

Malinda M. Matney, Ph.D., National Vice President for Colonization and Membership
with Derrick Mills, Dr. David O'Shields, and Dr. David Scott

<http://www.kkpsi.org>

National Month of Musicianship- November

Music is the universal language. For Kappa Kappa Psi, it is a language in common that ties together how we met as members, who should be invited to join, where our service should focus, and what ties we carry into the future when active membership ends and it is time to move to a new level.

November will mark our first National Month of Musicianship, coordinated by

National Vice President for Programs Derrick Mills. Two governors, Drs. David O'Shields and David Scott, suggest ways to make musicianship live on campus.

Think about how you are centering your chapter on music. If you don't already, November is a great time to start!

Malinda

Starting the National Month of Musicianship: What Is It?

by Derrick Mills, National Vice President for Programs

Brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi:

Many times we talk about what is important in Kappa Kappa Psi. There have been discussions and heartfelt debates towards the subject. Service, brotherhood, leadership is all important... but it is music that brings us together. We as brothers in Kappa Kappa Psi have the unique opportunity to be a part of something we truly love. The fraternity affords us the privilege to show everyone we love music. How many times have you gone somewhere wearing your letters and have had to explain just what KKPsi means or is? I get excited and proud to say "it's the honorary BAND fraternity" and so should you. It is music that has given us these opportunities to have Kappa Kappa Psi. It is music that keeps us coming back for more.

This past February, the National Council and Board of Trustees held a strategic planning session in San Antonio. During these meetings, the group focused on the vision and long term goals of the fraternity. One underlying subject of the weekend was discussion about musicianship in Kappa Kappa Psi. Many asked the question, "How does our membership emphasize musicianship in their chapters?" The question was asked: "If brothers are so focused on leadership or service, where does musicianship rank?" After some further discussion and debate on the subject the council felt something had to be

done. The council looked at November to be the month to promote musicianship. The council could think of no better time than the month of our founding to celebrate musicianship as a national chapter. That is how November became the **National Month of Musicianship!**

During the month of November, we encourage you to plan activities in your chapter that celebrate musicianship. Your chapter could simply attend a concert together as a group or organize a special concert of your own! Your chapter could promote a current concert or usher an upcoming concert. Your chapter could plan a reading band for your school or plan reading band for just the chapter. The possibilities are endless!

When your chapter plans its local celebration, I encourage you to invite others. Send emails over the various listservs to let everyone know what your chapter is doing to celebrate musicianship. Who knows, you might get some brothers to come celebrate with you. I also encourage you to take pictures and document what you are doing. We would like to compile all of the stories and photographs from the brotherhood. The Spring 2007 *Podium* will feature an article about chapters in Kappa Kappa Psi celebrating the National Month of Musicianship. If you have any questions about November's National Month of Musicianship please email me at derrick@kkpsi.org.



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Strive for the Highest

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.kkpsi.org

Bulletin boards? Display cases?

Students, faculty, and visitors (including potential members) look at bulletin boards and display cases and often learn about KKPsi in that way.

Make sure your presence features music and looks recently tended. You may wish to include:

- KKPsi musical events
- Band performance schedules
- NIB audition information
- A contact website and email for more information.

Music Counts – Especially When Bids Are Involved

by David O'Shields, DMA, Southeast District Governor
Associate Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music,
University of South Carolina

Many chapters struggle with maintaining a healthy balance between the service, musical and social aspects of Kappa Kappa Psi. The role of musical ability may be even more important as brothers consider fellow band members for the membership education program of their chapter. Should there be a musical standard for inclusion in our Fraternity?

Music is the quality that sets Kappa Kappa Psi apart from other fraternal and service organizations. Our fraternal motto, *Strive for the Highest* should apply to all aspects of our fraternal experience. Therefore, music should receive serious consideration when debating invitations to join our Fraternity.

The following may help your chapter in selecting highly qualified candidates:

- Prospective members may be asked to perform a recital as a part of the process. This could be a formal concert or something as simple as an informal performance for the chapter.

What a Sponsor Wants

by David Scott, Ph.D., Southwest District Governor
Director of Bands and Professor of Music, Angelo State University

While the "Here and Now" of supporting our college band is always upon us and certainly needs attention, to ignore what we want to be in our post-college lives and how we can get there is to not get the most out of the total college experience. As a sponsor, it is important for me to help brothers look to that future and, hopefully, make sure that music and service are an important of their lives, even after their active days are complete.

- The self-discipline required to master a musical instrument is exactly the same self-discipline required of a brother to effectively lead and provide service to the band program.
- Marginal musicians are more likely than not to become marginal brothers.
- Our band programs require leadership in all areas. We need brothers who are strong musicians throughout the year and in all ensembles, including marching, concert and jazz bands.

Membership education classes should be a reflection of the band program; make an effort to attract members from all sections, majors and interests. As a result, your chapter will gain in strength from its diversity and be better equipped to provide service to the band program throughout the school year.

Nothing would please me more than to know that every brother of Kappa Kappa Psi left their college loving music, wanting to share that love with those around, and be willing to work toward a greater love and appreciation of music and the other arts in society. To turn the hours of work, service and fulfillment into a never-ending advertisement for the power of music is the greatest legacy any person could leave a chapter, a fraternity, or a college band.