

the western district's

# fall packet

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# Important Dates

2016-17

## States Days



**Utaho | January 27-29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Utah State University**

Hosted by Iota Iota and Theta Eta



**Calivada | February 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Cal Poly SLO**

Hosted by Iota Pi



**Arizona | February 17-19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Northern Arizona University**

Hosted by Gamma Kappa and Alpha Chi



**Wagon | February 24-26<sup>th</sup>**  
**University of Oregon**

Hosted by Mu Pi



## District Events



### **KKPsi - Submit Ideal Active Achievement Award Nominations!**

December 1<sup>st</sup> by 11:59 PM

<http://thewest.kkytbs.net/awards/kky-ideal-active-achievement-award/>



### **District Leadership Conference | January 13-15<sup>th</sup>** **UCLA**

Hosted by Psi and Epsilon Kappa



### **Western District Convention | March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Boise State University**

Hosted by Iota Kappa

# Tau Beta Sigma Awards

2016-17

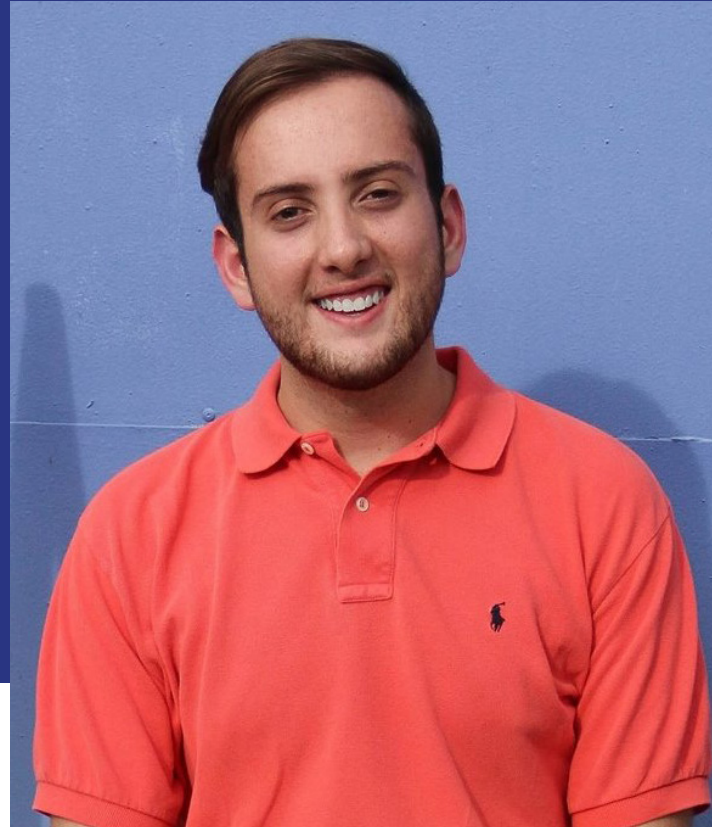
## *Distinguished Sister* **Nichole Chambers**

The recipient of the Distinguished Sister Award is Nichole Chambers from Theta Delta at Washington State University!

Nichole has been the president of Theta Delta for two years and always goes above and beyond to lead her chapter to success. She consistently encourages her chapter to participate in District events and activities and has proven herself to be incredibly dedicated. Nichole is also a leader in her band program as she is the Piccolo Section Leader and Band Council Treasurer. She is able to manage her time incredibly well and has proven that she always has her chapter's best interest in mind.

Congratulations, Nichole!





*Unsung Hero Award*  
**Kenia Brianeth De Lugo**

The two recipients of the Unsung Hero Award are Kenia Brianeth De Lugo from Zeta Xi at San Diego State University and Thomas Noth from Omega at The University of Arizona!

Kenia took on the large responsibility as head of the SD4 Committee after only being an active member of the chapter for a few months prior to the planning of the event. Her professionalism and dedication to making sure the event was a success was recognized by many. As a newer active, she was not afraid to take on a large role within the chapter and maintained emotional poise while planning the event, despite a few obstacles. She is constantly suggesting new ideas to her chapter and works diligently to recruit new members.

Congratulations, Kenia!

*Unsung Hero Award*  
**Thomas Noth**

Thomas has shown incredible dedication to his chapter and was selected as the committee chair of the Family Weekend Committee, which is one of the biggest chapter events of the year. Although he faced many obstacles, he was able to lead his committee to success in what became an incredibly well-run event. He remained professional at all times while communicating with the Director of Athletic Bands, chapter, and parents/families. Thomas is always trying to serve his chapter in whatever way he can and has demonstrated leadership on multiple accounts.

