

The Eta Omicron chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi presents **HO HAPPENINGS**



Spring Semester 2025



In this issue:

- Hear from the current president of the chapter!
- Meet our Executive Board!
- Take a look at some highlights and fun moments from this semester!
- Welcome the newest class, the Gamma Pi's!
- Say goodbye to our graduating brothers!
- Hear about NatCon from Eta Omicron's delegate!

Direct from the President

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of HO Happenings! My name is Jackson Hephner, and I am proud to have served as President of Eta Omicron this past academic year. On behalf of the brothers, we thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter that our amazing secretary Kiera has put together.

The Eta Omicron chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi was formally established as the fraternity's 183rd chapter on November 9th, 1980. Since then, our chapter has been proud to serve the band program and School of Music here at JMU. In particular, our chapter has a long and proud relationship with the world-famous Marching Royal Dukes, with countless numbers of brothers marching in and serving "Virginia's Finest." We have also made our mark in the wider fraternity, serving as an advising chapter to Theta Psi at Virginia Union University, Iota Xi at Norfolk State University, Kappa Theta at Liberty University, Zeta Psi at Virginia State University, Beta Chi at the University of Virginia, and Mu Nu at Christopher Newport University.

In this issue, you will read plenty of stories from our eventful semester, which saw us, among many other things, initiate five new brothers as part of the Gamma Pi class, travel to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for NEDCon and support Brother Summer Khaswan as she served as an advisor for the petitioning group that would go on to reinstall the Eta Chi chapter at Bowie State University.

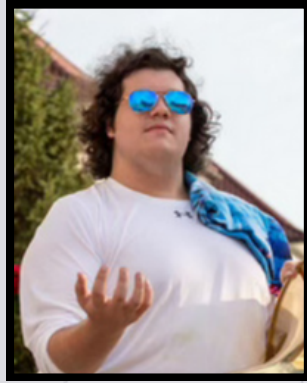
Enjoy!

Jackson Hephner
Immediate Past President of the Eta Omicron Chapter of Kappa
Kappa Psi
Gamma Kappa, Spring 2022

Meet our Exec Board!



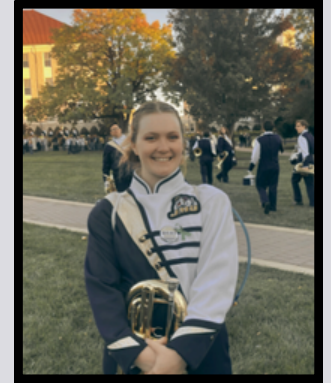
Jackson Hephner
President



Haynes Davis IV
Executive Vice President



Sahar Kahn
Vice President of Service



Grace Morgan
Vice President of Membership



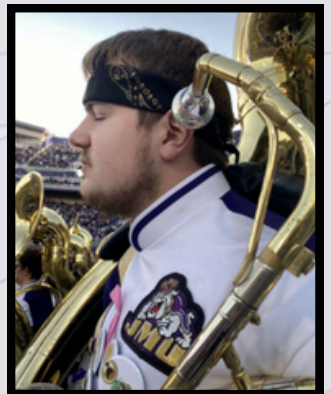
Katherine Bernat
Vice President of Brotherhood



Ryan Wilkins
Secretary



Ethan Boswell
Treasurer



Hunter Leo Colley
Historian



Owen Phillips
Ritual Head



Alyssa Bonner
Music Director



Annalise Lang
Webmaster

Exciting moments!



Brothers adopted a highway!



Brothers supporting brothers by attending each others concerts!



Brothers participated in the AFSP Out of the Darkness Walk to raise awareness for suicide prevention!



Brothers performed in Concert for a Cause! Proceeds went towards the Bill Posey Scholarship



Eta Omicron at NedCon!



Brothers Jackson and Tone spent time with Alumni!



Eta Omicron went to Bowie State's new member presentation!



Brothers doing service!



