



**Candidates for the 2023 - 2026
International Executive Board of
Mu Phi Epsilon**



Ashley Bouras

Phi Tau; Dallas Alumni

Eligible for:

International President

1st Vice President | Extension Officer

2nd Vice President | Collegiate Advisor

3rd Vice President | Alumni Advisor

4th Vice President | Music Advisor

5th Vice President | Eligibility Advisor

Candidate Preference:

1. 2nd Vice President | Collegiate Advisor

BIOGRAPHY: Ashley Bouras graduated from the University of North Texas in 2012 with a Bachelor's in Music Education in 2012 and 2021 she earned her Masters of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. She is an Orff Schulwerk certified teacher currently teaching in Richardson, Texas. Outside of her school district, Ashley has presented sessions for Plano ISD, Texas A&M Commerce, and Texas Music Educators Association Convention. In 2016 she was named Berkner Area Music Teacher of the Year and in 2017 she was awarded Teacher of the Year on her campus. Additionally, Ashley is the music director for McKinney Youth OnSTAGE where she has directed 40 productions and volunteered over 2,500 hours since 2017.

Ashley was initiated into the Phi Tau chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon in April of 2010. During her time with Phi Tau, she served as committee heads, Vice President, and convention delegate in 2011. After graduation, she served the Fraternity in several roles: two years Dallas Alumni Vice President, two years Dallas Alumni President, seven years as District Director for SC2, and one year as District Director at Large. She currently acts as the International Collegiate Advisor.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: Re-election to the position of International 2nd Vice President would be an immense honor. As the Collegiate Advisor, I have three central goals that support the Fraternity operations. The District Directors create essential relationships with their chapters which gives them the ability to check the pulse of the fraternity. My top priority is to support the District Directors as they undertake this necessary task. Second, I want to finish the Learning Management System for collegiate officer training, so all chapters have an equal chance for success that does not depend on training from officers transitioning out of their positions. Finally, I hope to contribute the collegiate prospective and other ideas in conversations with the Executive Board.

Ann Geiler



Phi Theta; St. Louis Alumni

Eligible for:

International President
 1st Vice President | Extension Officer
 2nd Vice President | Collegiate Advisor
 3rd Vice President | Alumni Advisor
 4th Vice President | Music Advisor
 5th Vice President | Eligibility Advisor

Candidate Preference:

1. 3rd Vice President | Alumni Advisor

BIOGRAPHY: Ann Geiler earned her BME from Lindenwood University and her MME from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She was public school string teacher who taught strings from grades 4 through Jr. College for 30 years and retired in 2017. Ann has been active in professional music organizations throughout Missouri and the US, which promote music education. She remains active in promoting string education in her retirement and is currently on the Adjudicator Committee for the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

Ms. Geiler is Past-President of the Missouri Chapter of the American String Teachers Association and has been MMEA Orchestra Vice-President, has coordinated the Missouri All-Collegiate and High School Orchestras, been a member of the Mo-ASTA board, and served as Middle School Orchestra Vice-President, Treasurer, and President of the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association. Ann is a trained adjudicator for the Solo & Small Ensemble and Large Group Festivals and travels throughout the state evaluating and encouraging string students. Ms. Geiler is a professional cellist who plays in Quartet Briosso as well as various orchestras in Missouri and Illinois. Ann is currently the conductor for the Alton Jr. Youth Symphony and Alton Chamber strings in Alton, Illinois and conductor of the Jr. Youth Orchestra in Belleville, Illinois. She has received numerous awards for her work in Music Education. Ann is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon Professional Music Fraternity. She is the 3rd Vice-President Alumni Advisor, president of the St. Louis Alumni Chapter, and the Final Notes Contributor for The Triangle the official magazine of Mu Phi Epsilon.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I have had the honor of serving Mu Phi Epsilon as the Alumni Advisor for the last three years. It has been an experience that I have really enjoyed. I have learned a lot about our Fraternity and what it takes to make a fraternity run.

My goal has been to work on communication between the alumni's and the collegiate as well as communication with other alumni's and DD's. Some of the things that were put in place to reach this goal are: holding monthly zoom meetings, getting more information on our website and trying to open the lines of communication between all of our alumni chapters. If elected again I will continue to work on building up our alumni chapters, starting some new chapters, reaching out to our affiliate members and working on relationships with our collegiates as well as work for the continued growth and success of our beloved Mu Phi Epsilon.