Congratulations, Thomas!

*Congratulations to all the Fall 2016  
Tau Beta Sigma award recipients!*

*MLITB, Jenni*



# Mitch Mikuchonis

western district president



## *“Hello Western District!”*

This summer has been one very crazy and also very educational experience. I was able to travel to events and places pertaining to the things I hold near and dear to my heart such as my first ever International Trumpet Guild Conference in Anaheim California, Harry Potter World in Universal Studios Hollywood, my first SD4, our first ever WD KKPsi District Officer Retreat in Lake Tahoe, and the National DLC in Stillwater, Oklahoma! Yes, I love Harry Potter! Being able to experience what I’ve seen in the movies is seriously so cool. Even though it was super hot outside and I don’t think it ever gets that hot in the movies, it seemed real!

When I attended the ITG Conference, I wasn’t sure what to expect. For all of the months leading to the event, I had this idea in my head that since it was going to be an

event with only trumpet players, everyone that attended the event was going to be super egotistical and cocky. I found out that my idea wasn’t necessarily true! It was amazing meeting people who were also devoted to the instrument that I love and it was cool to see them warm up like I do and play the same rep that I do. One of the biggest things that I had learned personally from this event was that self doubt only hinders success. Whenever I feel like I’m failing in my major or performance-wise, I just need to listen to music and remember why I want to be a teacher:

*“Music is a universal language and truly the greatest of the arts.”*

*-KKPsi Creed*

SD4 was so much fun and honestly

such a great relaxing opportunity to hang out with some of the many amazing Brothers and Sisters of the district. For those of you who haven’t had the chance to go, you should try to go in the future. This is an event that I believe is focused more on who we are as Brothers and Sisters and less about formal workshops on how to be something better. I as a person learned so much from the people in attendance without actually sitting down and taking notes. This entire event was fun and some things that we did included laser tag, eating, watching Disney movies, shopping, going to a lake, and then the beach day! The beach day was great and I’ll never forget “Striving for the deepest” with Nick Chik as we dug a HUGE hole on the beach starting right at 4am. I’ll also never forget being buried in that same hole later that day!

Our council retreat in Lake Tahoe was one of the most fun things I have ever experienced! We definitely got to know one another and learn how each one of us work and think. We became so comfortable with each other so quick that I felt like I've lived with these amazing people all of my life. That week in Tahoe seems like it was yesterday and I think it's because the work that we did together was so meaningful and purposeful, that we think about it every day when we answer our emails or even when we're planning our events. Not only did we plan one year goals for KKPsi in the West but we also planned goals for the upcoming five years! Even though

we don't know what the future holds for our district we believe that setting those long term goals will foster a better sense of foundation and growth each year. I'm happy with how successful this event turned out and I'm excited for the next council to experience what I'm talking about!

National DLC... This event was so eye opening and allowed me to get to know our National Leadership face to face. Whenever I think back to this event, I get butterflies in my stomach. I cannot explain how nervous I was and for the whole duration of my travels to Stillwater I was thinking, "This is something you've always wanted to do. Almost all of the people you have looked up to since your start in this organization will be there. You need to be outgoing but... don't be weird and don't fangirl." I was able to learn so much about Kappa Kappa Psi from the other District Presidents and it's good to know that I have their opinions and ideas as the year progresses. This event is also something that I think about on a daily basis and as I meet with Chapter Presidents it's awesome

to able to give them a list of what our National Leadership is up to.

This past month I have been meeting with Chapter Presidents to hear what each chapter's council has been up to and also give them a brief report on what we as a council have been up to. I'm glad to say that out of all of the Chapter Presidents I have spoken with so far, all of them seem to have a good vision for where they want to take their chapter and some of the ideas that they have are truly amazing. As for event planning, our joint council has been meeting frequently to plan DLC for this year and we're hoping for it to be somewhat of a refreshing change this year. I have constant communication with my amazing TBS counterpart, Sydney, to discuss new ideas for each of our district events, in hopes to provide new and purposeful experiences for our membership.



Generally, I think that Sydney and I would like to do everything that we can to make sure our chapters have everything they need to be successful, whether that be a brief phone call to explain something or programming an event to give our members something amazing to take back to their chapters and personal lives. We want to be resources for our district, so please, even if you are not a chapter officer, message us or meet with us!

AEA & MLITB!

