

TAU BETA SIGMA

FOR GREATER BANDS

January 15th, 2019

To the Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma, National Honorary Band Sorority,

I am writing this letter to offer myself as a candidate for National Vice President for Communication and Recognition for the 2019–2021 Biennium. I believe my prior experiences within the sorority, my professional and personal skills, and my desire to learn, serve, and grow alongside this organization make me an ideal candidate for this position.

I was initiated into the Beta Eta Chapter at the University of Maryland in the Spring of 2010. As an undergraduate, I served in several chapter officer roles, as the Northeast District Secretary, and on several committees at the Chapter, District, and National level. At the University of Maryland, I had the honor of marching five seasons with the Mighty Sound of Maryland Marching Band on cymbals, serving two as a squad leader. As an alumna, I have been an active member of the Northeast District Alumni Association and served a year as Secretary. I have also remained actively involved in Tau Beta Sigma as a member of the Alumni Association Programs Committee which developed the inaugural For Greater Bands 5K. This past biennium I worked on the TBS Capital Development Committee, where I was able to suggest and implement personalized thank you video messages for financial contributions to the organization.

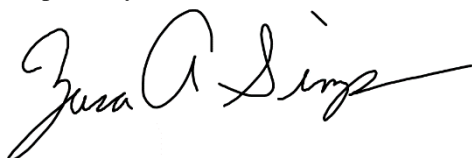
After graduation, I continued to serve MSOM as a member of Game Day Staff, eventually becoming their videographer and more recently an additional photographer. This progression in responsibilities occurred after proving myself both reliable and capable of handling these important jobs. I have had the pleasure of providing content to help the organization rebrand and increase their social media profile. Professionally, I worked as a contracted engineer for two years before going back to school to earn a Master's in Education; I now teach middle school math at an "Academic Achievement for All" school.

The constitutional duties for this position outline the role as a Recording and Credentials officer, which requires recording and publishing meeting minutes, signing shingles, and other business items. These are administrative duties I fulfilled in the role of Secretary for the NED and NEDAA respectively, as well as oversaw in my two years as Old Mill Middle North's PTSA President. However, I have witnessed that the extended responsibilities of this position lie in multiple areas including: interpersonal relations with students, utilizing effective means of communication, promoting and providing opportunities for involvement and recognition, and aiding other council members towards achieving the goals of their office. Past VPCRs have developed this position by increasing organization presence and maximize involvement of chapters and individuals in all areas. It is my hope to review, continue, and further this groundwork while remaining current in available communication methods.

In my teaching career, I utilize various forms of communication daily and must effectively communicate with students, colleagues, administrators, and parents. This includes emails and phone calls, but I also assist my administration in providing content for the school's Twitter and Instagram accounts, @OMMNAACPS. I am also an integral member of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Committee which analyzes school data in discipline and recognition in order to determine trends and create opportunities for intervention and recognition, as applicable to individual students. When my school's PTSA was in danger of folding due to lack of interest, I took the helm as President because I believed I could be effective in revitalizing the organization. We are an overcrowded school with most students receiving Free and Reduced Meals; school funding is tight, and the average socioeconomic status is below average, so the PTSA is essential for providing many opportunities to build our school community that the school and parents couldn't otherwise afford. Through consistent communication via email and monthly newsletters, greeting and thanking volunteers in-person, and increased presence of @PTSAOMMN on social media, we have seen an increase in membership, parental involvement in our school, and fundraising efforts which are used directly for the benefit of our students.

The passion with which I serve my school - students, faculty, and parents - and the Maryland Bands - past and present - is the drive and determination with which I would be a member on the National Council if elected. It would be an honor to be selected to serve this organization as the 2019 – 2021 National Vice President for Communication and Recognition, to further its ideals and impact in return for the growth and experiences it has given me in my years as a Sister. I am available and look forward to the opportunity to further discuss my qualifications with you soon; please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas you may have.

