



JANUARY 2023

ISSUE 4

SWDAA

# THE CADENCE

Hello SWDAA,

We are so excited to be just a few months away from the 2023 Southwest District Convention!

In January, the Joint Southwest District Councils made our way to Lafayette, Louisiana to work on convention planning. It was so nice to be able to meet face-to-face and spend some time together with our Brothers and Sisters. We were also able to take a tour of the Cajundome, which will be the home of our Southwest District Convention this year!



The Cajundome will be a new experience for our District since it will be the first multi-level location with events taking place on both floors. The location has many local restaurants that hold true to the flavor of Louisiana, and we can't wait for our District to experience it all. The District Councils can't wait for you to enjoy your stay in the bayou area and celebrate a weekend of fellowship together!

We are so excited to see all of our Brothers and Sisters at #SWDCON23 this Spring! AEA and MLITB! - *Patrick Caraveo & Madison Calvert (SWD Presidents)*

From the 5th to the 8th of January, an annual gathering of game and game music fans takes place at a magical convention called MAGFest. MAGFest, as described by the event's organizers, is a 4-day party celebrating video and tabletop gaming with a special emphasis on their music. For those days, the halls of the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, fill up with musicians, gamers, fans of Danny DeVito(?), and icons of pop culture cosplayed by the incredibly talented people who craft elaborate representations of their favorite fandoms. You can't look in any direction without seeing a myriad of Italian plumbers, pocket monsters, one-winged angels, stormtroopers and Mandalorians, comic book heroes, and every anime personality you know and didn't know that you didn't know. Anywhere you stand, you'll hear music. It may come from a guy dressed as a Hylian man in a green tunic playing an ocarina in the hallway, a group of bards singing about their D&D adventures in the lobby, or one of the many incredible musical acts that performs on the main stage. Think KKPsi and TBS convention, but about nerd stuff.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to play with the Game Brass at MAGFest this year and perform a set of game tunes on that main stage. Normally, the group is a standard quintet who are not unfamiliar with the convention. This year, they decided to add a few people and make a bigger brass choir and I was lucky enough to know the horn player from college, leading to my invitation. It took me, my wife, Naomi (TBS, Xi alumni and KKPsi, Alpha Psi honorary member), and our friend, Grace (TBS Xi member) two days to get from Amarillo, TX to Maryland, a 28-hour drive, to get there, but everything about it was worth the effort. After a few rehearsals, meeting as a group in person for the first time that week, the Game Brass played music from Halo, Super Smash Bros., The Legend of Zelda, Celeste, Castlevania, and Chrono Trigger to an enthusiastic audience that made you feel like you were Elton John or something. It was the most energizing experience I've had as a horn player, one that will remain in my memory for the rest of my days.

While the performance was the highlight of the trip, there was plenty else to do at MAGFest. In between rehearsals, there were panels about game music theory, panels about history of the Star Wars Old Republic, game shows with internet celebrities, cosplay contests, arcades, museums, the marketplace where I spent way too much money, and of course, performances. We even got to meet a couple of my favorite composers! Tee Lopes, composer of Sonic Mania and the recently released, TMNT: Shredder's Revenge, was just enjoying a drink and one of the performers at the lobby bar!

The other, Austin Wintory, an Emmy nominee for his soundtrack to Journey among others like Assassin's Creed: Syndicate, was at an autograph signing and then later, eating breakfast in the table behind us one day! That kind of thing can only happen at MAGFest! They were both very kind as I gushed about how much their music meant to me and made it to where I came back with some souvenirs - signed copies of some of the games they worked on!

As I've been mentioning, there is a special emphasis on music. We watched a ton of concerts, but the biggest highlight was the 8-Bit Big Band who recently won a whole Grammy for one of their arrangements of Meta Knight's Revenge from Nintendo's Kirby series which was the first time any video game thing won a Grammy, by the way! Watching a big band and jazz orchestra play music from Portal, Mario Kart 8, Metal Gear Solid 3, and a ton others was electric. Nothing gets us dorks going more than hearing "Bob-omb Battlefield" from Super Mario 64 performed live!

There is so much more I could talk about, but I'll leave it at that. Getting to spend those days there, surrounded by games and music was incredible. If you're into either of those things, even a little bit, I highly recommend MAGFest. You're guaranteed a good time.

*Luis "Luigi" Bencomo - Alumni  
Alpha Psi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi*



Some members of the Alpha alumni played with the Oklahoma State Alumni Band at the basketball games while the students are out of town or traveling to the bowl game during winter break. Other than playing, we got to enjoy fellowship with one another and cheered on the Pokes.

- Caroline Lee



This month I had the privilege of rehearsing with the United ISD Wind Symphony from Laredo, Texas, under the direction of Mr. Carlos Gil, member of the Region 14 Band Director Hall of Fame. It's been so much fun to play my instrument and get to make music again.