Mitch "Mr. Kent" Mikuchonis  
 Western District President 2016-2017  
 Kappa Kappa Psi | Iota Kappa  
 Chapter  
 Boise State University  
 wdpres@kkpsi.org

# Sydney Dychiao

western district president



## *“Hello Brothers and Sisters of the West!”*

As most of you know, I am a recent graduate of UCLA and received my B.S. in Psychobiology. Before becoming the TBSigma Western District President, I was a Sister of the Epsilon Kappa Chapter. Now, instead of boring you with more mundane facts, I’ve decided to share with you some details about what I’ve been up to in my personal life and as a District Officer. And to jazz things up...can you guess which Disney movie each quote came from? If you haven’t already figured it out, I love anything Disney.

### *“To infinity and beyond.”*

Since graduating, I’ve been fortunate enough to go on many adventures. This summer I traversed the U.S. (and beyond) and got to experience some pretty amazing sites. As a home-body, a road trip

was incredibly eye-opening! A week in Canada was exhilarating! And a stay in San Diego was more than perfect.

### *“The only thing predictable about life is its unpredictability.”*

You would expect that I would be done with school, but I’ve returned to my local community college with the intent to transfer to Nursing school within the next year. Who knows where I will be in a year, but I’m happy that I get to spend this one surrounded by my Brothers and Sisters.

### *“Don’t just fly, soar.”*

At this year’s National DLC in Stillwater, OK, your TBS Council met up with councils across the U.S. to

learn strategies to make ourselves better leaders for the West. Specialized workshops intertwined with de-stressing activities like bowling and swimming, allowed us to soar to new heights in our endeavors to change how we do things individually and as a council.

### *“In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.”*

What exactly have I been up to as District President? Right now, I am busy challenging Sisters, not only to know the 5 & 8, but to live it. To experience it in their daily lives and to share it on our “Marching Through Life: 8 to 5” Facebook page. In addition, I am hosting President Round Tables, meeting with chapter presidents individually, meeting with Mitch (my absolutely incredible



partner in crime) on a regular basis, and, with the Joint Council, eagerly planning DLC 2017. We have been getting together to change the face of DLC and make it better for the District. We cannot wait for everyone to see what we have in store. And, though it's only in the beginning stages, Mitch and I are behind the scenes making plans for both State Days and WDC 2017. It's shaping up to be one heck of a year!

*“Venture outside of your comfort zone. The rewards are worth it.”*

Since beginning my responsibilities as a District Officer, I've had to change the way I approach situations and do exactly that—venture outside my comfort zone. My main goals for the year include:

Effective communication at



Summer 2016: Sydney with vice presidents Natalie and Jenni at the Wava Banes memorial.

multiple levels (e.g. chapter level, district level, national level) and between multiple individuals

Inciting active participation in Sisters at both the chapter and District level

It has been a slow process, but I know that with what is coming up in the future that it can be accomplished.

*“Life’s not a spectator sport. If watch is all you’re gonna do, then you’re gonna watch your life go by without ya.”*

This isn't really related to what I've been doing, but what I hope to see from the District. Come out and be a part of a great bond of Brothers and Sisters! The Joint Council is excited for this upcoming year, and we want more than anything for everyone to

experience it with us.

Last of all, shout out to the best council a person could ever ask for! You guys make every moment of every meeting more than worth it. Thanks for inspiring me to keep going every day!

I hope that this gives you a little more insight into what I am currently working on and hoping to achieve. If you would like to contact me, I would be more than happy to answer any questions, comments, or concerns that you may have. Plus, I would like nothing more than to get to know you, the Brothers and Sisters that keep our District running. Remember that we are the best in the West!

MLITB,

Sydney Dychiao  
 Western District President, 2016-2017  
 Tau Beta Sigma, Epsilon Kappa  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 wdpres@tbsigma.org

# Natalie Kimura

vice president of membership



## *“Hey Westside!”*

**M**y name is Natalie Kimura. I am from the Omicron Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah (Go Utes :) I was an active member for five years with my Sisters and now as a faithful alumnus. I was a Film Major with a Music Minor.

I am also your Western District Vice President of Membership. For this year, I've been planning on a better strategy for this position. At the end of last year, it seems not too many candidates want to run for this position so I've been planning simple goals, get advice for what the potential can be for it, and discover the true importance for future district officers.

