

The Rhapsody

Summer 2014

Official Publication of the Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association



Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association
Est. 2007

The RHAPSODY is a publication of the TBSAA, a non-profit organization.

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From the TBSAA Chair: Countdown to Lexington!

Greetings from the TBSAA Executive Council!

We are officially one year from the 2015 Kappa Kappa Psi & Tau Beta Sigma National Convention!! The Executive Council has been working tirelessly this past year on refreshing our programs for this upcoming year. You will read more about these programs further on in this Rhapsody issue.

First a little business to take care of...if you are a current TBSAA member (if you are reading this then you are!) you should have received an email from me asking to vote on two constitutional changes. Proposition 1 focused on changing the Executive Council election process. After counting all votes, Prop. 1 passed. What does this mean for you? This means that the EC elections will now start one week before national convention and end on the Thursday OF national convention. You DO NOT need to attend national convention to vote, but if you would like to vote at convention, YOU CAN!

Proposition 2 asked to remove all committee names from the TBSAA constitution. The rationale on this was to make it easier on the EC to adapt the committees to what the TBSAA membership wanted to focus efforts on. Prop 2 did not pass so all committee names will remain in the TBSAA constitution. The EC would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote!



Amanda Dickson, TBSAA Chairperson

The EC recently concluded our summer meetings at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the EC for a couple of long days of meetings (8am-8pm)! At these meetings the EC began the planning of the alumni portion of the 2015 Kappa Kappa Psi & Tau Beta Sigma National Convention. The EC listened to what you, the TBSAA members, had to say at the last national convention and are happy to announce that the EC will be offering more throughout the entire national convention. You will soon receive an email with a link to a national convention survey. Please take the time to fill this survey out! Without YOUR input the EC cannot plan a fulfilling convention experience for you, the TBSAA members!!

As always, if you have any questions feel free to email me at amandad@tbsigma.org

KAPPA KAPPA PSI & TAU BETA SIGMA
2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 28 - AUGUST 2 | LEXINGTON, KY

Stay tuned to www.kkytbs.org/natconv.html for details!



Crystal (l.) and Jennie preparing to take off for one of their alumni convention trips

Your Alumni Travel Buddy

by Jennie Brooks & Crystal Ramsey, Alpha Omicron

In this installment of our Road Trip Tales series, Jennie and Crystal explain how being active alumni is much more fun and successful with an alumni travel buddy...

Traveling with a buddy!

What's better than planning to attend a Convention (District or National)? Well, planning and attending with friends, of course! The stress of getting to a Convention site can be overwhelming to anyone and we are no different. It's a happy time where carpool lists are made, the best routes to take are mapped out, and the ever popular, cramming as many people as possible into the cheapest hotel room. When you are an active Sister, you do the "college thing"; the massive carpooling, the cramming, etc, and it gets easier and easier after four years! However, after graduating and getting "Alumni" status, the planning and organizing gets more difficult.

Fortunately we are all beyond that time where "the more the merrier" in a hotel room is the choice to be made; but going solo is much more expensive and less fun than we thought. Why should we have to sacrifice comfort and bathroom time in exchange for fun and less expensive? Speaking from experience, it is much more enjoyable having a go-to convention travel buddy rather than trying to going by yourself! Here are three of the many reasons that we have experienced are the benefits of having an alumni travel buddy:

Reason one: automatic bus/train/plane seat partner! No more having to sit awkwardly by some stranger who may smell or lean on you while sleeping! Plus, you aren't the only person getting asked, "What's TBE?" when you're wearing your letters. You purchase the tickets together and know that your hours on the road or in the sky will be peaceful and much more fun! You can spend

your entire travel time catching up with that buddy and pumping each other up for the coming convention days!!

Reason two: consistent hotel roommates!! Aside from the obvious splitting the hotel bill for a cheaper rate individually, you get to room with your buddy! After just one convention you will know more about your roomie than you ever thought possible! You can go into convention already knowing who snores and who spends the most time getting ready in the bathroom. Accepting each other on that type of level is a whole new type of friendship that can never go away! Talk about friends for life!

Reason three: it is just so much easier and more enjoyable traveling to conventions or other alumni events when you have someone else with you! Who likes to sit for hours and do nothing? Talk about incredibly boring! With a travel buddy, you can spend those hours retelling old stories from your last convention trip together!