- Dionicio "Dino" Cardenas



STITCHERS

POSTERS

BUTTONS

HEADBANDS

**WE ARE OPEN**

**YEAR ROUND**

[SWDAASTORE.SQUARE.SITE/](http://SWDAASTORE.SQUARE.SITE/)

For more information contact, [swdaafinance@gmail.com](mailto:swdaafinance@gmail.com)

## Happy Birthday, January Members!

Darian "Dj" Thompkins - Jan 13th

\*Kelton Ashcraft - Jan 14th

Destiny Moore - Jan 14th

Abby Portillo - Jan 15th

Jesse Palacios - Jan 15th

Melissa Bays - Jan 22nd

Ondrea Green - Jan 26th



(\*) - Distinguishes SWDAA BOD, National Leadership, or Governor/Counselor

● LIVE

SWDAA SUPER BOWL  
WATCH PARTY

LET'S SCREAM AT OUR TV'S TOGETHER OVER ZOOM!

FEBRUARY 12  
2023

5:30PM

# "I want to be where the people are" - Ariel

by Marissa Archuleta

Life Member - Delta Kappa

Membership Director - TBSAA Executive Council

Over MLK weekend I flew to Orlando for site visit for National Convention. My day started by heading to the airport at 3:30 in the morning. I flew from Kansas City to Dallas where I had a few hours layover. I then boarded my flight and got to sit with Kappa Kappa Psi President Jessica Lee and Past National President Jack Lee. We landed in Orlando where I met up with Thea Murphy and Dave Alexander from my council and we headed to the hotel. While I was glad to be in Orlando it wasn't the warmest weekend. We got to the hotel, checked in, then got ready to go to Disney Springs with Lisa Croston. We boarded the shuttle and away we went. We spent the evening walking around the shops, having fancy drinks at the Coca Cola shop, and dinner at the Rainforest Cafe. While we were at dinner Lisa and I started reminiscing about the 2017 National Convention in Orlando. My favorite day ever from my time in Tau Beta Sigma happened during the 2017 convention and the Rainforest Cafe was a part of it. After freezing in Disney Springs we headed back to the hotel and got ready for a full day of meetings.

Saturday rolled around and we began the day by having breakfast with everyone from the leadership teams. We then went on a tour of the convention center and mapped out the rooms needed for all of our needs this summer. After we broke off into our respective councils to work on all things nat con and strategic planning. The TBSAA Executive Council got busy mapping out the alumni track for this summer. While the final touches are still being put on the schedule we have a good schedule planned out for you guys. Another part of our meetings included strategic planning with the national council and board of trustees. We all got together and broke into small groups to discuss the goals each council has for the next ten years. In order for the sorority to continue to thrive and grow it was important that we sat down to discuss our goals and ideas to line up with the new vision statement. After a long day of meetings the TBSAA EC went to Disney Springs for dinner and to catch up with each other. After dinner we headed back to the hotel and I hung out with some of the brothers to catch up.



On Sunday morning the EC finished up some last minute details regarding convention. Once our meetings ended we hung out for a little bit before heading to the airport. We headed to the airport early to beat the long security line and have some lunch. I boarded my first flight with Jessica Smith and we headed to Ft. Myers. After a short delay I was on my way back to Kansas City. I landed and got home around 1:30 in the morning. While it was a long travel day I was grateful to have spent the weekend with everyone. It was great not to only see the other members of the leadership teams but the people I call family. It was a productive weekend and there are going to be a lot of good things happening at convention.

If you are on the fence about attending convention or have never been to National Convention then I highly encourage you to consider coming. This will be my seventh national convention and every time has been great, full of memories, and new experiences. Start saving now and book your flights early! If you want some tips and tricks on how to save then join the facebook group called “Tau Beta Sigma 2023 National Convention Savings Plan Challenge.” It is going to be a great convention!



# 2023 SWDAA AWARDS

**NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR:  
SWDAA FOR  
EDUCATION**  
DEADLINE: APRIL 21ST, 2023

**SWDAA FOR EDUCATION  
DEADLINE: APRIL 21ST, 2023**

**APPLY FOR THE:  
CHRIS FOSTER  
ALUMNI OF THE  
YEAR AWARD**

- The Southwest District Alumni Association Chris Foster Alumni of the Year Award is given to one alumni of *Tau Beta Sigma* either initiated in the Southwest District or currently residing in the Southwest District.
- Member must exemplify the ideals of our organizations and actively support alumni in the Southwest District.
- The award recipients shall be announced at the Southwest District Convention each year.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE:  
March 17th, 2023**

SWDAlumni.org/

**CHRIS FOSTER: ALUMNI OF  
THE YEAR AWARD  
DEADLINE: MARCH 17TH ,  
2023**

**APPLY FOR THE:  
DIONICIO "DINO" CARDENAS  
ALUMNI OF THE  
YEAR AWARD**

- The Southwest District Alumni Association Alumni of the Year awards are given to one alumni of *Kappa Kappa Psi* either initiated in the Southwest District or currently residing in the Southwest District.
- Member must exemplify the ideals of our organizations and actively support alumni in the Southwest District.
- The award recipients shall be announced at the Southwest District Convention each year.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE:  
March 17th, 2023**