Lucky enough, I have an amazing counterpart who knows her stuff and not afraid to try new ideas. With Alyssa, there are three main ideas I've worked on this entire summer

(sometimes separately and jointly):

- **Establish Better Resources for Membership & Post Membership**
- **Create Better, Specific Ideas/Duties for the VP/VPM for future District Officers**
- **Do stuff**

This list occurred at the beginning of the summer. From these goals, Alyssa and I came up with a cute summer project: District Wide Big/Little Week. The amount of participating for this little program was adorable and admirable because Bigs and Littles are such important relationships for membership. The fact that there was any evidence of participating shows there can be new ways to celebrate the bond and be another way of expression, besides rewriting Membership Education Programs.

I also want to make possible

programs that support the main duties of the VPM. A big feature for these main duties include a Membership Education Program Database. This has been started and will become a resource public to members who are not just Vice Presidents. For the sake of editing these documents, they've been kept in a Google Drive as a resource for them currently. I also planned two Google Hangouts talking about MEPs, Recruitment, Big/Little Relationships, etc as another resource for the Database. Along with this, I want more comprehensive categories by the end of the District Year for chapters. I want a long-term goal to make a cohesive Database for Recruitment, Membership, and Post-Membership to be worked on.

I released a TBS Specific Guide on How to Run for District Office. This document included topics and steps

*“By working on this document, I understand a better, more thorough meaning of how each position on the district council can be used and be a platform for any member wanting to run and help with the process.”*

that occur in the running process so future members can see running for district office can be a real thing. (Some topics include what candidates do at Western District Convention, examples of cover letters, resumes, time limits for asking for letters of

recommendations.) By working on this document, I understand a better, more thorough meaning of how each position on the district council can be used and be a platform for any member wanting to run and help with the process. I know I want to focus on

a better guide for potential candidates to run for district office and perhaps include this process at a joint workshop for DLC or State Days to streamline the process.

I hope this gives a better understanding of what I've been working on and what's to come. If there's any questions, comments, or concerns, please let me know! My email is [wdvpm@tbsigma.org](mailto:wdvpm@tbsigma.org).

Mlitb,

Natalie "Sriracha" Kimura  
Western District Vice President of  
Membership  
Tau Beta Sigma, Omicron  
University of Utah, Salt Lake City

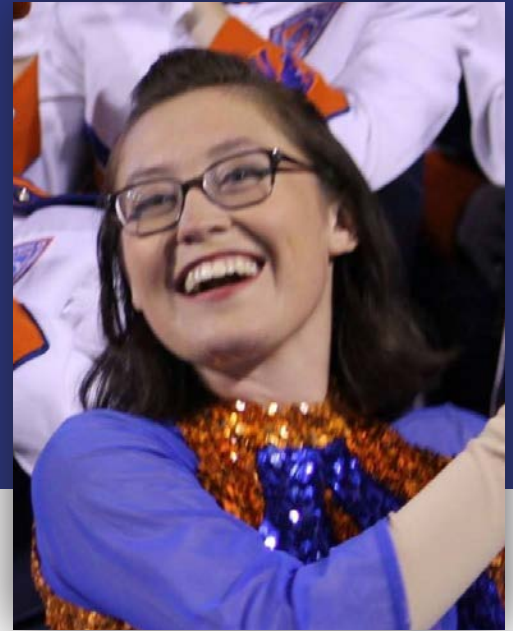


Spring 2016: KKPsi chapters Iota, Theta Eta, and TBS chapter Omicron take their second annual Omicrothetaiota picture on the steps of David Gardner Hall at the University of Utah.



# Alyssa Maher

vice president of kappa kappa psi



## *“Hi friends!”*

I'm Alyssa Maher and I'm your Western District Vice President for the 2016-2017 year. I absolutely loved serving as the VPM for Iota Kappa this past year. Throughout the year I had gotten so many new ideas and was just so excited to tell the new Vice President that was elected at

WDC... and then after I found out that nobody ran, I decided why not submit a packet and implement them all myself? Thank you all for supporting me so far in this position, and I can't wait to show you all what I have planned for the membership and Vice Presidents of this district!

So I'm just gonna blurb a little bit about myself with some quick-fire facts so you can get to know me a bit better:

- In the Myers-Briggs Test I'm an ENFJ
- I was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada (so I'm used to heat)
- I went to UNLV for a year but quickly realized it wasn't for me (I felt like I could do more and be more being away from home) and so my high school band director, a man who grew up in Boise, recommended that I transfer to BSU
- I played clarinet for all of middle school and high school (and did winter guard for 3 years in high school) but in college decided 'I should try marching flags!'
- Next year is my age-out year for DCI and I'm hoping to march! If you have DCI experience, or just want







**Name:** Alyssa Maher  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering (Minor in Biomechanics)  
**Year:** Senior (I spent my Freshman year at UNLV, and spent the last 2 at BSU!)  
**Instrument:** Color Guard! (Although I marched clarinet in high school)  
**Chapter:** Iota Kappa



to recommend corps/shows...  
 totally talk to me!