We can tell you from experience over the years of traveling to District and National Conventions that our trips are always filled with great conversations about everything and anything! You have someone each and every year that you get to see and keep in touch with on a consistent basis.

Crystal Meador Ramsey was initiated into the Delta Nu chapter at the University of Maine and subsequently transferred to Sam Houston State University where she earned her degree in elementary education. She live in Cypress, Texas, with her husband Ryan.

Jennie Malone Brooks also attended Sam Houston State University and was a member of the Alpha Omicron chapter. She lives with her husband Cody in The Woodlands, Texas, where she is an elementary music teacher.

Both Crystal and Jennie are active members of the Southwest District Alumni Association.



Crystal, Jennie, and other member of the Alpha Omicron chapter at the National Convention Banquet in Springfield



Crystal and Jennie were members of each others' bridal parties.

Fortitude & Courage Don't Have Expiration Dates

by Jonathan Markowski, Delta Delta



In this installment of Alumni in "First Person," Jonathan Markowski from the University of Massachusetts talks about his decision to return to Tau Beta Sigma service after several years away.

When I was contemplating my run for National Council prior to the Colorado Springs National Convention in 2011, I spent a lot of time thinking about how my relative age would be perceived. The other Sisters who were running for NVPCR were all much closer to the eligibility requirement of 25 years old. I struggled with how my time "away" from the Sorority would reflect a potential perception that I was not as dedicated to Tau Beta Sigma as someone who was a more recent graduate.

I would have made a horrible National Council member at 25 years old. I'm not saying that we haven't had great National Council members who started their leadership positions at that age - I'm saying that for me, personally, it would have been much less likely to be successful. I spent my late 20's and early 30's focusing on other goals I had - including starting my career as a high school teacher, working as a color guard instructor and assistant band director after school, earning a Post-Baccalaureate and a Master's Degree, buying a house, getting married ... and I would not have had the ability to put in the time to the position that I know it deserves. Again, some other people have done it, and done it well, but that wasn't me. So

when those other parts of my life settled down and I was ready to make the commitment, I went to NatCon2011, put my best (old) foot forward, and came home the oldest elected member of the 2011-2013 National Council.

It didn't mean that life wouldn't still throw things my way. Take a new job (with a career change) and move to a new state two weeks after Convention? Sure. Get transferred back to my home state and move back into my house six months later? Check. Make new friendships within the Sorority that reminded me of college all over again? Absolutely.

So what's my point, fellow alums? Maybe you're a recent grad who is just itching for your 25th birthday so that you can run for a spot on the TBS National Leadership Team. Or maybe you're an older alum who is ready to pick up the mantle of leadership you thought you put down after graduation. Either way, if you are willing and able to make the commitment, I urge you to do so. It is not to be undertaken lightly, but no matter your age, seize upon that ideal and follow it!

Jonathan Markowski is the current National Vice President for Special Projects of Tau Beta Sigma. He currently resides in Abington, Massachusetts, with his husband George. In addition to his day job, Jonathan is an active color guard instructor and clinician.

"...but no matter your age, seize upon that ideal and follow it!"



Jonathan with other members of the 2011-13 National Council being sworn into office.

What a Weekend! by Chris Foster

When we lost our beloved founder Wava Henry in October of 2012, we knew that Tau Beta Sigma would forever be changed. Our love for her would be held in the memories of those who knew her and the esteem of the Sisters who would come after us. We would no longer be able to reach out and touch her, to hug her, to pose with her in the countless photos she loved taking with the many Sisters and Brothers she met at conventions along the way.



Chris Foster
TBSAA Communication Chair

Now, thanks to the vision of our leadership, the generous and deep pockets of many amazing Sisters and Brothers, and the dedication and patience of our National Headquarters staff, we have the Wava Memorial Rose Garden. This place of meditation and reflection will always provide Tau Beta Sigma with a physical place to pay our respects to Wava and honor the pioneer she was to college bands and to her family.

The week of July 21-26, 2014, was a very special time in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In addition to the dedication of the Wava Memorial Garden, Kappa Kappa Psi had the formal dedication of their caboose on the grounds of National Headquarters. In the days leading up to the dedication event, all of the national leadership of the Sorority and the Fraternity held their semiannual meetings, including both Boards of Trustees, both National Councils, and both Alumni Associations. Also coinciding with the event was the annual District Leadership Conference, which brings together all of the District Counselors and Governors with the twelve District Presidents for their leadership workshops. Needless to say, there was a lot of positive energy in Stillwater that week.