Francisca Maxwell, DMA

Delta Psi

Eligible for:

4th Vice President | Music Advisor

Candidate Preference:

4th Vice President | Music Advisor

The Belgian-American soprano, Dr. Francisca Maxwell, was born in Argentina and grew up in Belgium. She studied at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels, department of the Erasmus Hogeschool, where she obtained a bachelor's and a master's degree in Vocal Arts with a certification in Vocal Pedagogy. She was a member of the Brussels Cathedral Choir (Cappella Sancti Michaelis) and the VRT National Radio Choir ([Vlaams Radio Koor](#)). She also participated on a regular basis in the early music vocal ensembles of [La Petite Bande](#), Huelgas, Anima Eterna, [Il Fondamento](#) and Currende. In 1997, she was granted a Fulbright Scholarship by the Commission on Educational Exchange between the USA and Belgium and Luxembourg. With this scholarship, she continued her education at the University of Texas at Austin where she studied voice with Gilda Cruz-Romo and Nikita Storojev. She graduated as a Doctor of Musical Arts in Voice Performance in 2002.

Francisca started her professional career as a free-lance singer in Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany. Her performances have since taken her all over Europe, Russia and the USA. She was staged in leading roles of many operas and operettas, among which *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *Rinaldo*, [Alicina](#), *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Eine Nacht in Venedig* and *Paganini*. She has been featured several times on public radio in the program "The Atlanta Music Scene." Francisca performed with the Georgia Institute of Technology Orchestra and Choir in [Felix Mendelssohn's Lobgesang](#), in Bach's *St John's Passion*, and in the *Requiem* by [Jerry Ulrich](#). Since 2018, she forms a collaborative duo with concert pianist Dr. Elena Dorozhkina and they perform all over the southern United States.

Their recitals encompass music of diverse genres and style periods, but their love for Russian art song repertoire of the 19th and 20th centuries shines through in every program.

Francisca immigrated to Atlanta in 2009 where she built a thriving private studio. She held a position as artist affiliate at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. In the fall 2018, she joined the faculty at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia as Lecturer in Vocal Studies. Besides voice lessons, she teaches Music Appreciation, World Music and subjects related to vocal performance and pedagogy. Upon the revival of the Delta Psi chapter at Clayton State in 2021, she became a member of Mu Phi Epsilon and has been the faculty advisor for Delta Psi since then. The Professional Fraternity Association named her "Faculty Advisor of the Year" in 2022. She lives with her husband in Decatur, GA.

Candidate Statement:

As a prolific performer and a committed teacher, it has been my mission in life to share my love for music in a creative and meaningful way. In a world where communication can be so difficult despite all the tools we have at our fingertips, where we misunderstand each other only too often and where technology is sometimes our best friend as well as our worst enemy, we can rely on music to bring us together and to act as a pathway to mutual understanding and compassion. It is so often through music that we find common ground and that we connect with the people around us. The platform on which Mu Phi Epsilon operates, from the collegiate to the alumni setting, is an ideal jumping board. By sharing musical experiences and creating tight personal bonds, we can establish a friendship fabric that is strong and resilient. Through that musical fabric, we spread kindness and joy, which can have far reaching effects beyond the scope of our fraternity.

The world has truly been my oyster, and I am so grateful for it. Through music, I have established contacts and relationships, and for sure, deep lasting friendships, on the national as well as international level. As 4th vice-president, I would bring these connections to the Mu Phi Epsilon community, as well as forge new ones through the face of our fraternity. Moreover, in my lifetime, I have been active in a variety of musical fields, performing music from the Middle Ages to romantic opera, and from baroque oratorio to contemporary chamber music. I bring this broad approach to my students, and I would bring it to Mu Phi Epsilon in the same way. I also actively seek out music by living and minority composers. It is important to me that we create a more all-encompassing view of our musical wealth. In addition, the field of World Music has always been of great interest to me, and I was grateful to be offered the chance to teach it at my institution. It has grown to be one of my favorite courses! Music truly shows how we are all connected to one another and how awfully small

this world truly is. I make a conscious effort to meet the audience and/or the students where they are by trying to find music in which they recognize themselves, music in which they feel reflected, regardless of race, age, orientation, religion, economic or cultural background. As music advisor, I would like to offer a broad variety of music to my Mu Phi family by promoting cross-cultural relationships and a vision that encourages equal representation in music programming.

I was deeply honored to be nominated for the position of 4th vice-president, Music Advisor. I see this opportunity as an excellent way to “pay it forward.” If I am elected, I hope that I may serve to make a difference to each and every member of Mu Phi Epsilon, and that together, we may reach out with joy and kindness -through music- to the community at large.