- Corgis are a gift to this earth. Well, all dogs are, but especially fluffybutts.
- Robert's Rules and ParliPro are lowkey really cool, and I'm kinda obsessed.
- The next Orange is the New Black season can't come out any sooner </3
- I can solve a Rubix cube in under a minute, but I'm not a wizard who can do it in less than 30 seconds.
- This past year I served as VPM for Iota Kappa and loved it. Working with people and helping them grow as people and leaders is something that means a lot to me, so I was incredibly excited to be able to serve in that role
- I have been a staff member for the Las Vegas Student Leadership Clinic (LVSLC) for the past 3 years;

LVSLC is a weeklong leadership 'band camp' in the middle of July for high school kids from schools all around Vegas/Henderson.

\* This camp is home to me. I absolutely love serving my community and helping the kids grow as individuals, leaders, and musicians. I think a lot of why I ran for chapter VPM was because it was an opportunity to give back to this organization by helping new members find themselves in school, music, leadership, as Brothers/Sisters, and life.

Y'all really don't know how excited I am for this year, and I'm so happy to share it all with you. After traveling to National Convention in 2015, I can truly say that the best are in the west

and the bond and spirit we all share with one another is unmatched.

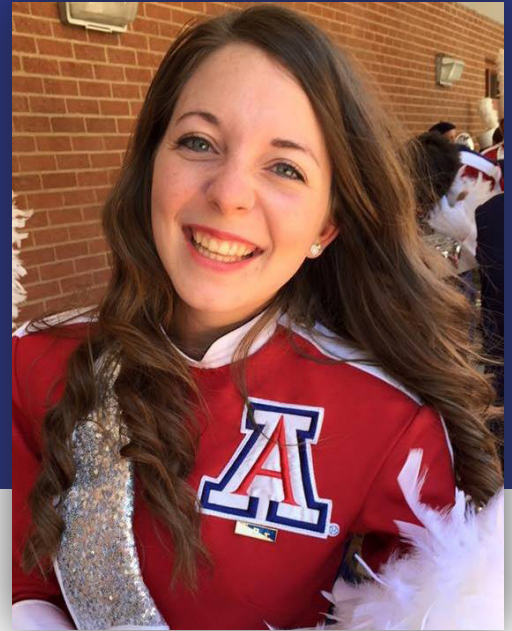
Anyway, thanks for reading through my page and always feel free to always send me a message. I love talking with new Brothers and Sisters, and I would love to better serve you all in any way possible.

With love and swag,

Alyssa Maher  
 Western District Vice President  
 Iota Kappa Chapter I Kappa Kappa Psi  
 Boise State University, Boise  
 wdvp@kkpsi.org  
 "Go Broncos!"

# Jenni Thornton

vice president of special projects



*“Hello!”*

**M**y name is Jenni Thornton and I am so honored to be your 2016-2017 Western District VPSP. I am currently a fifth year senior at the University of Arizona in my hometown of Tucson, AZ. I am studying Elementary Education with a minor in Music. I spend most of my days in an elementary school working with fourth graders in a general education class and second graders in a music class, as I prepare to write my Honors Thesis on Music Integration in the Elementary Classroom. When I'm not teaching, I am either at band practice, working with a high school marching band, or tutoring students in writing and math at the U of A's campus tutoring center.

As your VPSP, my main goal is to have open communication with the officers I oversee (Service Officers, Historians, Alumni Officers, and Parliamentarians) as well as the

Western District as a whole. I am completely confident in our District's ability to serve our band programs and the community around us and really want to provide opportunities for our District to far exceed its potential. In doing so, it is my goal to provide the District with as many resources as possible to ensure success locally within our individual

chapters, as well as globally on a District and National level.

To work towards accomplishing the aforementioned goals, I have created three District Databases (Service, Crescendo, and Fundraising) that will be created using submissions from our District to provide every chapter with resource guides. These completed guides will be able to help chapters meet the ideals of Tau Beta Sigma when developing service projects, Crescendo projects, and fundraisers. I have also been planning monthly newsletters to send to the officers I oversee to provide them with helpful tips/ideas to think about when serving as a chapter officer. As we concluded the 2015-2016 Focus on Five Campaign and are kicking off the 2016-2017 Focus on Five campaign, I have been working on ensuring that every chapter appoints a liaison and receives the Black Stripe







by the first deadline. I truly believe that we can have 100% completion for the Focus on Five Campaign this year and am looking forward to seeing all of the amazing projects and programs the Western District will create and participate in this year!