But regardless of all the positive meetings and discussions going on between the many boards and leaders, nothing could prepare us for the hoards of alumni and friends who descended into Stillwater the day before the dedication. It was like a massive family reunion for both the Sorority and Fraternity: friendly faces of past presidents appeared, old convention friendships were rekindled, and all of us felt the waves of fellowship as we came together to celebrate.

TBSAA Friday Night Mixer

In order to welcome the Sisters arriving in Stillwater for the dedication, the TBSAA sponsored an alumni mixer at Brooklyn's Restaurant in Stillwater. Over the course of the evening we welcomed over fifty alums from all over the country and we met and mingled enjoying the live music



Honoring

TBS WAVA BANES TURNER HENRY MEMORIAL

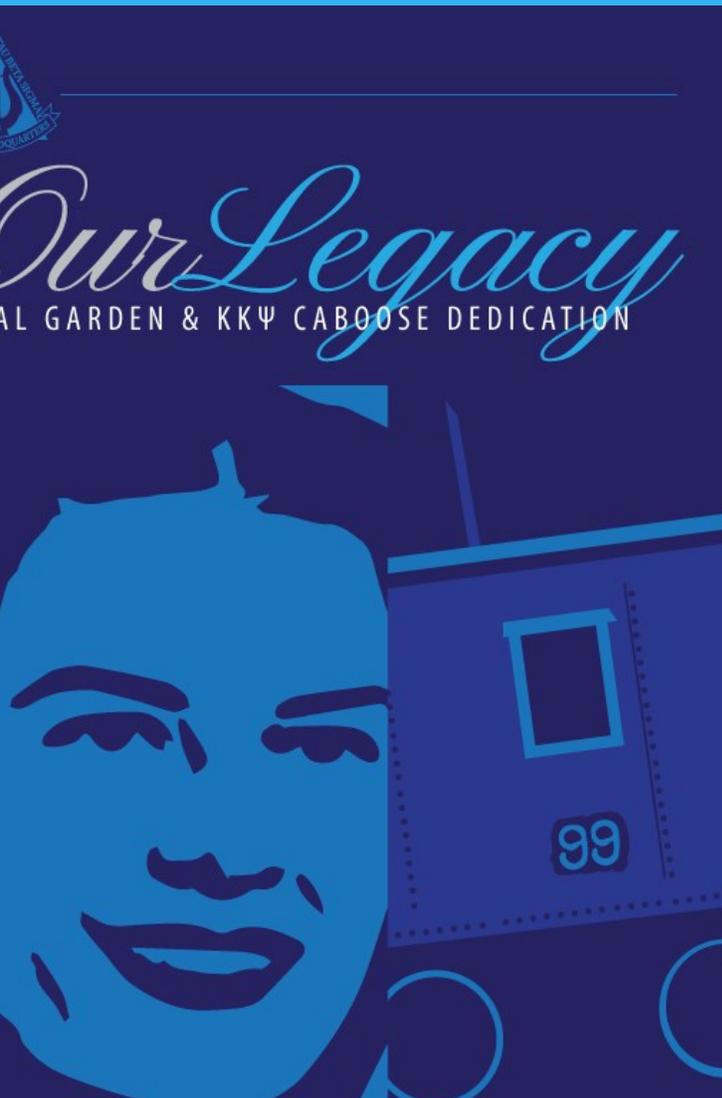
JULY 26, 2014
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA
KKΨ & TBS HQ



that evening. We were honored to have the arrival of past National Presidents Janet West Miller, Karon Hammond, and Sylvia Halbardier. Sisters from all six districts were in attendance over the course of the evening, as we shared stories of conventions past, travel nightmares, and of course, our memories of Wava.

Saturday Historical Tour

On the morning of the dedication, a few dozen Sisters and Brothers met at the Oklahoma State University campus for a tour of historical sites relevant to the founding of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma, as well as information about former homes of the National Headquarters. The group, led by former National Headquarters staff member Clinton Wieden, visited two former headquarters locations and the site of the 1947 National Convention, where Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma voted to become brother-sister organiza-



Memorial/Caboose Dedication

At 5:30 pm, the dedication ceremony began with introductions from the National Presidents, Dr. Nicole Sanchez & Christine Beason. Members of Kappa Kappa Psi's leadership discussed the history and importance of the KKPsi Caboose Project as an extension of their history & archives transformation. Following the ribbon cutting for the caboose, the assembled guests heard from Past National Presidents Dollie O'Neill and Dawn Farmer on the development of the memorial planning and fundraising, as well as Wava's impact on Tau Beta Sigma.