Marshall Pugh

Alpha Xi; Roanoke Valley Alumni



Eligible for:

1st Vice President | Extension Officer
2nd Vice President | Collegiate Advisor
3rd Vice President | Alumni Advisor
4th Vice President | Music Advisor
5th Vice President | Eligibility Advisor

Candidate Preference:

1. 4th Vice President | Music Advisor

BIOGRAPHY: My name is Marshall Pugh, a longtime lover of the beach, a good cup of coffee, and all things Mu Phi. I was born in northeastern North Carolina and raised on the Outer Banks, NC. Upon graduating high school in 2007, I started my college career at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. It was a year later that I found the Alpha Xi chapter, which was the beginning of my lifelong journey as a member of Mu Phi Epsilon. In December 2011, I graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree and became the district director for the Southeast 1 district. Since then, I have had the joy and pleasure of working with the countless numbers of collegiate and alumni members that have kept my district on the path that leads upward toward the stars.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I am pleased to accept the nomination, and am ecstatic to be running for the International Executive Board position of 4th Vice President (Music Advisor). My dedication to the duties and responsibilities of this position will allow us to continue to strengthen the bond between all of our chapters through the music we make each and every day. Music, when used strategically, can be one of the many tools we use to help ignite the light within our fraternity and to help our members see the wonders that exist outside the walls of their local chapters. One of my many goals as the International Music Advisor would be to provide more opportunities for our chapters to make music together across district lines, as well as provide opportunities for our members to serve through music on a larger scale. To aid in the achievement of this goal, as well as the successful completion of the roles bestowed upon me as the music advisor, the skills I have gained as a district director will be put to good use. Since 2012, the chapters in the Southeast 1 district have, with my assistance, taken turns hosting an annual district conference, which has helped to strengthen the bond between them and has given the district the opportunity to blossom over the years. Also, at the virtual convention hosted in Summer 2021, I was provided with the opportunity to present on district conference planning, which was part of a series of training sessions for our district directors. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the possible opportunity to serve as your next 4th Vice President and Music Advisor!

Liana Sandin



Beta Pi; Lincoln Alumni

Eligible for:

International President
 1st Vice President | Extension Officer
 2nd Vice President | Collegiate Advisor
 3rd Vice President | Alumni Advisor
 4th Vice President | Music Advisor
 5th Vice President | Eligibility Advisor

Candidate Preference:

1. 1st Vice President | Extension Officer
2. 5th Vice President | Eligibility Advisor

BIOGRAPHY: Liana K. Sandin, a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, received a B.M. in Vocal Performance from Nebraska Wesleyan University, where she was initiated into the Beta Pi chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon. She pursued graduate work in the same field at the University of Nebraska's School of Music. Liana is a member of the Lincoln Alumni chapter, holding offices including president multiple times.

She is currently First Vice President/Extension Officer of the Mu Phi Epsilon Fraternity. She was formerly VP and Treasurer of the Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation, and served as the Artist Concert Manager for several years.

She was a District Director for 9 years, and received the 2019 Extraordinary Service to a Collegiate Chapter Award. She is a Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation Golden Benefactor, and a member of the Onyx Circle.

As President and Executive Director of The Pearle Francis Finigan Foundation, she selects and manages grants for music and the arts to local performing, educational, and humanitarian institutions. Recently funded projects include the commissioning and recording of Philip Glass's Annunciation Piano Quintet, various endowed music scholarships and stained-glass installations. The Tiger Enclosure at the Lincoln Children's Zoo is a pet project.

Liana sits on the boards of the Nebraska Chamber Players, Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music, Calvary Cemetery, and Friends of Opera. Active in local music groups, Liana helped facilitate the merger of two performance clubs, each with over 100 years of history, and was the first president of the resulting newly-formed Musical Arts Review. She has sung twice at Carnegie Hall, and has been a church musician for over 40 years. She maintains an interest in fashion

and design, and has created her own wardrobe for many years, as well as leading classes specializing in Italian pattern designs.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I have been honored to serve as Mu Phi Epsilon's First Vice President/Extension Officer for the current term, and I am very pleased to be nominated to serve again in that capacity. Extending the reach of Mu Phi Epsilon and having the chance to ensure that Mu Phi will touch many more lives through new chapters is so rewarding.