I have also been working with my wonderful counterpart, Jake Rocco, to create a District-wide service project that will allow all of the Western District to work together as a whole to do what we love the most: serve the bands! I am so excited for this year and know it is going to be an incredibly memorable one!

I hope to see/meet many of you soon! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you have!

MLITB,  
Jenni Thornton  
WD VPSP  
wdvsp@tbsigma.org



Spring 2016: KKPsi chapters Iota, Theta Eta, and TBS chapter Omicron take their second annual Omicrothetaiota picture on the steps of David Gardner Hall at the University of Utah.

# Jake Rocco

western district member-at-large



*“Hey hey hey!”*

**M**y name is Jacob Rocco, and I am very excited to be your 2016-2017 Member-at-Large! I am in 4th year at San Jose State University as a Music Education major, and I have loved every day of it. The only thing that I love more than being involved in music every day is being apart of Kappa Kappa Psi. The family aspect of my chapter and of the district as a whole has been one of the strongest things in my life, and I am eternally grateful for it.

My biggest goal as the MAL is increase the communication between my corresponding officers so that we can continue to help each other whenever we need it. Every chapter has its own unique style and ideas, and being able to share those ideas with each other can increase the amount of service that we can give to our bands. Each officer also has their own experiences and trials that they

have gone through, and can pass on these experiences to us all and assist us through any problems that we are facing in our chapters. My other big goal is to continue #PickMeUpTuesday and create an



*#PickMeUpTuesday*

open trust between the District Officers and the Actives of The West. I definitely have a lot of moments where I need to share what is going on in my life and need the support of my Brothers and Sisters, and I want #PickMeUpTuesday to be an opportunity for everyone to do just that: Open up and receive support from this amazing bond that we all share.

My goal as a District Officer is to get a chance to meet as many of you as possible. My favorite part of Kappa Kappa Psi has been creating life-long bonds, and I am so excited to do that with you all. Feel free to come up and start a conversation with me whenever you see me! Talk to me about your Family Line. Show



**Name:** Jacob "MENELAUS" Rocco  
**Chapter:** Lambda Psi  
**School:** San Jose State University  
**Major:** Music Education (Euphonium Emphasis)



me your favorite pictures of you and your Chapter members. Explain what your nickname means. Tell me about your happiest moment in KKPsi or TBS. Your saddest moment. I want to do so much for you all, but most of all, I want to be your Brother.

If you have any questions for me, or just need someone to talk to, please contact me!

AEA & MLitB,  
Jacob "MENELAUS" Rocco  
WD MAL  
Email: [wdmal@kkpsi.org](mailto:wdmal@kkpsi.org)

# Kaitlyn Leung

western district secretary-treasurer



## *“Hello Westside!”*

**M**y name is Kaitlyn Leung and I am proud to be your Secretary-Treasurer! I am from Northern Arizona University’s recently revived Alpha Chi chapter. We are over the moon to be back in action and grateful for the chance! I am a senior Music Education major approaching my student teaching semester next year. If I’m not obsessing over homework and the West, my favorite activity to unwind with is to knit or crochet while watching Netflix.

My overall goal as Secretary-Treasurer is to increase transparency and communication between the district and chapters. Often what gets lost is that the district cannot quite respond exactly to the chapters’ needs. To get started, I have implemented a district-wide survey on fundraiser ideas, products you would or would not like to see in the

future, and any suggestions you may have. I have also been emailing chapter secretaries and treasurers on what the district council has been up to and will soon include other items I have planned for the future. Recently, you may have seen the National Pen Pals form so if it is something you would like to be a part of, please fill it out as soon as you can.

In the future, I plan to enable chapters to easily connect to others about any fundraisers or events they may hold. I hope to connect chapters

together in a video call as a fun way to get to know each other. In addition, I intend to help make traveling for conferences or state days an easier transaction. Although the West is too big to micromanage with a bus system this year, I want to enact a travel plan step-by-step template on what means to go through and help achieve a more financially easy trip. As DLC comes closer, I will bring forward a facebook travel group to help facilitate. Any successes or tweaks will help with WDC and NatCon travel.

*“My overall goal as Secretary-Treasurer is to increase transparency and communication between the district and chapters.”*





Finally, I've been working with my counterpart Si Si to enact joint fundraisers, such as standard district-wide letters. Our to-do list is a mile long and we are working hard to implement our ideas effectively!

