

# Alumni Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 6, 2010

Tau Beta Sigma ~ Beta Xi ~ University of Florida

## ~Contact Us~

**President- John Pittari**  
[president@tbsigmauf.org](mailto:president@tbsigmauf.org)

**Membership- Charles  
Gustine**  
[rush@tbsigmauf.org](mailto:rush@tbsigmauf.org)

**Correspondence- Amy Hiser**  
[alumni@tbsigmauf.org](mailto:alumni@tbsigmauf.org)

**Website- Angelique Beau-  
Wells**  
[www.tbsigmauf.org](http://www.tbsigmauf.org)

**Facebook Groups-  
Tau Beta Sigma (Beta Xi)  
Beta Xi Alumni**

## ~Address~

**110 SBH, Newell Dr  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611**

Hello Alumni,

Here in Beta Xi, we are coming to the end of a busy semester! At the end of last semester we elected our new e-board and our new board was appointed by the president. With those elections brought 7 new people to e-board and 8 new people to the board. This semester we also have a candidate class of 3. And we are getting prepared and ready to host the entire Southeast District at the SED Convention in a few days. In this issue of the alumni newsletter, you will meet all the new officers and hear a little of what they have planned for this semester. We will also have a report on SED by our SED Committee chair and we will also hear from the candidates about their process. As always, we love to hear what you are doing with your lives after Beta Xi.

LITB, Amy Hiser

Alumni Secretary 2010

## Meet the Officers

**President:** John Pittari

Greetings Alumni of Beta Xi, I hope that you all are having a wonderful semester thus far. I don't know if you're enjoying the cold weather, but I know I am; it's a nice break from the heat. This semester has been a busy one so far, especially with all the preparations for Southeast District Convention that are ongoing. It's very nice to have such a large chapter now, and be able to split up all of the work even more. We are very excited to be hosting this event, and can't wait to hold everyone on our beautiful campus here in only a matter of weeks. This semester I have begun working with a new executive board. They are very eager and are doing a lot with their positions in an attempt to make the chapter the best that it can be. I hope you all have a wonderful spring, and we look forward to seeing you again soon. If there is anything I can ever do for you, please don't hesitate to let me know.

**First Vice President of Service**

My name is Raena Marder. I am a third year Psychology major at UF and I am Beta Xi's First Vice President in charge of Service. In my position I serve as head of the Service Committee and am in charge of all the service activities and events

## Pictures from Rush



that our chapter participates in. This includes day-to-day service such as setting up our band room for the Wind Symphony or lining our practice field to large community service events such as playing in a pep band for March of Dimes walks or singing for the sick or elderly.

This semester I am working to increase the number of band related service activities that our chapter does. For example, this semester we will be doing instrument demonstrations at local elementary schools to try to interest and excite the students to go into middle school band. I am also making an effort to further instruct our candidates in the ways of service by holding a mandatory service workshop that they must complete satisfactorily before they may become sisters. It is important to me that everyone in the chapter is able to do service and that the service we do reflects the purposes and ideals of Tau Beta Sigma so that we can continue to be the best sisterhood that we can be.

### **Second Vice President of Membership**

Hello, my name is Charles Gustine. I am a third year English major, and I am 2nd Vice President in charge of Membership this semester. Beta Xi will cross three new sisters very soon! Chris Hoffman, Alicia Jeffrey, and Sarah Piper, the Alizarin Idiosyncrasies, have completed their process and are on the verge of joining our sisterhood in the coming week. They have seen many slideshows about the history of the sisterhood, chapter, and university and on what all this means (what can I say, I like slideshows). They are a bright and quirky group prepared and excited to take on the responsibility of active sisters, and I am very excited to see them, in the coming days and the coming years, take on that role.

### **Treasurer**

My name is Jonathan Arton and I am the current Treasurer. I am a Finance Major and this position is right up my alley. I have created a financial database on Excel that keeps a constantly updated record of all financial transactions involving the chapter. I send it out via e-mail to the chapter list serve so everyone has the ability to stay in the loop. I am looking forward to SED and can't wait to meet everyone in our district along with any older sisters who are reading this!

### **Ways and Means Officer**

My name is Ryan Leverone and I'm a second year Anthropology major at Santa Fe College. This is my second active semester with Beta Xi since my initiation in Spring 2009 and I currently serve as Ways and Means Officer on the chapter Executive Board. Beta Xi has the honor of hosting the Southeast District Convention this April on the University of Florida's campus and it is my responsibility as WAMO to find a few ways and a couple means to fund this expensive, annual, three day event. As a Chapter we have to raise about \$5000.00 and we're well on our way there. We could, however, definitely use some help so, if you're in a giving mood, my email address is [RBLeverone@gmail.com](mailto:RBLeverone@gmail.com). I'm sure all you Alumni are raking in money now that you have a diploma.