Brothers dressed up at the Band Banquet! Organized and planned by our own VPB!

Meet the Gamma Pi's!

The brothers in this class brought a new level of commitment and humor to the chapter. They happily introduced us to one of their favorite beverages, pilk (Pepsi mixed with milk). We are so excited to see what these brothers will accomplish within the framework of the brotherhood, so to speak.



Charlie Riccardino Jr.

Charlie is a freshman from Mechanicsville, VA. He is majoring in Pre-Med Biology with a concentration in neuroscience. He hails from the trombone section, and his pilk name is Kyle!

Ashton Wiley

Ashton is a freshman Media, Arts, and Design major who comes from the trumpet section. His hometown is Buena Vista in Virginia, and his pilk name is Brian!





Charlotte Rukowski

Charlotte is a rising sophomore from Farmingdale, NY. She is a History major and plays in the baritone section for the MRDs. Her pilk name is Allison!

Quin Robinson

Quin is a rising senior Music Composition major from Warrenton, VA. He belongs to the trombones, and his pilk name is Max!



Tabby Potter

Tabby is a rising sophomore from Front Royal, VA, who studies Psychology. She plays the alto saxophone, which she learned in 3-4 weeks before joining high school band. Her pilk name is Claire!

To the Gamma Pi's:

In spring 2025, I had the honor of raising the Gamma Pi class of Kappa Kappa Psi. This class was such a learning experience. They kept me on my toes and taught me that I had much more to learn about what I was teaching. The Gamma Pi's are unique. This class is so vibrant and close knit. I've never seen a class take to each other this closely. They created a special bond within the brotherhood and now push the others to strive for the highest. They immersed themselves into the chapter and its activities as soon as possible. They give me so much hope for the chapter's future! I cannot wait to see what they accomplish.

I am so tremendously proud of you guys. It is with extreme pride that I welcome the Gamma Pi class of Spring '25 to the Eta Omicron chapter! I know you guys will change the chapter for the better and continue to serve with all your hearts. I'm always here for you guys. PILK4LYFE.

AEA

Gracefully submitted,
Grace Morgan
Gamma Lambda
Fall '22

Goodbye Summer!

Summer,

I don't have a lot to say, as we still live together and all. But to speak on "KKPsi Summer," I am so grateful to have had you as my big. Your wealth of knowledge and empathy both taught me the importance of this fraternity — and held me accountable in moments when I wasn't striving for the highest. I also got a lifelong friend out of it. It is really incredible to see the impact you had on this chapter, this district, and this national organization. It also makes me so happy to see you gearing up to tackle teaching your first class of "Little Giants." Keep being a spiritual leader and guiding light for those around you.

Your little,
Henry Stackpole
AEA / ΣAK / M



Goodbye Jake!

Hey Jake!

I hope you have had an amazing summer break and are having an awesome time with the beginning of your first semester as a teacher! You have accomplished a ton these past couple months and it is genuinely so inspiring to see you constantly striving for the highest with everything you do. Your students are SO lucky to have you and I know you are going to do phenomenal things for the program. You are truly a funny, kind, and just all around amazing human and I can not express how grateful I am to you for all that you helped me with during my process. It simply would not have been the same without you and the guidance you provided me with through it all. Getting to know you over my time at JMU (especially this past year) has been so much fun and again I am so grateful to be your friend. I am so proud of you, proud to have been your little, and super excited to see what you do over these next couple years! 😊

Thank you for being you,
CJ Brown
Gamma Omicron
Fall 24

Goodbye Cooper!

