

Tau Beta Sigma Past President Interview

1997 History and Traditions Committee
Scottsdale, Arizona

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Sigma Chapter
National President
1977-1979

(Transcribed from video taped interview)

I went to school at Arizona State University from 1967 - 1972, and I took an extra year to student teach. That was the only thing that I had to do so I felt I would finish all my other classes and concentrate on my student teaching.

What inspired me to be in music?: *I started playing the piano at 8 years old and the organ at age 13. I became the organist at my church at age 13 and it just started going from there. I did play in the band, the flute, in 6th grade, whatever age that is now.*

What is your educational background?: *I went to Arizona State and got my Bachelor's of Arts in Education, in Physical Education and Music Education. My Master's Degree up at Northern Arizona University in 1976 with a Master's in Music Education, secondary education also.*

What was my favorite memory as a member?: *Well there were so many. There is just so many. I guess being initiated for the first time. My first memory of that was just so overwhelming. We had a little chapel on the campus and we had our First Degree there, it was a wonderful setting to have and we were a pretty good size group or class and it was very exciting.*

When you mention your favorite memory is that on the Council or in the total or the whole life of the chapter. The committee answered the Council, too.

Another memory was in Houston in 1975. They threw all of us, The Council Members, in the fountain. It was a little fountain, kind of cute, but all of the lights were at the bottom of this pool and all of the wires were showing and we could have been a "fried" Council if anyone had touched those wires. It was actually kind of dangerous but a lot of fun too. They all had a good time throwing us in, they couldn't throw me in because I was bigger than the others so I just went in.

What was going on socially at the time of my Presidency?: 1977 -1979, well Title IX was going on. Basically, Title IX was to make equal for men and women in sports but they filtered through into the Fraternities and Sororities and I feel a lot of them used that as an excuse to possibly start a merger type deal. I'll elaborate on that later with ASU. But, we really did not get much problem from the Administration as far as Title IX was concerned as much as I remember, so there was no reason for some chapter's, unless the band director wanted that so and that was a good way of going through that.

What were some of your goals?: When I was National Secretary, I started an Archive for the Sorority. The chapter's and the Districts', those that had like Newsletters, Everything from the Podium I would cut out and made these beautiful books. They were really scrapbooks and we were going to have an archive at the National Office. Then I think that after 4 or 6 years, it got to be so much that we had to stop that because we didn't know where to store everything, you know all the books that were compiled of everybody. That I hoped would have worked but it was supposed to be what chapter's did at that time as compared to you know as years on. Certain activities compared to then and now. But, It wasn't feasible to store all of that and we had to take that out of the Constitution. That was a goal that was successful for a while but then had to be stopped.

Growth was tremendous during that time. At least 10-12 colonies every biennium. We really expanded, it was a tremendous growth period for us. I'm not sure of statistics of how many chapter's have stayed on. I think another fond memory of mine is to have installed all the chapter's in California at that time. I was very proud to have done that. We had a little difficulty in California, there was a very dislike of Social Sororities and Fraternities and they didn't want any part of anything like that. It took us a long time to reason and make people understand that Honoraries are different than Socials. Sacramento, we drove through the middle of the night to get up to there, that was a wonderful experience. San Diego State University, was just tremendous. Their first colony started, we had visitors from UCLA in 1972. They came, 2 people came to visit. Dr. Yates had tried for a long time to get chapter's there and finally succeeded and it was a wonderful occasion that I went to install. UCLA was great and USC, which is no longer, but it was a very fond memory and I'm so, so glad there are more chapter in the West. It has been a long time coming and hopefully there will be more and more, you know it just takes time, time will be wonderful for that.

Was there a chapter of KKPsi already established at your school?: At Arizona State, Yes, Beta Omicron. We got along very well for the entire time, in the 70's both schools were in the top ten quite a number of times. So, yes, we were very close. We were also very close to the other schools, especially the University of Arizona, both Omega chapters, we were very very close.. The Sorority, The TBΣ Chapters were the first in the Country to have a joint ritual. Sigma went down and we installed, initiated that particular chapter that semester and I believe that was in 1969 or 1970, if my memory serves. That was a wonderful experience, I don't know if anyone has done that since but we were very proud to have been the first ones to have done that and we have been very close every since, well at least up until 1977.

What do you think is important for Sisters to remember when it comes to TBΣ History?:

You know I looked at that and I think the Truth, we always need to be truthful and honest with each other, that's what were all about too. The good times and the bad times and we can all individually decide on how you want to relate to that. I think the truth is the most important thing.

