

Beta Zeta celebrates 50 years

The collegiate members of **Beta Zeta**, with support from *Baton Rouge Alumni*, hosted Beta Zeta's golden anniversary reunion in late April. Current Beta Zetas and past initiates came together to celebrate the chapter's chartering on April 23, 1966, in Debose Hall on the campus of Southern University and A&M in Baton Rouge. Attendees kicked off the reunion on Thursday, April 21, by supporting the collegiate members in performance class and senior recitals.

Charter member **Dr. Rebecca Cureau** attended Friday night's Golden Anniversary Soiree, where members honored Dr. Cureau's and other charter members' legacy. Members and guests enjoyed an evening of music, tributes, musical performances, and dinner. The reunion celebration concluded on Saturday with a fun-filled barbecue as well as Music, Friendship, and Harmony.



From left, *Beta Pi* members who presented the donation were Brian Wagnitz (vice president), Rylee Epp (secretary), Joanna Mackley (president), Rachael Kirschenmann, and Melanie Chohon.

Beta Pi donates Orff instruments

By Joanna Mackley, *Beta Pi*

Beta Pi at Nebraska Wesleyan University has been fundraising for several years to make an Orff instrument donation. The project finally came to fruition in February 2016 when the chapter donated two glockenspiels, soprano and alto, to a local elementary school's music classroom. Chapter members had conversed with the teacher to determine what kind of Orff instrument would be most beneficial, and after considering various instruments' requirements and prices, the chapter decided to purchase the two glockenspiels. The classroom was already equipped with xylophones and glockenspiels, but the two new ones were significant because now every student would have one to play.



On donation day, Beta Pi members arrived to the shining faces of third graders sitting on brightly colored stickers that marked their spots on the classroom floor. After members presented the instruments, students took turns playing melodies and discovering the sounds. At the end of the class, the students proudly played a song they had been working on. The Beta Pis were thrilled to discover firsthand just how their donation had already had an impact on the children's lives, one that would continue into the future.

APPLAUSE & ENCORE

news from members and chapters

APPLAUSE

Deborah Rebeck Ash (*Gamma Omicron, Ann Arbor Alumni*) was recently wearing these socks when she was approached by a retiring music teacher looking to donate her music library to a worthy cause. Debbie promptly invited her to give it to her chapter's annual music sale that benefits its scholarship program. Debbie says, "Never underestimate the importance of our appearance!"



Oboist **Susan Bissiri** (*Lambda, Ann Arbor Alumni, District Director GL1*) was principal and soloist with the 2016 National Association of Concert Bands convention band in May.

Jordan James (*Epsilon Psi, Allied*) is working as a composer and arranger for the new NBC variety show "Maya and Marty."

Pianist **Gail Jennings** (*Gamma, Ann Arbor Alumni*) recently performed an all-Mendelssohn recital with her violinist husband Andrew, to celebrate nearly 50 years of playing as a duo.

Double bassist **Josh Montellano** and clarinetist **Josh Barker**, aka "Big Josh and Little Josh" (below), performed in the *Mu Theta* spring recital.



ENCORE

Detroit Alumni celebrated its 100th anniversary at a May luncheon, also attended by members of the *Toledo* and *Ann Arbor* alumni chapters. The program included a talk by Detroit chapter president **Donna Chrzanowski** (*Phi Kappa*) about the chapter's history and a performance in several languages by vocalist **Kathy Ball** (*Omega Omega, Ann Arbor Alumni*) with pianist **Andy Meagher** (*Gamma, Ann Arbor Alumni*).



Top: Andy Meagher, Kathy Ball, and Marion Alan (*Phi Kappa, Detroit Alumni*). Above: District Director Sue Bissiri (left) and Donna Chrzanowski admire the *Detroit Alumni* anniversary display.