### **Recording Secretary**

Hello lovely alumni! I'm Sara Reynolds and I am Beta Xi's Recording Secretary for 2010! I am currently completing my third year at UF, where I am earning a bachelor's degree in History and French. I am principal oboist in the Symphonic Band, where I am both pleased and proud to make beautiful music with many other sisters and brothers in the bond.

As Recording Secretary and a member of the executive board, it is very exciting to experience the chapter on a higher level. Knowing the chapter has entrusted me

## Pictures from First Degree



with so much responsibility is both intimidating and uplifting and I will do my best to make them proud. The most exciting aspect of my position is the creation of our semester publication, Beta Xi Bits. Beta Xi Bits is a wonderful way for sisters to joke, draw and write sappy things about their sisters! I am looking forward to receiving and putting together the sisters' creations! To finish, I'd like to thank you, alumni, for your love and support and for the legacy you left behind for all of us to realize and enhance. MOTS!

### Corresponding Secretary

My name is René Mark and I am the corresponding secretary for 2010. I am a 3rd year Event Management major and I play bassoon in concert band and tuba in marching band. This year we are hosting the Southeast District Convention and it is quickly approaching. Alumni are more than welcome to attend the SED convention. The lessons learned at convention are still valuable, even after you've graduated. It would be great to see you, so make sure that you stop by. We'd love to have you! This semester I plan on reaching out to as many chapters in the district as possible to make them feel welcome when they come to Gainesville in April. I hope to foster a closer relationship with our Big Sister chapter, Alpha Omega, at Florida State University and our Little Sister chapter Zeta Psi at the University of Central Florida.

I also put together our trip to the Southeast District Leadership Conference. This year's conference was at Valdosta State University in Georgia. A few weeks ago I gave the chapter a presentation on what DLC is all about and why they should go. Last year, only 2 Sisters went to DLC and this year we had a whopping 20 Sisters registered!!! The conference was very informative and not only allowed the Sisters to fine tune their leadership skills, but they also met Sisters from other chapters and got to know them before SED convention.

If you have any comments or suggestions for me, please shoot me an email at [renemark@tbsigma.org](mailto:renemark@tbsigma.org).

Hope to hear from you soon!

LISH!

### Parliamentarian

My name is Kelsey Wood. I am the color guard captain for FVE and a third year Civil Engineering student. As Parliamentarian for spring 2010 I am working with the President to make sure meetings run as effectively and smoothly as possible as we make preparations for hosting SED. I am also looking forward to "re-vamping" the Constitution this summer. I have not decided exactly how I will hold meetings to discuss what needs to be changed and what already works in the Constitution. I am slowly planning details as my plans for summer are finalized. I am hoping to stay in Gainesville and hold a series of meetings in person where the Sisters can gather and express their opinions to each other and to me. Then in the fall semester the changes will be presented to the entire Chapter where they will be voted upon.

### Membership Education Chair

Hi! My name is Sarah Rumberger, and I am the new Membership Education chair for the Beta Xi chapter. I have had an awesome time working with Charles, our Second Vice President, in training our three wonderful candidates this semester!

---

## Pictures from Joint Ceremony



Something new we tried this spring included the addition of an original rush event: Baking Throwdown: "Get a Taste of TBS!" For the event, we had Sisters bake yummy treats and candidates serve as judges of our baking talents. This event was extremely fun (and tasty too!) and we hope to bring it back in the fall. As I mentioned before, we have three new candidates this semester. Each of them displays musical talent as well as leadership skills and an enthusiasm for service! It has been fun to watch them grow throughout the semester, both individually and as a class as well as with their big sisters. I look forward to working with Charles in the future and hope we can bring in some more great candidates in the fall!

### Continuing Education Chair



Hello! My name is Jessica Huerta and I am the current Post-Membership Education chair. I have been holding 1 meeting per month for the big sisters this semester, so that I can hear about all their experiences and keep them updated on their "Big" duties. I am also working on Membership Education power points for the chapter and starting next week will be presenting a weekly 5 & 8. My goal for this position is to help refresh the sisters on the importance of these ideals and how applicable they are to our everyday lives.

### Song Leader



Hello! My name is Aunna Kilgore and I am currently the Song Leader of our Beta Xi Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. I'm a Music Education major at the University and I play the bassoon and the clarinet. I am very excited about the things that have already happened this semester and for the things that I want to get accomplished for the rest of the semester to come! So far I've already taught the candidates a couple of our songs and actually started teaching them the new TBS song, the Affirmation. I am planning to teach this song to all of the sisters who don't know it and want to learn it. I'm very excited about the things to come. Our candidates are doing great and learning the songs very quickly. The sisters also sound lovely whenever we get together to sing. I am very excited about taking on this position and I'm looking forward to having everyone hear our chapter sing at SED.

