

KKΨ

Kappa Kappa Psi Alumni Association
Honoring the past, Supporting the future



The Encore

Volume 3, Issue 2

How to Keep Striving for the Highest

By Ed Savoy, Alumni Advisory Committee Chair

I could be wrong, but I think that many people who have trouble adjusting to becoming an alumnus or alumna of Kappa Kappa Psi have those issues because they can't conceptualize what it means to strive for the highest anymore. After all, when you're a student, it's pretty simple; striving for the highest means being the first at rehearsal and the last to leave. It means giving that extra degree of support to your fellow band members, or working with the director to make sure the band experience for others is as exemplary as you can make it. Of course, this is sometimes easier said than done, but striving for the highest as a student at least has definite signposts that tell you whether or not you're doing the right thing.

However, as an alumna or an alumnus, there's not a band director there to pat you on the back for a job well done or a grateful band member close at hand to thank you for creating that pleasant and helpful experience. So, it can be easy to get lost and on the one hand, get disconnected from the Fraternity or, on the other hand, try to impose yourself on your band program and chapter in ways that don't help to create leaders of the students that come after you. Striving for the highest then becomes a nice concept, but a concept whose meaning is uncertain.

The good news is that it doesn't have to be that way; it is more than possible to keep striving after your graduation date in a way that benefits yourself and others. The bad news is that, since there are many ways to do so, it can be difficult to find one that fits your own needs or life situations. However, even that apparent defect is actually a strength, because it means you have a multitude of ways to write your own story into the broader narrative of band and of Kappa Kappa Psi.

What are some of those ways? Here are a few that come to my mind:

You could volunteer to help with the KKPsi-AA.

This past month, we issued a call for volunteers to help us with strategic areas related to membership and various projects that we're working on and we heard from over 40 people who remain invested in providing a better experience for alumni.

We're still happy to accept other volunteers; we want to engage you and your talents to make a better KKPsi-AA for everyone.

You could serve as a mentor.

Think about it; while you were still a student or a young graduate, you were either helped out by an older graduate or, if you weren't, you would have appreciated the insight of someone more experienced in the world as you pursued a career in your field. One of the things I enjoy most is when I have the opportunity to put a fellow Brother in touch with someone who can help them with their chosen profession, or give them advice to help them succeed. There is a great emotional charge in such help, so don't let it pass you by.

You could get involved in the musical life of your community or alma mater.

A victory for music in your community or on your home campus can translate into progressively broader victories for music elsewhere. Does your area have a community band that you could participate in? If yes, you could start there and begin participating. If no, why not help create one? Does your alma mater have an alumni organization for band members to help the band program? If yes, why not join it? If no, why not work with your school's band program and/or your alumni office to create one? This latter step may also give you a good jumping off point to reconnect with your Chapter's alumni, and help you start up an LAA as well.

You could give.

Maybe you're at a point in your life where you can't afford to give much in way of money. However, every bit that you can give to the Fraternity, however large or small, helps create greater opportunities for the organization and helps it to grow stronger.

Are these the only ways to continue to strive for the highest? Certainly not. However, these areas do give you a starting point to create your own Fraternal identity even after graduation. And, of course, we all know where the ending point in your journey is: the highest.



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Convention Season Schedule

Northeast
College Park, MD
March 23-25,
2012

Midwest
Rolla, MO
March 23-March
25, 2012

Western
Flagstaff, AZ
March 30-April 1,
2012

Southeast
Orlando, FL
March 30-April 1,
2012

North Central
Fort Wayne, IN
April 13-15, 2012

Southwest
Houston, TX
April 20-22, 2012

2013 National
Convention
Springfield, MA



Remembering our Brother

Charles (Chic) M. Hollis, NU,
Class of 1952

From a letter Chic wrote to his
University of Michigan High
School classmates in 2001:

"When I went to the University of Michigan, it cost \$75 per semester because I lived at home. With only orchestra experience at U High, I made the drum rank in the Michigan Marching Band. I was one of eight musicians in the Symphony and Marching Bands who played all four years. In my sophomore year I was asked by Rosemary's father to be the Student Business Manager of the Bands. I did this for two years and was first chair drummer for my final three years although I took no music classes. In 1952 I became a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and lived in their house during my senior year."