Respectfully submitted with Love in the Bond,



Zara A. Simpson
Tau Beta Sigma, Life Member #3106



Photo by Ken Rubin Photography

Zara A. Simpson

1400 East-West Highway, #701, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 • zsimpson@tbsigma.org • 201.723.2654

EDUCATION

University of Maryland – College Park

College Park, MD

Master of Education

May 2016

Major: Middle School Mathematics and Science, GPA: 4.0/4.0

Conducted research regarding effective collaborative learning techniques and their effects on content and procedural understanding and performance; wrote dissertation and presented findings to colleagues

Bachelor of Science

May 2013

Major: Materials Science & Engineering (Focus: Biomaterials), GPA: 3.1/4.0

Senior Design Project: Synthesis and Testing of Shape Memory Polymers for Biomedical Uses

Minor: Nanoscience & Technology

College Park Scholars Citation: Public Leadership

August 2008 – May 2010

Study Abroad Experience; Seville, Spain

January 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Old Mill Middle North School, IB and AACPS AAA School

Millersville, MD

Parent, Teacher, and Student Association President

September 2017 – June 2019

- Assumed role out of necessity and increased active participation and fundraising efficiency
- Facilitated numerous community building events involving parents, teachers, and students
- Managed frequent email communication and use of social media to engage the community
- Analyzed previous spending and school needs to create a budget that would effectively allocate money in the most impactful way for our school and students; created a line for a music scholarship for band, strings, and chorus students to participate in a professional-quality student summer program

Teacher, Eighth Grade, Mathematics, co-taught and general Math 8, Algebra

August 2016 – Present

- Received administration award for being exceptionally “Determined” in my second year
- Collaborated with colleagues to plan school-wide PBIS events such as Pep Rally and Lip Sync Battle
- Differentiate instruction to meet the needs of students with a wide range of abilities and needs
- Recognize students and colleagues for positivity using school-wide and in-class acknowledgement
- Learned to play the alto saxophone and trumpet to fill vacancies in the jazz ensemble

Wilde Lake Middle School

Columbia, MD

Mathematics, two sections totaling 38 G/T Geometry students

August 2014 – April 2015

- Designed and executed interdisciplinary lesson relating geometric transformations to music; students composed and performed their own piece with translated, reflected, rotated, and dilated notes
- Implemented warm-up activity designed for students to constructively critique the reasoning of others

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Mighty Sound of Maryland (MSOM)

College Park, MD

Cymbalist, Squad Leader

August 2008 – May 2013

Game Day Staff, Photographer/Videographer

August 2013 – Present

- Building relationships with students, staff, and parents through shared experiences and assistance
- Learned and aided vision of new director by providing content for social media

Sigma Alpha Iota, Gamma Epsilon

College Park, MD

Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, Vice President of Membership

Dec. 2014 – May 2016

- Received the Sword of Honor (equivalent to The Baton) for outstanding chapter leadership
- Established recruitment and membership education activities that helped chapter to grow and thrive

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 022CP Chapter

Inducted May 2016

Member, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society, Sigma Circle

Inducted December 2014

Volunteer, FIRST Robotics Competition and Lego League

Sept. 2005 – Present

Zara A. Simpson

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MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

Initiated May 2nd, 2010, Beta Eta Chapter at the University of Maryland
Active, May 2010 – May 2013
Life Member, July 2013 to present
Honorary, May 9th, 2015, Iota Alpha Chapter of TBΣ at Marist College
Honorary, April 24th, 2016, Eta Sigma Chapter of TBΣ at Towson University
TBSAA, July 2013 to Present, Gold Star Member 2015 to Present
NEDAA, July 2013 to Present
1946 Club, 2014 to Present

OFFICES HELD / COMMITTEES SERVED

Capital Development Committee, Tau Beta Sigma, 2015 – 2017 Biennium

- Recommended and produced personalized video thank-you messages for financial donations
- Suggested items and clarifications for our Giving Tuesday campaign

Sisterhood and Spirit Team Advisor, 2017 National Convention; Orlando, FL

- Taught national stroll and live-posted committee happenings to build excitement around Convention

For Greater Bands 5K, TBSAA Programs Committee, 2013 – 2015 Biennium

- Complete donation request forms for supermarkets to obtain post-race snacks
- Promoted event and aided in multiple aspects of day-of execution in Columbia, MD

Secretary, Northeast District Alumni Association (NEDAA), 2014 – 2015

- Presented workshops related to Public Speaking and Interview and Resume Skills
- Monitored membership and dues payment for the year, including some recruitment
- Organized “NEDAA Hangouts” for alumni and active Brothers and Sisters to bond

Secretary, Northeast District Council, 2012 – 2013

- Encouraged several NED Chapters to submit articles and be featured in the Podium
- Created ice breaker game for Meeting weekends to increase District Joint Communication

Corresponding Secretary / Chair of Expansion Committee, Beta Eta Chapter, 2011 – 2012

Northeast District Convention Co-Chair, Beta Eta Chapter, 2010 (fall) – 2012 (spring)

- Researched and compiled 40-page bid packet outlining the feasibility of hosting convention at Maryland; oversaw and organized all aspects of this two-day event for 700 people
- Traveled to all three Precinct Meetings of the 2012 Travel Season to promote the event

