

FALL 2007

# Tau Sigma Harvest

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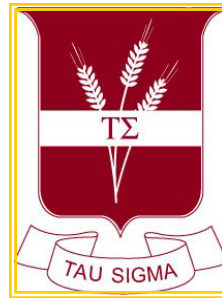
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## From the Executive Director...

### ***“Recognizing and promoting the academic excellence and involvement of transfer students “***

As many of you know, I was a transfer student at Auburn University almost 25 years ago and that was the genesis of my interest in the transfer student experience. I have said many times that Auburn was (and still is) a very warm and friendly school. However, back in the 80s, they just didn't know quite how to reach transfers and assimilate them into the university. I've always suspected, and am now confident, that there are many wonderful faculty and staff at universities all over the country who care a great deal about transfer students. As we establish new Tau Sigma chapters

across the country, it is our hope that we can accomplish our mission—that being to help universities “recognize and promote the academic excellence and involvement of transfer students.” There is an incredible amount of talent and intelligence among the



transfer student population at your school and we hope that Tau Sigma has been a help to you as you try to serve this group.

We are missing out if we don't capitalize on every opportunity we have to take advantage of this largely untapped resource.

I want to use a part of this column of our inaugural newsletter to thank EVERY Tau Sigma advisor, co-advisor, officer, and hard-working member for serving your university and its transfers. Whatever success this organization enjoys is due to the extraordinary work being done by each of you. Please know that Melanie and I would like to help you and your chapters in any way we can. As we grow, we are learning every year about how we can improve. My hope is that we can all work together to make Tau Sigma National Honor Society and its chapters even better!

- Lee Colquitt

## From the Director of Chapter Relations...

I began working in Tau Sigma over a year ago and at the time was really not quite sure what it was and what to expect from this position. Well, during this year I have come to realize what a great organization it is and how important it is to reach out to transfer students. I, a former transfer student myself, can un-

derstand why a program like Tau Sigma has been so successful as it helps to bond those students who did not arrive as freshmen right out of high school. I wish Tau Sigma had existed when I was in college!

I have really enjoyed getting to know so many of you and working with all of you has been a

great experience. I know Lee appreciates all the hard work you put into your chapters and I hope I am making it a little bit easier for you! Please enjoy the newsletter and remember... it will only be as good as the information each of you shares with us!

-Melanie Saunders

## Tau Sigma Approaching Number 50!



Who will be number FIFTY?!!

*“At SUNY Cortland, members of our chapter serve as mentors for our incoming transfer students.”*

Back in the 1998-1999 school year, the first chapter of Tau Sigma was established at Auburn University. In November, 2000, Tau Sigma was presented at the Seventh National Conference on Students in Transition in Cincinnati, Ohio. The chapter that was established that made us a “national” organization was the University at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo).

Since 2000, there have been 47 additional chapters (beyond

Auburn and Buffalo) established and we are certain to get our 50th this year. Who will it be?!?!?! There are several universities with Preliminary Charter Information forms submitted and approved and so it’s just a matter of which one has their membership process completed first!

The 49 chapters established represent 28 different states, from New York to Florida to California to Hawaii (nothing in Alaska yet, but we’re working

on it!). The states with the largest number of chapters are New York with five and Texas with four. We look forward to the day when we have a chapter established in every state! Help us spread the word to other universities!

Also, advisors... if it happens that you are leaving your school for another position; 1) please help us find a replacement for you, and 2) help us establish a chapter at your new institution!

### What’s Happening at SUNY Cortland

At SUNY Cortland, members of our chapter serve as mentors for our incoming transfer students. They guide class finding tours prior to the start of class. They help plan and attend socials at the beginning of the year to help welcome new students and answer their questions. This year, we had a welcome picnic and a social

in a college-owned building on Main St. in downtown Cortland. We offered phone books, menus, and other area resources to help students adjust to living in a new town. We had food from local restaurants that students were able to use their meal plans at, along with a raffle for gift certificates to those restaurants.

A new initiative is our Transfer Buddy program. Tau Sigma members volunteered to be a buddy/mentor to a new transfer student. They exchanged email/IM and kept in touch over the first few weeks to help with the transition.

*From Carol Costell  
SUNY Cortland*

### Upcoming Meetings

Every year, I attend two or three meetings where I think I can meet some people who might be interested in establishing a Tau Sigma chapter.

Over the years, I have attended the annual meetings of the Institute for

the Study of Transfer Students, FYE, Students in Transition, NODA, and ACPA/NASPA, to name a few.