How have you seen Women excel in the College Band Profession?: *I have seen it grow tremendously, and it is just wonderful. I was a music teacher but the only opening was Choral. I had to take it, I also taught P.E. but I did take the Choral job and still being on the Council. When I got my Master's I stayed with Choral because there was an opening that I was able to get because of that and of course you had to go with jobs. I'll never forget, my Superintendent that interviewed me, here in Scottsdale, he said, "Do you have any experience in Choral?" and I told him "Yes, I do", I did take a couple of classes in Choral conducting and I felt that was good and he said that would work and that is how I got the job there. So, I have seen more and more women and it has been wonderful and I know that the sky is the limit for all of us in this profession, especially in the University and College there is more and more and I think that is great too.*

I am jumping up and down here (with the questions) and I do apologize.

What major changes occurred when I was a Council Member?: *My Presidency, We, it was the first time that we were debt free, out of debt, and that was a wonderful feeling. We had enough in the Trust Fund and that was great.*

What happened to the TBΣ Chapter at ASU?: *What happened to the TBΣ Chapter at ASU was very difficult for me since that was my chapter. They started this in 1976, they came to us at the USC District Convention and told us that they wanted to merge with pressure from the Band Director. This is what we were told, nothing at this time was discussed about Title IX. We tried to talk them out of it and see what we could do. Because both chapter's were doing so well, Top Ten, in 1975 and 1973 I believe also, if I'm not mistaken. When we left the Convention, all of a sudden it had changed to where the Brothers and the Sisters wanted to merge, they were not getting along, they were fighting all the time, they just wanted to drop one and become one chapter, one unit, to help the band. We tried to talk them out of that and it just didn't work, so they of course decided to, I'm not sure if they decided to pick Beta Omicron as the chapter or the Band Director, I can't remember that. So that was basically, they received no pressure from the Administration to merge through Title IX, even though they had told a lot of people that they were. They changed their membership rituals, their constitution, made up their own constitution. I still don't know if Nationals ever got the charter of Sigma back. So, that was basically it. Now, through the years, we don't know what the new members are taught of the history. Last year (1996), at the District Convention in Tucson, AZ, Beta Omicron, saw me and they didn't really think that any Sigma people were still alive, so that made me feel real good if you know what I mean. They just were in shock that there were Sigma people, It took them awhile to realize who a Sigma person was, a person from the Sigma Chapter, it didn't hit them until I said I was from ASU and then they go "Oh yea!" We realize that Sigma has not been remembered and that bothers me because I know there are a lot of other merged chapters in the Country that have dropped one or the other chapter and that shouldn't continue as far as history is concerned. We need to keep that alive.*

You have mentioned that in 1979 it was the first time that the Sorority was out of debt. Can you expand on that a little bit and tell us why the Sorority was in debt to begin with and what we did to get out of that situation and what the circumstances around that were?:

No, all I remember was that the dues were raised in 1977. We put a lot of that in Certificates of Deposit, \$20,000.00 each, We put them in accounts to get the most interest and by the end of the 2 years we had enough interest built up. I can't... the dues needed to be raised and that definitely helped at that time.

Anything else you want you say anything you want to tell people in the Future?:

I hope that we will be in the future, I hope that we will expand, and I hope every College and University will have a chapter and the quality of the women I see know has just been, From when I was in until now , the quality has remained the same, it has been fine it's been wonderful, I always have known unconditional love through everybody and it has remained this way for 20-25 years that we have all shown love for each other, that's nice. And of course, our common bond is music and what more can be said there.

What was it like when you pledged at your chapter?: *We had about 7 or 8 weeks of pledging. We met once a week and had a quiz once a week and then the final test. I believe that there were 15 of us and I was President of the pledge class at that time and we did projects for the band. Our initiation , Heck Night, was so crazy that it was so much fun. The active members did such little things to us that it was just ridiculous but it was a lot of fun and we had a good time together. We had our initiation, our ritual, at the Band Director's house and they blindfolded us upstairs and we had to walk downstairs blindfolded, so that was kind of tricky, you know for First Degree. None of us understood what anyone was saying and afterwards we had to go through it and really get the meaning of what, because you know at that time when you are going through the degree you don't really think, you don't listen to the words. Every time I hear it, every semester I go, I still hear something new, and get more out of it. So the more you hear it, you know when they say practice makes perfect, you reread the ritual, you just get more and more out of it.*

How have you seen the Ceremonies change of the years?: *Not much, the wording has definitely changed, but the eloquence, the style, the meaning, and I hope that will never change.*

I don't know if I have answered everything and I'm sorry if I have skipped anything.