure what field of medicine I want to go into, but I figure I have four years to figure that out. What I do know is that joining the UCLA Marching Band and then KKPsi has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. All of my closest friends at UCLA come from the marching band, and I don't think I could find a better group of people anywhere on campus. My family, the Erotic



Heather and Derek at Western District Convention

8 as we like to call ourselves, couldn't be better or more awesome. I'm extremely lucky for getting Heather Dennis as my Big Bro and David Levy as my Big Bro<sup>2</sup>. As far as music is concerned, it's been a big part of my life since I was six. I started playing the piano when I was six, then when I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade I decided to play the alto sax and join a choir outside of school. In addition to marching band I'm also involved with Symphonic Band and UCLA Chorale. Music has always been a part of my life and I look forward to keeping it that way with my involvement in KKPsi as well as the other musical groups on campus.

**Sister Happenings: Senior Girl Scout Project**

On Saturday, January 24, 2009, Epsilon Kappa had our first ever Senior Girl Scout Project! Different from our annual Spring Quarter Girl Scout Project, but just as fun, EK worked with older girl scouts from grades 7-12. We helped them earn their Performing Arts Badge, which required them to learn about how dance floors are different from regular wooden floors (dance floors have springs), discuss how technology has changed music, interview a professional performing artist (hey, that's us!), practice breathing and stretching exercises (like we do during band camp), and write and perform a song. After each active Sister went around and introduced themselves and what instrument they play (or flag they spin!), we went around the circle and had each girl scout introduce themselves and how they may be involved in music at their school. We taught them the information they needed to learn to earn the badge, and then they asked us any questions

*Vanessa Houseman, TBΣ, VP, AA*

they had about music, marching band, or college in general. After that, we broke up into small groups, each mixed with girl scouts and active sisters. We helped them chose a popular children's song and then write lyrics to the same melody. Each group performed in front of the rest of the girl scouts and their parents, and both girl scouts and sisters really enjoyed this performance aspect. It was fun to work with girls from middle school and high school age because I feel like they were more eager to hear what we had to say about our lives involving music in college. They were very excited to see the instruments and learn more about our college experiences. Overall, it was a very fulfilling experience and I'm looking forward to working with girls of this age again.

**A Trip to the City of Brotherly Love**

*Jason Scapa, Alumni Relations Officer, BA*

A group of us were sitting on a couch of a Brother's apartment watching the Selection Sunday Show when we saw the TV announce that UCLA was heading to Philadelphia for the First and Second Round of the 2009 NCAA

Tournament. Within minutes of the announcement an email went out from the band office telling us to pack our bags for the City of Brotherly Love. On Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, we departed for the East Coast with the

team on a chartered jet. Once arriving we felt it was imperative to visit the famous Geno's for the original Philly Cheesesteak. The next day we spent the day walking the city and seeing all the historical sites such as

the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the Federal Mint, and Benjamin Franklin's house. Thursday was game day against Virginia Commonwealth University, and after finishing up another walk of the city, we headed for the Wachiovia Center to watch our team take on VCU. The game was very nerve racking as we watched the lead change multiple times over the course of the first half. Although

we had a 10 point second half lead at one time, the game went down to the wire. We all went crazy (and breathed) a sign of relief as we watched the VCU buzzer beater hit front iron and miss. The next day, the group split up, with some band members taking busses to New York and another group going to Washington D.C.; both were within two hours

of Philly. I was in the group (which coincidentally was completely made up of the Psi Chapter Constitution Committee members) that went to the Nation's capital, and having never been before, I found it an exciting and interesting experience. Upon return to Philadelphia, we made arrangements to meet with the Brothers and Band members of the University of Connecticut who were also playing in Philadelphia. We hung out for about two hours, playing card games, sharing band stories, and of course playing a game of Mafia. We learned a lot about their



*Hanging out with the Uconn Chapter, ΔO*

candidate process and band selection, and found a multitude of similarities in our Chapters and how our bands are structured. The next day was of course our disappointing loss to Villanova, which meant we would be flying



*Band Members and the Liberty Bell*

home immediately after, with no chance of any of us going to Boston later in the week. However Brotherhood-Sisterhood Camping was the next day, so we were excited to go home and see the rest of our Brothers and Sisters. This trip was by far the best band trip I've been on (granted being a second year, I haven't gone on many), but the location and people made the trip a worthwhile and educational experience!

Alumni—

I present to you another edition of the Encore for the Winter 2009 Quarter. I'm sorry I couldn't get it out sooner, but with NCAA's, B/S camping, and a couple district events (not to mention a little time to wait for the articles to be written since they go all the way through the end of the quarter), there were a few delays. However, I am happy with the variety of stories offered in this edition—featuring membership, social, service, and Brotherhood-Sisterhood articles; along with an article written by Psi Alum from the 1960's and 70's, Carl Johnson. If any of you would be interested in writing an article for the Encore about your experience in Chapter, please email me; both the current active body as well as other Alumni would love to read your experiences.

As some of you are aware, this year is the Biennial National Convention, and the Psi Chapter was recognized as being one of the Top 10 Chapters in the Nation for this Biennium. This also means we are up for consideration as the Top Chapter of the Year! We have done amazing service projects to the band and music department such as the Reading Band and the Historical Project. On the B/S front, we have developed a stronger relationship to our Sisters through B/S week and B/S joint camping. In membership, we just initiated a new and fantastic Beta Mu class of 17 new actives, and are currently helping establish a Chapter at Fullerton College about 50 miles from UCLA. Last quarter we held Brotherhood Week, designed to remind all actives the meaning of the Ritual of 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and to understand the ritualistic vows. As you can see, our Chapter is very busy in all facets of the Brotherhood and dedicated to serving the Band!

With regards to Alumni, as many of you know, May 4<sup>th</sup> is the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Psi Chapter here at UCLA. Sometime in the next month, we hope that you will join us in celebrating this momentous milestone in our Chapter's history. More details to come via email.

Once again, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to email me at [uclaencore@gmail.com](mailto:uclaencore@gmail.com).  
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