This year, I will be attending the Students in Transition meeting in Cincinnati (November) and the Institute for the Study of Transfer Students in Ft. Worth (January).

If you plan to be at either of these meetings, please make a point to look me up! I’d enjoy seeing you there.

Also, if there is a meeting that you think would be beneficial for me to attend, I’d enjoy hearing about it.

Lee Colquitt, Exec Dir



# College of Charleston



*“Our Tau Sigs are an exceptional group of individuals.”*

One thing recently that might be of interest to other chapters: We have an evening pizza drop-in for new transfer students at the begin-

ning of each semester (this year we added a morning coffee and bagel drop-in for the early birds). Some of our Tau Sigs volunteered to attend these drop-ins to socialize and con-fab with the new transfer students. It went real well. College spirit among transfer students is high. For the most part, they really want to be

here, whether they were unhappy with their first choice or were denied admission out of high school and have finally made it through the technical college route. All in all, our Tau Sigs are an exceptional group of individuals, and I was not surprised at how many of them enthusiastically committed to helping greet the new Cougars.

-Ned Hartley  
Transfer Counselor

*This year we plan to award more than the \$5,750.00 we awarded last year.*

## It's Scholarship Time!

As you know by now, the deadline for accepting scholarship applications from each of our chapters is approaching. One of the most rewarding things we've done as an organization is to award scholarships to our most deserving members. We hope and expect to increase the scholarships offered each year. This year we plan to award more than the \$5,750 we awarded last year.

It is very encouraging to review the applications as they come in and see the wonderful accomplishments of many of our members.

Members... if you haven't heard about the scholarships available or the process, make sure you get the information from your advisor!

Advisors... make sure you keep up with the deadline! We will need your chapter's application(s) sent

to me electronically by November 16 (the Friday before Thanksgiving week). Remember, you are allowed one chapter representative if you had under 100 new members this past year and two chapter representatives if you had 100+ new members this past year. Call or email if you have questions!!!

## Tau Sigma Bulletin Board

Oct. -College of Charleston- Dash for Trash

Oct. -Georgia Southern Tau Sigma will be participating in Homeless and Hunger Week. Please bring any non-perishable items to the October chapter meeting!

Georgia Southern's Tau Sigma chapter will sponsor one home-coming king and queen!

Member Point System Passed at Georgia Southern

We would like you to stay involved! To be considered an active member, you will need a minimum of 50 points per semester. Meetings will be 5

points each, monthly events will be 10 points, and admissions office events will be 15 points. Plus there will be incentive giveaways for people with the most earned points!

November- Auburn University Tau Sigma chapter will help with the "Senior Prom" at Azalea Place (a retirement home)





**TAU SIGMA**  
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

"RECOGNIZING AND PROMOTING THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
AND INVOLVEMENT OF TRANSFER STUDENTS"

**Fall 2007**

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*The purpose of Tau Sigma shall be to recognize the academic achievement of students transferring to a four-year academic institution and to encourage and promote the students' involvement in the institution to which they have transferred.*

*Have questions or need help? Contact Melanie Saunders or Lee Colquitt by email at [tausigma@bellsouth.net](mailto:tausigma@bellsouth.net)*



**Make Life Easier!!! Let Us Help You With the Membership Mailing!**

National is now handling the membership mailings for those chapters who would like to hand it over to us. You may prefer to conduct the membership mailing yourself, which is fine. However, if you decide to allow National to conduct the mailing, then you will simply need to obtain the names, addresses, and email of those students who are eligible for membership and send them to Melanie Saunders in an Excel spreadsheet.

Upon receiving the students' information, we will contact the students by mail, follow up with email, and collect their membership forms and dues. After the deadline for sending in the membership forms, we will send you

a list of the members, their membership forms, the induction materials (certificates and pins), a charter, honor cords, t-shirts, and a check for the local dues. At that point, you will simply schedule a meeting for the members, elect officers, and the chapter will be off and running!



**National has Tau Sigma T-shirts and Honor Cords - \$10.00 each.**

If National conducts the mailing, then the National dues are \$35 (with \$5 going towards the costs of the mailing) and the recommended local dues are \$10. If you decide to conduct the mailing, then the National dues are \$30 and we recommend the local dues be \$15 (with \$5 going towards the cost of the mailing).

Either way, the recommended dues for the students are \$45 (unless your chapter chooses to have higher local dues) and they are paid **ONLY ONCE**. The membership is a lifetime membership and the student can not lose their membership, even if their GPA falls below what was initially required.