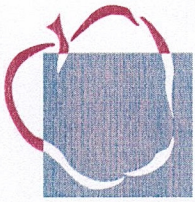
Alumni Chair / Chair of Alumni Committee, Beta Eta Chapter, 2010 – 2011

COMMITTEES SERVED

- **National:** Sisterhood and Spirit (2017, 2015), Ritual and Regalia (2013), Ways and Means (2011)
- **District:** Sisterhood and Spirit (2013, 2011), NEDAA Round Table Participant (2014 – 2017)
- **Chapter:** Membership (SP13, SP11), History (SP13), Service (FA12, SP11, FA10), Ways and Means (FA12, SP12, FA10), Ritual (FA11), Joint (SP11), Judiciary (FA10)
- **TBSAA:** Programs (15 – 17), Participant in Mentor/Mentee Program (16 – 19), Special Projects and Membership (14 – 15)
- **TBS:** Capital Development Committee (17 – 19),

CONVENTIONS ATTENDED

- **National:** 2011 – Proxy, Gamma Chi; 2013 – Proxy, Theta Mu; 2015 – Delegate, Beta Eta (Life Member); 2017; 2019
- **District:** Northeast: 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- **Precinct:** Central 2014, 2013, 2012; Southern Precinct 2017, 2013, 2012, 2011; Northern Precinct 2013, 2012



Date: January 4th, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is being sent to express my support and recommendation for my current Math teacher and PTSA President, Zara Simpson, for the position of Vice President for Communication and Recognition.

Ms. Simpson serves as an 8th grade Math Teacher here at Old Mill Middle North located in Millersville Maryland. In the three years I've worked with Ms. Simpson she has excelled in the areas of building positive relationships with ALL students and her team of teachers, ensuring all lessons fit within the framework of IB and being a mentor and support to ALL the students at Old Mill Middle North.

Ms. Simpson also serves as our PTSA President for the over 1,000 students who make up our student population. In this role, I've observed Ms. Simpson demonstrate her leadership and communication skills to a PTSA that was much in need of direction. She has also served as a critical partner in creating social media accounts to ensure our parent and community partners were being informed about school events and activities.

Ms. Simpson's ability to remain organized combined with her work ethic, determination and drive to make a positive impact in students' lives make her an excellent candidate for this leadership position.

Should you have any questions regarding Ms. Simpson and her success at Old Mill Middle North do not hesitate to contact me directly at 410-969-5950.

Dennis Kelly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Kelly".

Principal
Old Mill Middle School North



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

*School of Music
2531 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
College Park, MD 20742*

January 10, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing this letter in support of Zara Simpson's application for the Tau Beta Sigma National Council. I have had the privilege of working with Zara for the previous six months since I began my position as the Associate Director of Bands at the University of Maryland, and I am pleased to write of her talents and abilities.

During my short time with the Mighty Sound of Maryland, Zara has been an enthusiastic and supportive alumna in all accounts. She sought to meet with me soon after my arrival in an effort to understand what I envisioned for the role of volunteer game day staff photographer/videographer in which she had been serving, as well as the marching band program and our TBS chapter. Zara has since done an excellent job to serve as an unofficial ambassador to fellow MSOM & TBS alumni and to provide service to the program in any way possible.

Zara works tirelessly on gamedays and beyond to give her best to support our students and the program. In the short time that I have known her, I have observed that Zara's work ethic is certainly admirable – arriving early, staying late, and giving her full attention and effort to our program needs on gamedays and beyond. Additionally, Zara is also an extremely personable and outgoing individual that is well thought of by her peers and our current members. I would dare say that Zara has yet to meet a stranger and is quite adept at making anyone she encounters feel a sense of positivity and welcome when talking with her. Additionally, both her written and oral communication skills are incredibly strong as well as her creativity, independence, and productivity.

While I have not known Zara long, I immediately understood that she has an intense passion for Tau Beta Sigma. I believe her prior experience serving in leadership positions at both chapter and district levels will provide her with a strong foundation for not only exceling but moving this National Council forward with the organization.

In conclusion, I highly recommend Zara Simpson for this position. She will be a tremendous source of enthusiasm, positivity, and progress for the organization. If I can provide further support of Zara, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea E. Brown".

Andrea E. Brown, DMA

Associate Director of Bands
University of Maryland
aebrown7@umd.edu

To the Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma Nominations Committee:

I am writing to recommend Zara Simpson for the position of Tau Beta Sigma Vice President of Communication and Recognition on behalf of the Beta Eta Chapter at the University of Maryland.