If you want to know where my vocal stims came from, they came from the man himself, Cooper Gossage. (Fun fact! I started doing them after our viz) I had never really gotten a good impression of him. At that point I'd only met him once at funky's (rip funky's tbh) until 1st degree when I found out he was my big. I didn't know what to expect, but looking back now, I'm extremely grateful that he taught me how to take life less seriously sometimes. During my process the more I got to know him, the more I found out how similar we are to each other (also how much he lowkey influenced me). Some of my favorite memories during my process were painting my paddle project and going fabric + project shopping (while having a Barnes and Noble side quest). During my time as a brother, you have supported me through my lows and my highs. I am incredibly grateful that I was able to take a little at the same time and have your guidance during her process. That made me feel more confident as a big, therefore it was easy to invest my 100 percent into my relationship with my little. Thank you for your contributions to the brotherhood as VPB during my process and being a great brother to everyone around the room.

You have been such a fun, easygoing, and positive person and I hope you never lose that. I'm very grateful for the times that we had together and I can't wait to see how far you go post-grad (keep me updated always!!) Thank you for being the best big for me.

AEA

Your first kid,

Nessa

Gamma Mu Sp'23



Goodbye Jackson!

Hello Jackson, you are the most Dedicated, Involved, Loving Father that I, or your grandlittles could have had. You led by example by following your passions to becoming the HO historian and then president! I never felt like I was drowning as a membership candidate because you were such a strong support. You introduced me to a lot of new friends and helped me break through my lack of self confidence. I know you will go on to do great things in the future so go change some lives!

AMFAM forever,
Nash Cosby

Goodbye Sahar!

Sahar,

I couldn't be happier with my choice of you as my big. Coming in as a transfer was scary and different; I thought I was going to ask Mackenzie to be my big because she was the only person I recognized before meeting the chapter. Little did I know how important of a person you were going to become in my life.

When I was going through a rough spot last year, you were the person that made sure I never forgot that I am loved and cared about. You took me out for sweet treats, shared your own experiences, and gave me advice (even if I didn't want to listen at the time). Having someone I knew I could count on to be there for me meant so much, and I can't thank you enough for that.

While there were some parts of the process I never got to experience as an MC, you helped make all my firsts as a brother memorable. You and the rest of the Castells made me feel welcome and included as part of the family, and I'll cherish all the memories we made together.

I'm so proud of all the things you accomplished as VPS, a member of Logistics, in the Hart school, in your new job in North Carolina, and so much more. You are a role model for myself and so many others here. We will miss you so much. Caitlin and I promise to keep the Pastel Castells alive <3

-Sam Sheehan,

ΓΕ

Spring '24

Goodbye Bala!

Bala,

When I decided to join KKPsi, I knew almost nobody. At first I was nervous getting a big that I hadn't met before. But as my process went on I became more and more glad that you were my big. You helped guide me through the process and overall just became a really great friend to me. Also watching all you did for KKPsi and the other organizations you were in was inspiring to see to say the least. Even outside of KKPsi you helped me, I don't think I would've explored Harrisonburg as much without you, and for that I'm thankful. I'm so glad that I was able to meet you through this organization and become your little. I am sure you are going to be a great orchestra director, and let me know if you ever need any help with anything!

Owen
Gamma Nu
Fall 2023



Goodbye James!

Dear James,

You have had such an amazing impact on my life and the lives of those around you. You have been an absolutely amazing role model and a fantastic friend. I remember being so excited to have you as my big after reading your clue that included the theme song from PSYC. Sharing the same passion for psychology brought us closer and seeing you as EVP drew me even further into KKPSI. Getting to see your wisdom, patience, and the way you see people with such depth and empathy was inspiring.

Thank you for always lifting me up, for pushing me forward, and for proving that the best fraternal bonds are the ones that challenge and nurture the soul. Getting to know you and become your friend has been one of the most impactful things in my life and there's no one I would rather spend hours talking to about disco elysium or any other random topic with. I can't wait to see all the great things you will go on to do AEA!

Respectfully submitted,
Haynes Davis IV
Gamma Nu
Fall 2023

Goodbye Henry!

Dear Henry,

My first experience at JMU was meeting you and the other tuba section leaders. I remember thinking that you guys are all SO COOL. From learning everything about the tuba section to learning about KKPsi, I remember going through gift week and hoping that you were my big. Since then, it has been the best possible experience and I've been so proud of everything you've accomplished! Seeing my big on the drum major stand was one of the coolest experiences ever.