Thanks!  
Aunna M. Kilgore  
Spring 2009, Platinum Absolution

### Fellowship Chair



Hello alumni! My name is Erik Ugartechea, and I am a second year Telecommunications Production Major at UF as well as the Fellowship Chair for Beta-Xi. With my position, I look forward to keeping the sisterhood friendly and fun for everyone in the bond as we prepare for hosting SED this semester.

Some of the fellowship activities I look forward to having include a trip out to Lake Wauberg, where we can take a shot at the challenge course, as well as "Make-Your-Own-Letters" parties, where sisters can hang out and make their own TBS t-shirts. I also look forward to our joint banquet with Kappa Kappa Psi at the end of the semester. The theme will be Fabulous Las Vegas, and alumni are more than welcome to attend. I look forward to seeing many of you at SED! MLITB, Erik.



---

## Pictures from DLC



### Historian

Hello, my name is Sean Morris and I am the new Historian of Beta Xi. I am currently a Piccolo player in the Gator Marching Band, and Flute player in the UF concert band. I am currently a second year Classics major at the University of Florida, and I am a member of the spring 2009 class Platinum Absolution. I have been really excited to be the historian and I LOVE taking pictures at events. I have also worked to put a bulletin board up in the SBH so we can show off what we do to the entire band program. This upcoming semester I hope to get a new camera and improve my picture taking skills so that my pictures can be of the highest quality.

### Alumni Secretary

My name is Amy Hiser and I am a second year Elementary Education major. I am excited to be the Alumni Secretary. This semester I would like to keep up with our alumni by updating our facebook group and e-mail account. I also plan on transferring the alumni database from a paper copy to a computer file. In addition to this, I will be making the alumni newsletter. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any suggestions for the alumni newsletter or how to better keep up with you, our Beta Xi alumni.

### Rituals and Regalia Chair

Hi! My name is Alexandra Catá and I am the Rituals and Regalia Chair. I am a third year English major with a music minor in the flute. I have always loved our ritual and how it binds us together as sisters within the chapter, across time, and across the nation! This semester, our rituals have completely moved to our state of the art Steinbrenner Band Hall and we are loving our new home. Our crest has been repainted, thanks to Brianna Nash, and looks beautiful. Also, a formalized Alumni Ceremony is in the works so come out to Alumni Day next fall to participate in it for the first time!

### Webmaster

Hello, my name is Angelique Beau-Wells and I am the current webmaster for Beta Xi. This has been a great semester for us, and a really busy one as we plan for SED Convention. With that being said, our joint chapters of Alpha Eta and Beta Xi have come up with a new SED convention website, which can be found at <http://www.sed2010.org>. The SED website and our chapter website have also both gotten great overhauls. The SED website is thanks to the sisters at Georgia Tech, while the chapter website was revised by one of our alumni sisters, Charles Schilb (Foreign Exchange, Fall 2004 Rojo Snaps). Our website has now been moved to his own server as well, so the administration and maintenance of the website is completely in our hands. Constant updates are also being added to the website, so if there is anything you'd like to see from an alumni perspective, please let me know. My email is [chococow88@gmail.com](mailto:chococow88@gmail.com). I'd like to also begin work on an alumni listserv, with the help of our fabulous Alumni Secretary, and if you'd like to be a part of that, or know anyone who does, please respond with the e-mail address you'd like to be updated through, your name, and crossing semester.

Thanks and LISH, Angelique Beau-Wells, Webmaster  
"Sweet Talker" – Fall 2007 Cerulean Phenomena

---

**Southeast District Convention Chair:** Andrew Schragger

This Spring Beta Xi will be celebrating its 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday with a few more friends than usual. The Chapters of Beta Xi and Alpha Eta were chosen to host this year's Southeast District Convention and we are expecting around 900 Brothers and Sisters from around the District to attend from April 9<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. Some of the new features in this year's convention include a reading band meant to inspire members to bond through music and sharpen their playing skills. National Executive Director Lt. Col. Alan Bonner and Associate Director of Bands at the University of Florida John M. "Jay" Watkins Jr. will be the band's conductors. There will also be an Auxiliary Clinic for those Brothers and Sisters who want to improve on flag, rifle, or baton. A favorite of recent conventions has been the inclusion of the "Women in Music" Speaker Series. We will be spicing up this year's series with distinguished musician and master of double reed instruments Dr. Leslie Odom, head of the University of Florida Oboe Studio. With her successful career and family life, she was an easy choice for the Speaker Series, which acts to promote future women in the band profession while recognizing the accomplished women already in the field of music. All in all, the members of Alpha Eta and Beta Xi are looking forward to showcasing our beautiful University to members from around the District. We are especially proud to feature the brand new addition to the School of Music, the Steinbrenner Band Hall, which is home to the Fightin' Gator Marching Band. The band hall will serve as an indispensable meeting space during the entirety of convention, ensuring that every one of our guests gets to check it out. If you happen to be in town that weekend, either for the Orange and Blue Debut or just passing through, I encourage you to stop by and say hello. You will be impressed by the show that we are putting on!