SWDAlumni.org/

**DIONICIO "DINO" CARDENAS:  
ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD  
DEADLINE: MARCH 17TH ,  
2023**

*All application can be found at: <https://lnk.bio/SWDAA>*



# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS SWDAA BOD

**Interested individuals should meet the following qualifications:**

- (2.3) All current and registered members of the SWDAA are eligible to serve on the Board if they have attended a business-related session of SWDAA in the last year or a Southwest District Convention or National Convention within four years prior to running for office.
  - Business-related sessions include committee meetings and General Body meetings.
- All Board members must be current members of either the Kappa Kappa Psi Alumni Association or the Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association.
- The Board of Directors must make every attempt to be present at the SWD Convention.

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**Positions Open:**

- Chairperson
- Membership Director
- Programs Director
- Communications Director
- Finance Director
- Kappa Kappa Psi Member-at-Large
- Tau Beta Sigma Member-at-Large

**Materials Requested:**

- Letter of intent which identifies the position being sought, why it is being sought, what contributions you can make in that office, and information detailing how you meet the above basic qualifications.
- Résumé/Vita
  - Fraternity/Sorority
  - Professional
- One photograph, suitable for publication.

Interested individuals may submit their information no later than *February 13th, 2023*.

Submit your packets to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/23SWDAAPackets>

# GREATER HOUSTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

By Mellinna Ridout

What a rewarding day of service in honor of the great drum major for justice Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and in the spirit of building greater bands.

KKΨ-TBΣ Greater Houston Alumni Association members were able to service THREE HS bands in Houston (Jack Yates HS, Evan Worthing HS, and Booker T Washington) with the Gatorade donation from HCA Healthcare. The mission of GHAA is, "Service towards building greater bands through community service and networking".

We are a growing LAA in the Houston, Texas area and the only thing missing is YOU.

Email us at: [kkytbs.greaterhoustonalumni@gmail.com](mailto:kkytbs.greaterhoustonalumni@gmail.com)



(Pictured are GHAA members Ron Adolph, Troy Lastice-Jackson, Samuel Dinkins III and SWDAA & GHAA Member Mellinna Ridout)

## A Message from the SWDAA Co-MALS

Hello SWDAA! Your Co-MALS are gathering information in order to plan a *District Day* in the near future! Please take a moment and fill out this form, even if you aren't interested in attending. Kelton and I would like as much feedback as possible. Please let one of us know if you have any questions, comments, concerns, etc. Thank you for your help! - *Chelsea Zuniga*

[District Day Questionnaire!](#)

# Texas Music Educators Association Convention

The following Board of Directors will be in attendance at the 2023 TMEA Convention this upcoming February. Please come visit us before the Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma Sing for Cookies with SWDAA! Thursday, February 9th, 2023 at 9:50pm in CC Stars at Night Ballroom 1. See you there!



BRIANNA MITCHELL  
CHAIRPERSON



JENNIFER D. VILLARREAL  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



NATALIA HARRISON  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



DIONICIO "DINO" CARDENAS  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



KELTON ASHCRAFT  
KKPSI: MEMBER AT LARGE

## SWDAA TALK SHOP: GOOGLE SUITE

Moderator:

**Amelia Dunmore**

Alumni of the Alpha Omicron Chapter (TBΣ)  
2nd Grade Teacher



**FEB 25TH | 9:30 AM**



<https://tinyurl.com/SWDAATalksShop2>



[swdaaprograms@gmail.com](mailto:swdaaprograms@gmail.com)







2023

# SWD CONVENTION

LAFAYETTE, LA | APRIL 14-16, 2023

**DAYS TILL #SWDCON23 FROM JANUARY 31ST, 2023:**

**73 DAYS  
OR  
2 MONTHS & 14 DAYS  
OR  
10 WEEKS & 3 DAYS**

## Contact us at:

- Brianna Mitchell, Chairperson
  - [swdaachair@gmail.com](mailto:swdaachair@gmail.com)
- Jennifer D. Villarreal, Membership Director
  - [swdaamembership@gmail.com](mailto:swdaamembership@gmail.com)
- Natalia Harrison, Programs Director
  - [swdaamembership@gmail.com](mailto:swdaamembership@gmail.com)
- Dionicio Cardenas, Communications Director
  - [swdjointalumni@gmail.com](mailto:swdjointalumni@gmail.com)
- Ciara Gibbs, Finance Director
  - [swdaafinance@gmail.com](mailto:swdaafinance@gmail.com)
- Kelton Ashcraft (KKPsi) & Chelsea Zuniga (TBSigma)
  - Co-Members at Large
  - [swdaa.comals@gmail.com](mailto:swdaa.comals@gmail.com)

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