Charles (Chic) M. Hollis BBA'55 passed away January 12, 2011. He has been a drummer for 71 years and a motorcyclist for 65. He was principal drummer with the University of Michigan Bands for three years and student business manager of the bands for two. When he was a member of the U of M Bands, the Symphony Band played in Carnegie Hall in NYC, Boston's Symphony Hall, and Philadelphia's Academy of Music. He was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society for Business among other honorary memberships. He won the General Electric Scholarship granted by the School of Business Administration for being first in his class. He later played drums for amateur Broadway shows in Argentina and Brazil.

Upon graduation he served two years as an officer in the Air Force in North Africa as Chief of Officer Personnel in the 17 Air Force Hqs. The Hqs. were first located in Morocco and then in Libya. He has worked for General Electric, Chrysler, Volkswagen, and Bendix (now Honeywell.) His assignments for Chrysler included Director of Finance in Venezuela, in Argentina, in Brazil, Deputy Managing Director in Spain, and Managing Director in Argentina. When Chrysler's Argentine subsidiary was sold to Volkswagen, He was offered and accepted a 3-year contract to be head of Volkswagen Argentina. He lived overseas 16 years and supervised foreign subsidiaries another 6 years.

He returned to the US in 1983 and became Group Vice President for Latin America of Bendix Automotive responsible for factories located in Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. He retired from Bendix in 1988 and in 1992 became COO of Hollis and Associates in California a retail property management company owned by his brother Peter, which managed 38 shopping centers and malls in California until he retired again in 1998.

He was a thinker, had great curiosity, and cared deeply about people. He considered himself a politically independent citizen of the world interested in helping Americans understand the reality that is life overseas where many intelligent, educated, and industrious people aren't as privileged as we are in the US. He studied Latin and Greek in high school, Russian at Michigan, and French, Spanish, Portuguese, and German during his working assignments.

He is survived by his loving wife Gisela, his children John, Mark, Eric, and Anahi, and siblings Fanchon, Peter, and Ruthe. During his last years he dedicated himself to his family, motorcycling, drumming, reading, and writing, his true passion. He wrote numerous articles and fables for young adults. Many of his musings were published by News Blaze an internet newspaper that "... try to show the news as-is, without spin." To read Chic's musings you can go to <http://newsblaze.com/writer/holl>.



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Podium

www.kkpsi.org/podium/Podium-Fa2011.pdf

From the Desk of the President

Alumni Brothers,

First, I want to thank you for your commitment to a lifelong membership in Kappa Kappa Psi. Kappa Kappa Psi is not a four year band organization; it is a lifetime fraternal commitment. Hopefully, you are providing a positive example of that commitment to the next generation of Alumni.

I know many of you have heard of the situation involving Florida A&M University. The Kappa Kappa Psi National Council was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Florida A&M University Marching 100 drum major, Robert Champion. Our most sincere condolences are with the Champion Family and the Florida A&M University community.

According to the chapter president and Kappa Kappa Psi National Headquarters, Mr. Champion was not a member of Kappa Kappa Psi and he was not in the membership education process this semester. We have reached representatives from the Office of Student Activities at Florida A&M University to confirm this information as well. The members of the Delta Iota Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at Florida A&M have been informed that it is the expectation of our National Council that they will cooperate fully with University officials and law enforcement representatives with regards to the investigation of this situation. It is our hope that from this tragedy, the Florida A&M band program will emerge as a stronger organization.

It is important that all members of Kappa Kappa Psi respect this situation and investigation. Please join us in respecting the Champion family and the investigation. Once again, our thoughts are with all those affected by the loss of Mr. Champion. We wish everyone the best as they move forward from this tragedy.

Adam D. Cantley
Kappa Kappa Psi
National President

**Spotlight:
Local Alumni Associations**

By Marco Kracatovich II

Since National Convention, we have added the Delta Alpha Alumni Association and the New York Metro Alumni Association. That brings us up to 22 Local Alumni Associations currently active.