I've been a Mu Phi since my Freshman year at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where I was initiated into the Beta Pi chapter. Following graduate school, I joined the Lincoln Alumni chapter where I remain a member. I've held many offices in my alumni chapter, some multiple times, including President. I enjoyed serving as a District Director, and as a board member of the Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation. There are facets of Mu Phi that you will not really be aware of until you are serving in a new capacity, and I certainly found this to be true.

Mu Phi has always been very important to me, and I have found that all Mu Phi's are wonderful friends and colleagues. I enjoy spreading the news about Mu Phi Epsilon. I think all musicians should be Mu Phi's, and those of us who are members have a very special bond.

It's very special to get to know Mu Phi members nationally rather than just in your own chapter or district, and I would encourage all Mu Phi members to consider becoming a District Director, IEB member, or Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation Board member. Attend the Triennial Conventions as you are able. Attend all of the District Conferences, and local events and meetings that you can. The more you give to Mu Phi, the more you will get back.



Tanner Wilson

Beta Alpha; Fullerton Alumni

Eligible for:

1st Vice President | Extension Officer
2nd Vice President | Collegiate Advisor
3rd Vice President | Alumni Advisor
4th Vice President | Music Advisor
5th Vice President | Eligibility Advisor

Candidate Preference:

1. 5th Vice President | Eligibility Advisor

BIOGRAPHY: Tanner Wilson is an academic advisor for the College of Education at San Diego State University, where he is honored to support students from the day they enter the university to the day they graduate. Tanner holds a B.A. in Choral Music Education from California State University, Fullerton, and an M.A. in Postsecondary Educational Leadership with a specialization in Student Affairs from San Diego State University. Tanner was initiated into the Beta Alpha chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon in 2012 and was the recipient of the fraternity's International Sterling Achievement Award in 2016. Tanner has served the Fraternity as District Director for the Pacific Southwest since 2017, during which time he has been named District Director of the Year twice and has been selected as an honorable mention several other times. Tanner has also chaired the Fraternity's Screening Committee and Nominating Committee. Most importantly, Tanner has gotten to support his chapters and see their members grow over the years, something he values dearly. Outside of Mu Phi Epsilon, Tanner is also a staff singer for the San Diego Master Chorale. When he's not making music or supporting students, Tanner enjoys lounging at home, playing video games, and discovering new places to eat.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I am so honored to have been nominated for the position of 5th Vice President, Eligibility Advisor. The position of Eligibility Advisor is one that requires a clear knowledge of the bylaws first and foremost. As former President of the Beta Alpha chapter, one of my major accomplishments was spearheading a committee to drastically update the chapter's bylaws and standing rules, both of which were woefully outdated at the time. As District Director for the Pacific Southwest, I have been available to the various chapters in the district when questions about the bylaws have arisen. Additionally, in my previous role at San Diego State University, I worked for the office of Student Life & Leadership primarily reviewing and approving the bylaws of over 400 student organizations and collaborated with student leaders to improve upon their bylaws in a clear and kind manner. I would so look forward to collaborating with Fraternity leaders around the globe in a similar manner. Thank you for your consideration!



Kurt-Alexander Zeller

Mu Chi; Atlanta Alumni

Eligible for:

International President

Candidate Preference:

1. International President

BIOGRAPHY: Tenor Kurt-Alexander Zeller (Mu Chi, Atlanta Alumni) is Coordinator of the Division of Music and Director of Opera and Vocal Studies at Clayton State University in metropolitan Atlanta. He has sung across North America and Europe in all forms of music drama, as well as in concert and early music, and has staged many operas, ranging from Monteverdi to Menotti, for both professional and academic stages. His 2008 production of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde* in collaboration with the Clayton County Public Schools was profiled by Opera America as an example of excellence in opera education, and his 2022 film of Bruce Trinkley and Jason Charnesky's opera for children, *The Prairie Dog that Met the President*, was an award winner at the 2023 Nature Without Borders International Film Festival.

A licensed instructor with the Association for Body Mapping Education (www.bodymap.org), Dr. Zeller has presented for the International Congress of Voice Teachers, national and regional conferences of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the National Opera Association, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, and Early Music America. With Melissa Malde and MaryJean Allen, he is co-author of the book *What Every Singer Needs to Know about the Body*, now in its 4th edition from Plural Publishing.