Thank you for being an incredible role model from the moment I met you. You have inspired me to run for every role that I have had the opportunity to, and I am so excited to see where your future roles take you.

All that being said,

AEA

Viva la Amfam

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Wilkins

Gamma Nu

Fall '23

Goodbye Nash!

Nash,

I don't think I can find all the right words to encapsulate the impact you've had on Ian and I. Genuinely, I couldn't have asked for a better big. You took us both under your wing and showed us the way just like a father would (DILF moment). My experiences with you have been nothing short of exceptional, and I'm extremely grateful to call you my big and I look forward to every moment I get to spend with you from here on out. Thank you for all the wonderful memories and being there whenever we needed it, for guidance or to have someone to talk to and ask questions. I wish you nothing but the best in all you do.

Viva la Amfam,
Jack
Gamma Xi
Spring '24

Goodbye Annalise!

Dearest Annalise,

My process wouldn't have been half as fulfilling if I hadn't had you there to guide me. Our yap sessions over poke at J-Petal kept me sane amidst all of the stress I felt as an MC. Every time I had worries or concerns about projects and visits, you gently reminded me of my own strength, and—more importantly—that I didn't have to shoulder all of my burdens alone. Your support and eagerness to help everyone around you has made such an impact on how I view brotherhood, and I hope to emulate those qualities as I continue to grow within the fraternity. I am forever in awe of your kind spirit (and the fact that our taste in musicals is so identical).

You truly embody the best of us and I cannot wait to see where your compassion, dedication, and intelligence take you. I am so, so proud of you (and I hope that I make you proud, too). Thank you for being my big brother and thank you for helping make Eta Omicron feel like a family. Princesses on top, Jaw Surgery Line forever. I love you. <3

AEA,
Via Chapin
Gamma Xi SP '24

Goodbye Alyssa!

Dear Alyssa,

I don't think there are enough words to describe how thankful I am to have met you and have you as my Big! You are the most kind and hard working person I know and I could not have asked for a more perfect person to be my big. You have helped show me what it truly means to strive for the highest. All of your hard work never goes unnoticed, from being an amazing section leader to reviving band-o-roma; you have truly left a mark on this chapter that will last forever. You have served as a great role model to me and shown how important it is to enjoy every small moment of not only my process but also life in general. Even though our time together was cut short, I will remember all of the moments and memories I got to share with you throughout my process. You gave me everything and more, you gave me a place and brotherhood to call home! You will be missed so much, but you are going to do great things! Keep in touch, AEA.

Love,
Tabby Potter
Gamma Pi
Spring 2025

Goodbye Bradley!

Bradley,

Congratulations on graduation. I can't quite find the words to express how proud I am of you—not just for earning your degree, but for the person and Brother you've become over this past year. In the short time since you became my Little, I've watched you lead with quiet confidence, learn with humility, and serve with genuine heart. Even in just one year, your presence in this fraternity has been marked by consistency, character, and compassion—qualities that will carry you far beyond these walls.

You've made a lasting impression on everyone around you, and especially on me. I've learned as much from you as I ever hoped to teach. Though your time as an undergraduate Brother was brief, the values we've shared and the memories we've made will stick with us long after. I am privileged to consider you my Little, and even more privileged to consider you my Brother. Whatever the next chapter of life holds for you, never question the impact you've had. Have fun in Tennessee for grad school.

AEA.

Respectfully submitted,
your big brother,
Hunter Leo Colley
Gamma Nu
Fall '23



Eta Omicron Attends the National Convention!