Zara is an ever-giving member of our music community here at the University of Maryland. She is an instrumental alumna of not only our Athletic Bands Program, but also the Beta Eta chapter. During the four years I have been a member of the Athletic Bands, we have gone through many changes and challenges and have worked hard to evolve and adapt. Zara has been a part of Game Day staff since I joined marching band, assisting with game day preparation, dealing with mishaps, and becoming one of the band photographers. She always takes awesome shots, requests from band members, and gets her photos out to us quickly. She is always around to help out all of us whenever something bad or strenuous may happen.

On top of being very helpful with our athletic bands, she is a top rate alumna of the Beta Eta Chapter. Zara regularly attends our rituals and always encourages and helps our current Sisters and incoming classes. She is always helpful in making sure we all stay healthy - whether it is getting us food during stressful times or being a person to talk to when the going gets tough, she's there. She has helped us build connections and mediate with other chapters in Tau Beta Sigma, especially Eta Sigma at Towson University. She encourages us to attend precinct, district, and national conventions and even helps us get rides and figure out logistics for longer trips.

As our band program and chapter have undergone transitions, Zara has proved invaluable during these times. Our School of Music recently hired a new Athletic Bands Director, which rose many new challenges for our marching band, our pep band, and our chapter. Our former Athletic Bands Director was also our Sponsor, so we had to adjust to both a new Director and a new Sponsor simultaneously; this transition went more smoothly knowing we have a reliable alumni to assist.

As well as being an dedicated member to the University of Maryland bands and the Beta Eta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma, she is a committed member to her community. Zara is a middle school math teacher at Old Mill Middle School for the Anne Arundel County School District. She is involved with the music department at her middle school! She learned a couple instruments in order to share the experience of music making with her middle school students during their band classes. She has also been a middle-(wo)man in communicating with her band department and trying to create Crescendo Program service projects with our chapter.

Zara is by definition an ultimate Sister and one of the most hard working alumni a chapter could ask for. The National Council directs our organization to fulfill the values stated in the Essential Factors and Qualities; they promote our organization and promote membership within our organization. It is their job to mediate and organize differences between levels, districts, precincts, and chapters. Zara would be incredible asset to further strengthen and improve that standards set if given the opportunity. According to the Eight and Five, Zara guides individuals and the chapter in a positive direction, and I believe she could definitely do this on the national level. She has the drive, energy, and state of mind to do so. She holds herself to the same standards the way that we promote our organization. She has a thorough understanding of Tau Beta Sigma, and is creative and knowledgeable to further enhance its programs and ideals. She could apply all her skills to the national council and help all of us *Build Better Bands!*

Thank You.



Lorraine A. Montana
Bachelor of Music Education - Instrumental
Vice President of Service - Tau Beta Sigma - Beta Eta
University of Maryland - College Park

To the Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma Nominations Committee,

The Eta Sigma Chapter would like to highly recommend Zara Simpson for the position of Tau Beta Sigma Vice President of Communication and Recognition. We full-heartedly believe that she upholds the utmost pride in our organization and has demonstrated her dedication to our chapter and the national organization since her first interaction with Eta Sigma.

Zara first encountered the Eta Sigma chapter in the Spring of 2014 when we had just celebrated our 5th anniversary since refounding at Towson University. Our chapter was in a delicate place having only 13 members while still trying to build a strong relationship with the band program at Towson and other chapters in the district. In the Spring, our chapter doubled its membership by accepting 12 new membership candidates into the Omicron class. This was an extremely exciting yet rocky time for our chapter. Having a small alumni pool to pull from, it was vital that we looked for help and advice anywhere and everywhere. Zara quickly became a mentor to our young chapter. During that Spring class, she conducted Membership Candidate interviews with almost the entire Omicron class. She attended events and rituals and acted as a guide for our chapter.

As our chapter continued growing over the past 5 years, Zara has continued to mentor our chapter officers and members. She has helped our chapter reach feats that we would have never thought possible in our refounding years. With her help, we submitted a bid for precincts and successfully hosted a precinct event in the Spring of 2018. She has continued to encourage our members to always strive for the 8 and 5 with a joyful and positive attitude. She has shown support for us that we sometimes struggle to get from our own alumni. She has been a shining light that has help Eta Sigma prosper. Our success is due in part to her. The National Office would be lucky to have someone as cheerful, dedicated, and determined as Zara Simpson.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. We cannot wait to hear your decision on this matter.

Tyler Halliwell
Bachelor of Science - Mathematics
Chapter President - Tau Beta Sigma - Eta Sigma
Towson University