Also in attendance at the dedication were members of Wava's family: her daughter Sandra Weese, son-in-law Rod, and two of her granddaughters. Sandra addressed the assembled guests with tales of her mother's remarkable life and how happy she was to share the day with her own family. Board of Trustee Member Lisa Croston then read a proclamation from Oklahoma State Senator AJ Griffin, a former member of the Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma.

The ribbon was then cut by Dr. Nicole Sanchez, Dawn Farmer, and Sandra Weese. The memorial contains a marble monument, with a likeness of Wava's face, and her biography. The sides and back of the monument include messages from the major donors to the project. In the ground in front of the monument is a marble briolette containing the Tau Beta Sigma Crest, and there are benches for people to sit and reflect.



tions. The group then carpoled to Fairlawn Cemetery to visit the gravesites of many influential figures in the history of the fraternity & sorority, including Bohumil Makovsky, Max Mitchell, and Grace & A. Frank Martin.



Memorial Donor Tea

That afternoon, the TBS Board of Trustees and the TBSAA hosted a special afternoon tea for the individual donors to the memorial fund who had traveled to Stillwater. The event was a special thank you to all of the Sisters & Brothers who gave so generously to the project on an individual basis.

Dinner!

Following the ceremony (and lots of photographs), all the assembled guests moved to the county fairgrounds for a special barbecue dinner to end the day of fellowship and celebration. Fun was had by all and both fraternities came together to sing our songs.



FOR GREATER BANDS 5K – May 3, 2015 Symphony Woods/Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, MD

by Tamara Henry

The date is set. The location is reserved. We're well on our way to an exciting and eventful race day!

The purpose of the For Greater Bands 5K, sponsored by the TBSAA, is to provide support and to recognize our K-12 public school instrumental programs. Our inaugural 5K will focus on the music programs in of Maryland and Washington, DC. Participating and designated schools will receive a portion of each registration fee and a percentage of the remaining profit based on their level of participation.

To ensure the success of the 5K we will have several fundraising/promotional events leading up to the race; including Applebee's Flapjack fundraisers in conjunction with local schools and a fall Masquerade Ball with silent auction on October 25th. Schools hosting an Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser will split the profit with the TBSAA, giving additional financial support to the 5K. The TBSAA and 5K Committee will provide support setting up the fundraiser and finding volunteer waiters.

You invite your students and community to come to the event. If your school would like to hold an Applebee's Flapjack fundraiser in conjunction with the TBSAA please contact Kristen Ulloa Collins at kristen@tbsigma.org or Leslie Twite Gartin at lesler@tbsigma.org. The dates for all the events will be listed soon on our website and at

www.forgreaterbands.org.

Want to be a donor or sponsor? We are accepting donations for the silent auction and 5K such as: souvenirs, paraphernalia, services, supplies and monetary donations. All sponsors will be highlighted on our websites (For Greater Bands and TBSAA) and their names featured on the race day t-shirt and program. Contact Melissa Apter at mapter@tbsigma.org if you'd like to be a sponsor or make a donation.

We are looking for local bands to provide music selections during the race for spectators and during the race after party. If you have or know a group interested in performing at the 5K



Tamara Henry,
TBSAA Special Projects Chair

please contact Sloane Jennings at sjenni162@gmail.com.

We hope you will be able to support our events leading up to the Race. We are in the process of reserving room blocks at local hotels for out of town race participants. Early race registration begins in December. Contact Zara Simpson to volunteer at zsimpson@tbsigma.org. If you have other questions regarding the race, you can also contact Tamara Henry at tamara@tbsigma.org.

Introducing TBSAA's New Service Chairperson

by Gwyn Fox Stump



Gwyn Fox Stump,
TBSAA Service Chairperson

Hi all, my name is Gwyn Fox Stump and I am so excited to be joining the Executive Council of the TBSAA!

I am currently the Associate Director of Student Life at the University of Dayton and work daily with student leadership programs and students involved in student organizations. It's great to be a part of so many students' development as they move into their next phase of life. My time as an active member of the Epsilon chapter certain-

ly helped me to find a path in life and has lead me to my current position.