Dr. Zeller was initiated into the Mu Chi chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon at Southern Methodist University, where he was the first student ever to be awarded concurrent undergraduate degrees in Music and in Theatre. He earned M.M. and D.M.A degrees in Voice Performance with cognate studies in Opera Directing and Musicology from the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati while president of Alpha Alpha chapter. During that time, he was twice a winner in the Mu Phi Epsilon Musicological Research Contest and was awarded the Merle Montgomery Doctoral Grant, the Mabel Henderson Grant for Foreign Experience, and two summer scholarships by the Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation. He has been president of the Portland (OR) Alumni chapter and District Director of Pacific Northwest 3, chaired the International Committee on Standing Rules, and served two terms

as a Vice President on the International Executive Board (2003-2008, International 3rd Vice President/Alumni Advisor, and 2011-2014, International 5th Vice President/Eligibility Advisor). He chaired the committee that drafted the International Bylaws and Standing Rules adopted by the Fraternity in 2017 and served the Fraternity from 2014 to 2021 as Chair of the Bylaws Committee and Parliamentarian. He was Recording Secretary of the Atlanta Alumni chapter and Faculty Advisor for the Delta Psi chapter at Clayton State University for almost 20 years, until he was elected Mu Phi Epsilon's first male International President in 2021.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as International President of Mu Phi Epsilon for the last two years. It also has been a lot of fun—getting to see members from across our fraternity through videoconferencing and correspondence and sometimes even face-to-face visits. It has been inspiring to learn more about the wonderful work our chapters and individual members are doing everywhere, every day—and I have been proud to share that news as your representative to bodies like the National Music Council and the Professional Fraternity Association, where one of our members won their 2022 Faculty Advisor of the Year award.

I'll confess, however, that the past two years have felt a little like always running after the bus as I have "learned on the job." I now have an even better understanding of the nuts and bolts of fraternity operations than I did two years ago, and it is my hope now to put that experience to work to build for Mu Phi Epsilon a more powerful bridge from a rich and inspiring past to a strong and vibrant future. First among my priorities for the coming triennium would be working to make sure that Mu Phi Epsilon is exciting and attractive to all professionals (and aspiring professionals) in the field of music, including those whose voices have not always been heard and whose presence has not always been valued. This is not only a bridge forward, but also a link directly back to our founding in 1903, when MφE was created to provide support and opportunity to musicians who had been excluded from some venues and opportunities because of their sex. MφE used music, friendship, and harmony, the points of its triangle, to expand the boundaries of the circle. That still should be our mission today.

To that end, we must work to expand our membership at all levels. Put bluntly, more members mean a stronger organization—both programmatically and financially. There are many things we could do with 500 more dues-paying members that simply are not possible now. I especially want to focus on strengthening our alumni chapter network. We know that the demographic reality is that the number of traditional college-age students in the United States will decrease significantly in the coming decade—admissions officers across the country are talking about the coming "enrollment cliff" in dread tones. Welcoming and nurturing young musicians through collegiate chapters is our lifeblood and, ultimately, our primary reason for existing—but it is retention in lifelong affiliation through alumni chapters that provides the fraternity with stability and durability. Without strong alumni chapters, there is no long-term future for our beloved fraternity or for its new members. And yet, the statistics are irrefutable—for some time now, most collegiate members have chosen not to continue their active affiliation as alumni or affiliate members. We must reverse this pattern, or the fraternity will not continue. To make sure that we do so, we must create greater dialogue between

collegiate and alumni members and discover what we can do to make our young graduates as excited to join the alumni network as they were to join their collegiate chapters. I would hope that, in the coming triennium, it will be a priority of the International Executive Board to facilitate conversations throughout the fraternity about how to bridge the gap between collegiate and alumni membership—and to try to create a superhighway from one to the other.

Finally, I hope to encourage all of us to think deeply about the possibility of a new vision for the role of our convention in the life of Mu Phi Epsilon. Historically, the role of convention has been to meet triennially to conduct the business of the fraternity and to provide training experiences, and only a rather small proportion of our membership, most of it “required attendees,” participates. Every three years, for this relatively sparsely attended event to conduct business, the fraternity and its members have made a massive transfer of resources from our pockets to those of the hospitality and transportation industries. I would like all of us to brainstorm about whether the current model for our triennial convention is the best possible stewardship of our resources and about how we might find ways to include in our gatherings many more members who typically have not been taking part in them. I have been hearing ideas and concerns already from chapter leaders and District Directors about this very subject for a year now—and I believe that, in the coming triennium, this conversation needs to expand to include the whole fraternity: What would it take to make our convention be the event each of you wouldn’t dream of missing?

I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me by all members of our fraternity for the last two years, and I hope to prove myself worthy of that trust for another triennium.