# Meet the Candidates



(bottom row from left to right) Christopher Hoffman, Sarah Piper, and Alicia Jeffrey

(back row from left to right) Alexandra Catá, Erik Ugartechea, and Danielle Drennan.

### **Christopher Hoffman**

The process has most certainly been a humbling experience. While it has been full of exciting adventures, it has also taught me a lot about myself. It has bestowed upon me a profound respect for the sisters that have done this before me. I have been able to experience the process that every other member of this organization has completed. Only after going through this process is one able to fully understand how much work, time, and effort has to be put into becoming a sister. It also shows the tough requirements not only for Beta Xi, but for every other chapter in the nation. Every member is held to a high standard, and that is what makes it great.

The process has allowed for awesome class bonding experiences. The members of my class will always have a bond that can never be broken. I know that if I need something, my classmates will be there to help me. If none of them can, then I know that there has to be some sister, in the chapter, state, district, or around the nation that can help. The process has also allowed me to learn about myself, about my tendencies, and about how I interact with people. The weekly testing has taught me more about my study habits than the last few years of schooling. I have learned to ask people for help, and not to be shamed when I do need help. I have been humbled, and I feel it is a good thing.

I am looking forward to being a sister for many reasons. First of all, I have not only made one hundred new friends, I am joining an organization with thousands of members, and have made thousands of new friends. All around the country I will be able to say, I am a sister of TBS, and have a common bond with anyone else who is a sister. They say the key to being successful is networking, and I can think of no better way to network. I am also looking forward to helping the band program in every way I can. The band has been great to me so far, and I look forward to giving back.

-Christopher Hoffman

### **Alicia Jeffrey**

My process started differently than those of the other members of my candidate class. This semester being my first contact with the music department at all, I didn't know anyone or anything having to do with TBΣ. I feel like the first part of my process was me simply trying to test the waters and get a feel for how the organization operated and the varying personalities of the sisters. That resulted in me getting really behind though, because oftentimes I'd be too passive about asking for interviews or too afraid to ask a question if I didn't understand something. But as the semester went on, it hit me just how diligently I would need to work in order to get everything ready by the end of the process. I think that, although it's not a common response, the Tuesday candidate meetings were my favorite part of the process. We bonded as a class over the mutual stress we were all feeling and it was a good feeling to know there were other people regularly checking my progress because they wanted me to do well. What I'm looking forward to most about being a sister (if and when) is the opportunity to do just what the membership education committee and the rest of the sisterhood has done for me: provide a strengthening experience and an opportunity to grow as a person as part of the process.

### **Sarah Piper**

Throughout this semester I have been working towards becoming a Sister of Tau Beta Sigma, Beta Xi Chapter. In doing so, I have been challenged in meeting new people, balancing academia with that of sorority activities, and working towards becoming a better musician and bandsman. With that, I would like to take the time to better describe my process, specifically identifying my favorite part and what I look forward to as a potential Sister.

Most obviously, I have learned to budget my time between classes and while on campus to get Sister/ Brother interviews and accomplish the various tasks assigned to me. In doing so, I have enjoyed entering a new social circle and gained many friendships I foresee lasting the length of time. Amongst the various ceremonies, activities, rituals, and parties, I had the best time at our Joint Ceremony, during which we revealed to the Alpha Eta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi and Sisterhood who our Big Brothers were. While I enjoyed watching as brothers ravaged through our gifts in search of identification to who their Little Sister was, I was particularly impressed by way in which both chapters came together to perform the ritual. I look forward to building upon by relationships with my Big Sister and Brother in hopes that one day I can call myself a member of Tau Beta Sigma.

In looking at my future within Tau Beta Sigma, I aspire to one day wear the letters of Tau Beta Sigma and call myself a Sister. I look forward to the opportunity to help make important decisions regarding the future of our chapter and in helping our band program to continue to grow. Furthermore, I desire the chance to serve our band, whether behind the scenes, on the marching field, or within the concert hall. Most importantly, I can only hope to build upon the new relationships I have formed with existing and future Sisters. I value these friendships and look forward to the opportunity to demonstrate my commitment to the organization.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stuart Piper

# A few Reminders

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter! We have a couple of very important dates coming up. We will be hosting the Southeast District Convention on April 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> here at the University of Florida. Alumni are more than welcome to come by. Please let me know if you need any more information. The alumni e-mail address is up and working so please feel free to e-mail with any questions, comments or concerns that you have at [Alumni@tbsigmauf.org](mailto:Alumni@tbsigmauf.org)

LISH,

Amy Hiser