I am going to be working in the area of professional development and I look forward to continuing and strengthening the TBSAA mentoring program. I am going to be looking to enhance the offerings and am looking forward to working with as many of you as possible! As we are all constantly learning, I truly hope I can help to grow and strengthen what each member of the TBSAA gains from the organization.

How to Attend National Convention as an Adult

by Leslie Gartin

After being in the organization for more than a decade, National Convention has become a type of family reunion. It's the best thing ever to see these people who know me inside and out, and share a mutual love about something so important. I love making new adventures, traveling, seeing friends, and getting stuff done.

Unfortunately, a lot of sisters' last experience in the organization is National Convention. They attend one last time, right after they graduate, and feel that they've done their time in the sisterhood, while others attend one additional time, and can't figure out how to fit in as an alumnus. It might be the issue of starting a family, or advancing in one's career, but it's just plain difficult to figure out the transition to continue in the organization. First off, I encourage you to keep the passion of Tau Beta Sigma alive from your active life as an alumnus. I'd like to give you some ideas for keeping that passion

alive, and help you learn how to attend National Convention for decades to come.

First, it's ok to bring your family with you to convention! If it's just a non-sister/brother spouse/partner (that was fun to write), see if you have a friend in the same boat, so your partner has a buddy to play with while you're busy. Meet up for meals, afternoon relaxation time, and the evening, to catch up with your days. If it's your family, let them plan fun activities, and meet up accordingly. BONUS: Your family will better understand your involvement in the Sisterhood, as they will meet the strangers from across the country that you spend nights with on the phone.

Second, plan your summer vacation around convention! We are blessed to go to such awesome places. Orlando, Massachusetts, Phoenix, Texas, Colorado, and who knows where the next adventure will be. Use your phone apps to input your interests, where you're coming from to the destination, and BAM! Interests and fun things aplenty. For example, we'll be hitting up Reagan's birth home, and Lincoln's presidential museum on the way to Lexington next summer, to get my nerd on. Sorry not sorry. :-)



Leslie Gartin,
TBSSA Finance Chair

Lastly, remember that things are much more relaxed as an alumnus. You get FREE TIME at NatCon. Rather than hate change and feel like what you do doesn't matter, realize that you do have a voice, AND you get to relax. Attend the alumni meetings, go to one or two workshops that are alumni focused, and take that afternoon nap by the pool, because you can. Enjoy it, while hanging out with friends, and continuing to do great work for the organization. We have made an alumni track for you at NatCon, with a wonderful time.

As a role model to the actives, remember your attitude matters, and you get out what you put in. That being said, I hope to see as many of you as possible in Kentucky next summer!



Join us for
National Convention 2015
Lexington, Kentucky

July 28 – August 1, 2015
Hyatt Regency Hotel





Alumni Affiliates Will Help You Stay Connected by Justin Brady



Justin Brady
TBSAA Membership Chair

If you are looking to stay involved with TBS locally, tapping into your district's affiliate can be a great place to start. Whether you want to keep in touch with friends you made in your district during college or meet people in a new district you moved to

postgrad, the district affiliates offer a range of opportunities to do so.

Here are a few of the highlights of the activities District Affiliate's offered over the past year:

The **NEDAA** hosted a keynote speaker and two workshops on resume building and interview skills at the 2014 NED convention.

The **SWDAA** hosted Southwest District Day 2014 at a Texas Rangers game. The annual event provides a fun end-of-year celebration for the active members

of the Southwest District.

The **NCDAA** provided a fun photo booth at the NCD District Convention for actives to take photos in after the banquet.

The **SEDAA** successfully launched at SED Convention hosting a breakfast for graduating seniors and nightly alumni meet-ups.

The **WDAA** elected their first officers at the WD Convention and once business was done had a social outing to Disneyland.

To connect with your district, visit the TBSAA website for a list of contact information, website and Facebook links.

Chapter and regional alumni associations also offer a great way to connect alumni in your area or chapter. If you want to start a chapter or regional alumni association visit the TBSAA website and download the Affiliate Handbook for a checklist of how to get started.

<http://www.tbsalumni.org/membership/local-affiliates/>

The TBSAA would like to sincerely thank the members of our working committees for their contribution over the past year!