The 2025 National Convention was an unforgettable experience, full of exciting developments and proud moments for Eta Omicron. Eta Omicron was well represented this year by brothers Ethan, Rebecca, Connor, Jocelyn, Nessa, and Summer. We were also happy to see two of our alumni: Ed Savoy and Tony Falcone. Throughout the week, our brothers attended workshops, business sessions, rituals, and connected with brothers from across the country. We also got to explore the city of Lexington, Kentucky. It was a week filled with collaboration, reflection, and a reaffirmed commitment to our values.

The highlight of the week came when our very own Summer Khaswan (Gamma Theta, Spring 2021) was awarded the J. Lee Burke Student Achievement Award. This is one of the most prestigious honors given by the fraternity, recognizing a student brother who demonstrates outstanding service, leadership, and achievement to college band programs and the Fraternity. Summer's contributions to Eta Omicron and to the broader fraternity have been nothing short of inspiring. Whether through thoughtful leadership, commitment to musical excellence, or tireless advocacy for equity and inclusion, Summer has made an impact that reaches far

beyond our chapter. Hearing her name announced in front of hundreds of brothers was a moment of immense pride and celebration, not just for her, but for all of us who have witnessed her dedication firsthand.



One of the most rewarding parts of the National Convention was the chance to meet and build connections with brothers from all across the country. We especially enjoyed spending time with our nearby brothers from the Nu Rho chapter at Old Dominion University and the Kappa Psi chapter at Virginia Commonwealth University. From late-night conversations to spirited discussions during sessions, these connections reminded us just how strong and vibrant our brotherhood is beyond our own chapter. The warmth, passion, and shared commitment to our ideals created an atmosphere that was both energizing and deeply meaningful.

The 2027 National Convention will be held in Bethesda, Maryland, just two hours from JMU. We hope to see Eta Omicron out in full force when the brotherhood gathers so close to home.

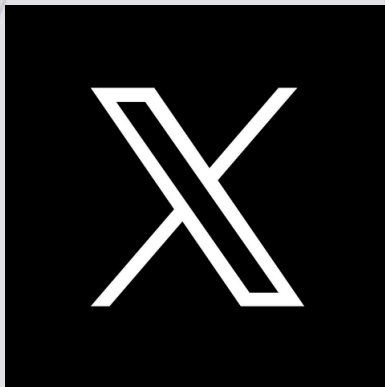
Respectfully submitted,
Ethan Boswell
Gamma Nu
Fall 2023



Are you a brother from another chapter?
We would love to connect with you!



@kkpsiho



@kkpsiho



Kappa Kappa Psi -
Eta Omicron Chapter

Visit our website at:
<https://jmukkippsi.wixsite.com/jmukkippsi>

Contact our secretary at etaomicronsecretary@gmail.com
or our historian at historiankkpsiho@gmail.com

Are you an Eta Omicron Alum?
Please stay in touch!



Kappa Kappa Psi Alumni,
Eta Omicron Chapter



The Creed of Kappa Kappa Psi

We, the brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi, believe that service to the college or university band program fosters responsibility, loyalty, and leadership; that a spirit of brotherhood is enhanced by the participation in a band program; that music is a universal language and truly the greatest of the arts; and that through fraternal participation, each member will strive for the highest.

The Preamble of Kappa Kappa Psi

Be it known that Kappa Kappa Psi, National Honorary Fraternity for College Bandmembers, is an organization operating exclusively in the field of the college and university bands, and for the following several purposes:

1. To promote the existence and welfare of the college and university bands and to cultivate at large a wholesome respect for the activities and achievements.
2. To honor outstanding bandmembers through privilege of membership extended as a reward for technical achievement and appreciation for the best in music.
3. To stimulate campus leadership and promulgate an uncompromising respect through the medium of the college band for gracious conduct, good taste and unswerving loyalty.
4. To foster a close relationship between college bands and promote a high average of attainment by the performance of good music and selection of worthwhile projects.
5. To provide a pleasant and helpful social experience for all engaged in college band work and to cooperate with other musical organizations in any manner consistent with the purposes of the institution at which chapters are located.

It is an honor to be selected to serve.