I hope this gives you a better idea of what I have going on in the works. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me!

Mlitb,

Kaitlyn Leung  
Tau Beta Sigma Western District  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Alpha Chi, Northern Arizona  
University  
wdsec\_trea@tbsigma.org



*Spring 2016: The Alpha Chi Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma!*

# Shi Ya Ni

western district secretary-treasurer



## *“Greetings Western District!”*

I can't believe that some of you guys are weeks into your semesters already when I don't start school until the last week of September. The University of Washington operates on a quarter system, and for the most part I enjoy the pace of it. I really only dread choosing a quarter system school when I remember about the midterms I have. However, I won't have to think about midterms for too much longer since I am entering my senior year majoring in Medical Anthropology & Global Health. Yes, attending a large university in a different state could be stressful, but with the support I have from Gamma, nothing seems impossible. With a little bit of coffee and a few great friends, I prepare myself for my final year as an Active aiming to Strive for the Highest in Gamma and on the district council.

Being on the district council

widened my perspective of my role as an officer, an Active, and above all, a Brother. When the KKPsi council traveled to Lake Tahoe for our retreat, I didn't know what to expect. Yes, I knew what our plans were for retreat, but the process took me completely by surprise.

I was surprised at how well we bonded. As a fellow introvert, the idea of being around five other people for a week terrified me. How could I ever survive this? It turns out that the worst part of retreat was saying goodbye to everyone when the week was over. Somehow, the week flew by, and I enjoyed every second of it, even during the times when I resorted to taking selfies when the other DO's were playing Pokemon Go. I wouldn't trade my time spent with the KKPsi council over the summer for anything else in the world. Together, we challenged each

other, learned from each other, and most importantly, we created our vision of how to serve all of you, the Western District. The retreat created invaluable memories for me, but that's only because all of us worked our butts off. There were times when I felt like my brain had turned into oatmeal, and I wasn't the only one. Of course I've asked myself what it means to be a sectreas, but I didn't find my answer until retreat.

My summer has been one roller coaster of a ride. Looking back a little a little further, going to my first SD4 seems like a dream. I was mesmerized by the beauty of San Diego, but I was even more awestruck by the connection that Brothers and Sisters so easily established. For whatever reason, I believed that spending 20+ hours on a beach with people I didn't even know would be fun. I was right! Sure, I got a bit sunburned, and I



might have a permanent dislike of sand, but the interaction with other chapters was so worth it. There was a moment that I recall thinking, "Oh wow, I really don't know the district as well as I thought I did." Over the course of those few days, I felt more connected to the district than ever before. It didn't matter that some of us were complete strangers to one another prior to SD4. At the end of the day, we knew we were Brothers and Sisters, and we wanted to spend time with each other, and that was all that mattered. The few days I spent in San Diego gave me a chance to unwind and embrace being a part of the bond.

After SD4 ended, and I finally got rid of all the sand that traveled back to Seattle with me, I realized that I was still bothered by something. What could I do for those who simply can't travel to district events? Not only are people limited financially, but there could just as easily be a time conflict as well. Why aren't we effectively utilizing and embracing virtual communication? Don't get me wrong, I support in-person events 100%, but even though they are effective in building bonds, they're not always cost efficient. That is why one of my personal goals this year is work towards opening fundraisers to include corporate donations to allow for more travel funds to be available. Sure, this could potentially lift the financial barrier, but something has to be done about bridging the gap among chapters when there aren't district events. In the meantime, I would like to facilitate interchapter relations using discussions of fundraising methods as a vector. These discussions are open to all Actives. Not only would we tailor fundraisers specific to each chapter



for WDC funds, but we would plan for Natcon as well. In about 10 months time, some of us will be traveling to Orlando, FL for National Convention 2017, and there's no doubt that it will cost a lot if you don't budget carefully. Having attended Natcon 2015 in Lexington, KY, I knew as soon as the last session concluded that no matter what, I would go to the next Natcon. There are no words to encompass my eye-opening experience that summer in Lexington.

I would really like to reach my goals, but they are only possible if we work together. I wholeheartedly understand how difficult it is for some people to reach out to others. That's completely ok. It's ok to be afraid to try new things, but you should try them anyways. If I learned anything this summer is that trying something different isn't always the easiest, but taking that leap of faith might be the

best decision I ever make.

I hope that this gives you guys some insight as to what I have been up to this summer. As a reminder, I'm always available if you have any questions. I'm always open to talk about anything and everything.