Special Projects

Bev Cohen
Kristen Collins
Shalyn Guthrey
Allison Leemann
Rene Mark
Melanie Meehan
Crystal Ramsey
Marcus Wyche

Communications

Rachel Bickford
Rachel Kerling
Katie Rixon
Jessica Crone Smith

Membership

Rebecca Brittenham
Catherine Brown
Theresa Graves
Alex Price
Zara Simpson

Finance

Jason Dornbush
Alicia Griesman
Marla Lewiski
Adrienne Olin Rall
Zack Rebarcheck

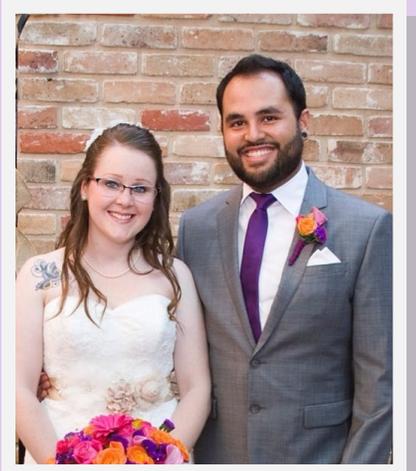
Service

Jasmine Johnson
Allison Leeman
Monika Monk
Kat Tribulski

District Affiliate Chairs

MWDAA - Nick Rorrer
NCDAA - Jenny Hirt
NEDAA - Sarah Fitzgerald
SEDAA - Chris Meserve
SWDAA - Katie Rixon
WDAA - Jake Thompson

SUMMER CONGRATULATIONS!



Katie Dukes (TBΣ-Theta Theta)
married Christopher Rlxon



Rachel Goldman (TBΣ-Epsilon Kappa)
married Greg Bickford (KKΨ-Gamma)



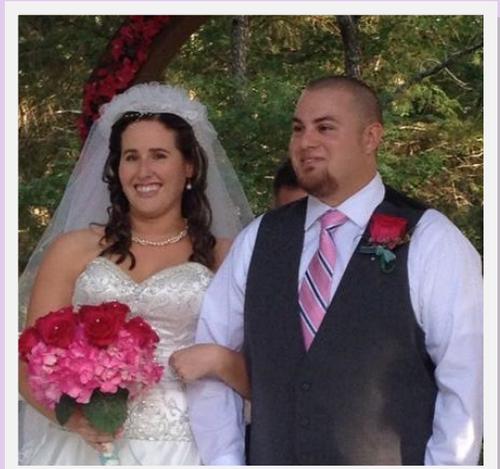
Bianca Boyd (TBΣ-Tau) married
Carlos Hamilton (KKΨ-Gamma Omega)



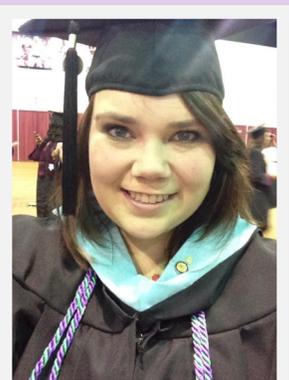
Jenny Bates (TBΣ-Iota) graduated
from George Washington University
with her MA in Exhibition Design



Leslie Twite (TBΣ-Zeta Nu)
married Justin Gartin



Jennie Malone (TBΣ-Alpha Omicron)
married Cody Brooks (ΦMA-Zeta Mu)



Donnelle' Mitchelle (TBΣ-Theta Theta)
graduated from Texas A&M University with
her M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction



Ready to Hit the Slopes?

TBSAA is planning for this year's alumni trip to be one of fun in the snow with our first ever TBSAA Ski Trip! In order for the planning to be a success we need to hear from you. Please take the ski trip survey at: <http://tbsaa-skitrip.wix.com/survey>. Keep in mind, you do not have to be a member of TBSAA or a Tau Beta Sigma alumnus to attend. If you have any input, questions or comments, email renemark@tbsigma.org.

It's Never too Late to Renew!

taubetasigma  alumniassociation

With the new membership year of June 1 to May 31, It's never too late to renew your membership and be eligible to attend the 2015 district conventions!

Visit www.tbsalumni.org/membership to download the membership form.

The Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association provides worthwhile programming, support for greater bands, networking opportunities and professional development to TBS alumni and associates while furthering the ideals of Tau Beta Sigma. The Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association cultivates relationships among music professionals, other professionals and the community while focusing on empowering women.