Interesting statistics: More than 600 brothers are part of Local Alumni Associations with an average of more than 35 members. A lot of our LAAs are starting to build up scholarships for their local chapters and we've seen a real focus this year on direct service to chapters both financially and through extra manpower.

Primarily the most common way our LAAs serve the active brotherhood is through participation in degrees and chapter events and as additional resources for funding activities and promoting them.

In the coming year the Strategic Committee on Local Alumni Associations will be revising how we collect information on our LAAs, how our LAAs coordinate activities, and improving our relations between active chapters and alumni. The next year will see a lot of positive changes for our LAAs.

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Alumni Corner

Barry Taff, Gamma Nu, Class of 1974, retired from elementary school principalship in 2006 and moved from Phenix City, AL to Destin, FL where he works part time. Wife, Virginia, teaches 3rd grade. Son, Wesley, is married to Rebecca. Both teach in the same elementary school in Phenix City and they have a son, Eli. Daughter, Katie, teaches middle school math in St. Petersburg FL. Wesley and Rebecca are both Auburn grads and were both in the Auburn Marching Band (War Eagle!). Katie is an FSU grad and was in Marching Chiefs (GO NOLES!).

Stefan Schmidt, Theta Theta, Class of 2005, graduated Magna Cum Laude in May with a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering. After two years of interning with Vulcan Materials Company, took a promotion to Network Analyst. Married his High School sweetheart in August and honeymooned in St. Lucia over Christmas break.

Erin Lilliefors, Delta Upsilon, Class of 2004, is currently working in Winnsboro Tx as a band director. Getting married soon!

Tom Brockman, Kappa Delta, Class of 2000, has been the Director of Bands at North Platte R-I in Dearborn, MO for the past 7 years. His bands have been successful with achieving consist I-Honor Ratings at Festivals, placing high in marching competitions. In 2008 the high school band performed at Missouri Music Educators Convention. He is a member of the Missouri Bandmasters Association. Vice-President Elect of High School Bands of the Northwest #1 District of MMEA. Held the office of Vice-President of Junior High Bands 2006-2010. In 2010 he received his Masters of Science in Education-Leadership from Northwest Missouri State University. He currently resides in Platte City, MO with his wife Hayley.

Pamela Nery, Beta Psi, Class of 1999, opened a new Motorcycle Shop in Chambersburg PA. You can find them on Facebook as TCP Cycles. Nothing goes better than music and motorcycles!

James Verdone, Epsilon Nu, Class of 2003, is in his second year as Music Director of Northbridge High School (Whitinsville, MA), was nominated for the Yale University Distinguished Music Educator Award.

Peter Keros, Nu, Class of 2006, will graduate this year from the University of Michigan with my Master's degree in mechanical engineering and will be attending Michigan for law school in the fall.

Alan Wadsworth, Lambda Delta, Class of 2004, married his best friend (and KKPsi-LD brother) Sarah Caler On July 24, 2010. The wedding and reception went off without a hitch although it was the hottest day of the year in Harrisburg, PA. In addition, on December 28, 2010, they bought their first house and have now moved in. They hope all is well with all of their brothers across the nation.

Will Moses, Theta Nu, Class of 2001, was a former news reporter and is currently working as an Admissions Officer at Strayer University at the Baymeadows Campus in Jacksonville, FL. Will was a former Southwest District Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President.

Emory Washington, Eta Psi, Class of 2004, applied for an entry level police officer position, passed the test. and is asking for your support and prayers so that he passes step two of the process so that he can continue to "strive for the highest" in his career and can support his family.

Leland Sharrock, Alpha, Class of 1961, President of Alpha Chapter in 1965, was inducted into the Texas Band Director's "Hall Of Fame" last July at the Texas Bandmaster's Association Convention.

Beth Prather, Alpha Delta, Class of 2007, was married to her high school sweet heart June 2009 and is now finishing 3rd year of teaching in Paducah, KY

Errol White, Zeta Pi, Class of 1977, is a former band director of the Birmingham City Schools and presently serving as a school principal. A former member of the Tennessee Sate Aristocrat of Bands, Nashville, TN. His teaching career included high school, middle, and elementary. He received a Master's degree from Samford University in Music Ed. and a Ed.S. in administration.