Rochester Alumni honored Eastman School of Music guitar professor Nicholas Goluses in early March as its Musician of the Year. A celebratory concert, the chapter's annual gift to the community, took place in Kilbourn Hall at the Eastman School of Music and featured Professor Goluses, colleagues, and his guitar students. The chapter provided an elegant reception after the concert. In photo above, from left: **Sally Turner** (*Rochester Alumni* co-president), Nicholas Goluses, and Eastman School professor of flute Bonita Boyd.



FINAL NOTES

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Lucile Beasley

Mu Eta, June 6, 1948
Died October 5, 2015
Organist, pianist. Lucile was a church musician, concert organist, and professional accompanist. She taught organ and piano at Westmont College for 29 years. She was a longtime member of the American Guild of Organists and served as dean of the Santa Barbara chapter.

Alice Boch

Beta Iota, June 8, 1968

Leonard C. Bowie

Delta Eta, April 24, 1988
Died August 13, 2014
Trumpeter, music educator. Leonard was retired as associate professor of music at the University of Florida, where he was founding director of bands and instrumental music, classical trumpet teacher, department chairman, and founding director of African American Music.



Evelyn P. Shipps Boyd

Mu Phi, January 28, 1957
Cleveland Alumni
Died December 12, 2015
Music educator. Evelyn taught elementary school music and later was dean of the Music and Fine Arts Department at Cuyahoga Community College. She received a Distinguished Alumni award from Baldwin-Wallace College and a Senior Volunteer Award from the State of Ohio.



Petra Onella Lee Brunner

Epsilon Sigma, October 30, 1953
Died June 7, 2015
Pianist, organist, cellist. Petra was a

cellist in the Columbus (GA) Symphony Orchestra during WWII, and later was an accompanist, performer, and church organist in the Pacific Northwest. She also had a distinguished career in services for the developmentally disabled. She was honored as an Outstanding Alumna of Pacific Lutheran University in 1984 and served on the university's Board of Regents 1987-1990.



Frances Jo Freeman Crawford

Epsilon Xi, May 13, 1969
Urbana-Champaign Alumni
Died February 19, 2016
Music educator, vocalist. Frances was professor *emerita* at the University of Illinois School of Music and also taught at Berea College. An active performer in opera, recitals, and oratorio, she received many honors and awards.

Peggy Lentz DeForest

Phi Pi, May 29, 1946
Wichita Alumni
Died March 30, 2016
Vocalist, church musician. Peggy's career was in university administration and she sang with her church choir.

Marjorie Gordon

Epsilon Upsilon, October 27, 1958
Detroit Alumni, ACME
Died December 8, 2015
Vocalist, educator, producer. Marjorie made her debut as a lyric coloratura soprano with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and went on to an international performing career. She taught at several universities and founded the Detroit Opera Association, Piccolo Opera Company, and Adventures in Music for the Detroit public school system.

Barbara Rankin Kirschner

Tau, February 20, 1938
Died January 24, 2015
Pianist. An accomplished musician, Barbara was also active in her husband's ski manufacturing business and a member of P.E.O.

Mary Ernestine "Ernee" Peebles

Mu Pi, November 12, 1939
Died September 22, 2015
Vocalist, keyboard artist, church musician. Ernee taught private piano, organ and voice for over 70 years and conducted and played organ for her church choir.

Irma M. McCormac Rahtjen

Phi Theta, April 5, 1948
Kansas City Alumni
Died May 30, 2016
Flutist, psychologist. Irma was a psychologist in private practice and played flute with many area music ensembles.



Betty Jane Ellis Ritter

Phi Xi, March 19, 1943
Died January 14, 2016
Educator. Betty was an elementary school librarian and pre-kindergarten teacher for the Fort Worth public schools.

Ruth C. Gibson Thomas

Xi, March 19, 1940
Died July 29, 2015
Keyboard artist, music educator, church musician. Ruth taught piano, organ, voice, and music theory at Tusculum University. She organized the Greater Greenville Chorale and Madrigal Singers and directed her church choir for over 30 years. Her honors include the 2010 Tennessee Music Teachers Association's Distinguished Service Award.

A full tribute to our late Past International President Frances Irwin will appear in the fall *Triangle*.



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