Mlitb,  
Si Si Ni  
Western District Secretary-Treasurer  
Kappa Kappa Psi | Gamma Chapter  
University of Washington  
wdsec\_trea@kkpsi.org

# Andrew Juarez

western district webmaster

```
let name: String = "Andrew Juarez", nickname = "Marty McFly"
let chapter = "Zeta Xi"
let sisterhood: [Character] = ["M", "L", "I", "T", "B"]
var emoji = "🌹"
```

```
print("And now, your Western District Webmaster: \(name)!")
print(emoji, terminator:"")
for letter in sisterhood {
  print(letter, terminator:"")
}
```

```
/* Outputs
And now, your Western District Webmaster: Andrew Juarez!
🌹 MLITB
*/
```

## *“Hello Brothers and Sisters,”*

My name is Andrew and I am your Western District Webmaster! A bit about myself, I am from San Diego’s sunny Zeta Xi chapter. I am currently working towards a degree in computer science at San Diego State University. My main instruments are trumpet and sousaphone and I do play ukulele for fun on the side.

My current position as webmaster is one I plan to bring a lot of energy and passion into. I see the importance in having a website as a source of information, updates, and stories for new and old to benefit from. For that reason, I plan to make myself available for updates in information and am open to requests worth improving the website. With



attention to detail and experience in creating websites, I plan on making our site look great. Be on the lookout for some big things to come.

In the list of the events I’ve had to attend, there is National Convention (where I realized that sleep is a thought, not an actuality), Western District Convention (where we got to pie some awesome DO’s), and the many SD4’s of San Diego (which besides the amount of beach sand we’ll track around and California burritos we all consume, nothing brings us closer than singing after a fireworks show matched with some rocking beach burns).

Outside of working on the website, I keep very busy but do enjoy keeping up with several TV shows such as Doctor Who, Halt and Catch Fire, and Game of Thrones. I also enjoy surfing and taking care of my dog Artemis. She is a retired racing





greyhound and enjoys her life in retirement sleeping just about an entire day with the occasional run around a field.

Overall, I'm excited for my year as a district officer and I can't wait to hear from many of you. It's going to be a great year.

MLITB

Andrew "Marty McFly" Juarez  
Tau Beta Sigma-Zeta Xi Chapter  
Western District Webmaster  
wdweb@kkpsi.org





# Holly Chan

western district publisher



## *“Hello Western District!”*

I am your District Publisher for this year, and I couldn't have had a better introduction into this role than attending the fabled SD4 this past summer! During that weekend, I got to know and even befriend so many Brothers and Sisters that I had only ever seen in passing when my chapter hosted the Western District Convention. I was pulled headfirst into the world of nearly religious Snapchat-ting, through waves in the ocean, and into a pit dug in the sand for the express purpose of listening and singing along to the entirety of Hamilton. It's amazing how just over a weekend, I could jump into a car full of basically strangers, spend a whole weekend with only a handful of people I had even directly talked to before, and come out on the other end with beautiful memories and friends.

When I'm not wearing my Publisher

Hat, I am still very much involved in similar work not just as the Publications Committee Chair in my chapter, Gamma at the University of Washington, but also as an Interaction Design Major with a double Minor in Urban Design and Planning and Urban Ecological Design. Instrumentally, I play the trumpet and French Horn in the Concert Band on campus. I suppose if there's anything you need to remember about me, it's that I have two peculiar fascinations: death-care and cats. When in doubt, send me a



cat photo, and I will not question our newfound friendship at all.

This past year I was so proud to see the Publications Committee become a standing committee in my chapter, and in its nascent stage there is so much opportunity for it to grow and shape itself to the needs of the organization. So far, the Publications Committee is composed of Brothers who are also members of other committees, acting as liaisons in a way. We distribute responsibilities for gathering or generating content such as photos and interviews for three main publications: The Sundodger, which is a newsletter for the Husky Marching Band; The Music Note, which is a newsletter for the campus bands; and The Common Times, which is a newsletter for the alumni of our chapter. It's been a little hectic figuring out the most efficient way to



get these publications out on time, but we know that it's all worth it for the sake of current and future Historians, Corresponding Secretaries, and Brothers all around. These publications help to curate a

narrative about what we did as a chapter, and my goal as District Publisher is to encourage other chapters to do the same—whether they have an official publications committee or not. We tell stories

constantly through mediums such as Snapchat or even word-of-mouth, and we write more than we acknowledge through Facebook posts, Twitter, and beyond. When these Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma-related stories are published together, they can more easily reach an audience beyond the one you have at that point in time!



MLITB,  
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