

Beta Alpha Psi - Xi-Eta Quarterly Newsletter #2

Presented by Historian, Romina Velasco



Community Updates

Building the Foundation ✨

This spring semester marked a deliberate shift toward building a sustainable foundation for long-term success. The chapter welcomed 36 new candidates—nearly **three times** the average—reflecting a significant expansion in both scale and inclusivity.

With a growing portion of this cohort consisting of freshmen and sophomores—an intentional shift from prior recruitment cycles—the focus has been on early professional development, equipping members with foundational skills in networking, career exploration, and understanding pathways such as the CPA track. This structure has allowed our underclassmen to enter recruitment cycles better prepared and more competitive as they progress.

At the same time, junior members—who are actively navigating those cycles—have already begun to translate that preparation into tangible outcomes, with a number securing internship opportunities with firms such as Forvis Mazars, BDO, Grant Thornton, and EY. Together, these efforts reflect a broader objective: not only achieving results, but intentionally developing the individuals who will sustain them.



★ Serving With Purpose

Engagement beyond professional development also remained a priority this semester, with approximately 30 candidates participating in a joint community service initiative with KPMG at Feeding Northeast Florida.

While the event made a measurable impact within the local community, it also provided members with the opportunity to serve alongside industry professionals, strengthening both chapter partnerships and the shared commitment to community involvement. Experiences such as these reinforce that professional development extends beyond networking alone—cultivating a spirit of service, collaboration, and leadership that remains central to our chapter’s mission.

6,077

**POUNDS OF DRY
GOODS SORTED**

Sustaining hunger-relief
efforts and emergency food
assistance

5,064

**MEALS PROVIDED
TO LOCAL FAMILIES**

Ensuring families had nutritious
meals on their tables

624

SNACK PACKS ASSEMBLED

Contributing an additional 1,248 meals to homes in
Jacksonville!



Expanding Our Reach ★

Additionally, the chapter expanded its outreach this semester by hosting students from Ponte Vedra High School at the University of North Florida! Through an interactive session led by Beta Alpha Psi members and faculty, students were introduced to career pathways in accounting, finance, and business while gaining insight into academic preparation, leadership development, and involvement in professional organizations.



The setting fostered meaningful, small-group conversations, allowing members to connect personally with students and provide guidance on navigating college and early career decisions. The chapter enjoyed testing this first ever initiative, and is something we will replicate next year to continue our commitment to cultivating future business leaders beyond UNF grounds.



Left to Right: Director of Recruitment, Tommy Vanhooose; Treasurer, Jahari Bynoe; President, Franchesca Bradner; Secretary, Julie Wu; Historian, Romina Velasco

✦ A Moment of Perspective

Although the chapter did not participate in this year's Mid-Year Meeting competition in Orlando, members attended with a focus on observation, learning, and strategic reflection.

Through engagement with high-performing chapters, we identified best practices in member development, firm interaction, and programming structure, many of which are already informing our approach for the upcoming semester.

One initiative that reflects this forward-looking approach is the continued development of BAPGPT, a chapter resource designed to provide candidates and members with quick access to information regarding chapter requirements, events, and expectations.

By streamlining communication and improving accessibility, tools like BAPGPT will help make chapter operations more efficient while maintaining the supportive member experience that defines the organization.



Beyond the sessions, the chapter made history with a thrilling day at Epic Universe—Xi-Eta's most adventurous outing yet! Every moment was filled with excitement, camaraderie, and memories that set a new benchmark for chapter experiences.

This experience also served as an important moment of perspective, particularly on a personal level.....



Historian's Story

One Year in BAP: A Candidate's Transformation



Exactly one year ago in Spring 2025, I was entering the chapter as a first-semester candidate with no prior experience in a professional organization such as Beta Alpha Psi. At the time, opportunities like attending the Mid-Year Meeting felt distant, reserved for leadership roles I had not yet stepped into. I joined the chapter while searching for direction, structure, and a sense of purpose during my time at university. What I found was more than a professional organization—it was an environment that challenged me, supported my growth, and gradually shaped me into a leader I did not yet see myself as.

Over time, consistent involvement became transformative. What initially felt like uncertainty evolved into clarity through exposure to professionals, peers, and opportunities that demonstrated what was possible. The chapter became a space where development extended beyond technical skills, influencing how I approached communication, leadership, and long-term goals.



Equally important was the sense of community built through both professional and social engagement. Beyond meetings and firm interactions, chapter events fostered connection and balance, reinforcing that growth is not only academic or career-focused, but also personal. These experiences created an environment where members, including myself, could develop both professionally and individually while learning from one another in meaningful ways.

Looking back, this experience has been one of the most impactful parts of my university journey. It has provided a foundation not only for the professional direction I am pursuing, but for the kind of person I am continuing to become. While I am still growing, I am also the leader and professional I once aspired to be. ✨



*"Beta Alpha Psi has given me the confidence and resources I needed to not only secure an internship, but also find the sense of community I was searching for at UNF. BAP opened doors to meaningful networking opportunities while creating a **welcoming environment** where I could connect with my classmates and peers."*

— Lyla Gibson, a newly initiated Beta Alpha Psi member who will be interning with BDO in the Winter of 2027.

Looking Ahead ✨



As the semester concludes, the chapter remains focused on building upon the momentum created this spring. This summer, the executive board will continue advancing initiatives such as BAPGPT while preparing for the upcoming academic year at its annual leadership retreat. These planning efforts are centered on strengthening chapter programming, expanding opportunities for member engagement, and ensuring continued growth in the semesters ahead.

The recent initiation of the chapter's largest candidate class to date further reflects the progress made so far this year and reinforces the importance of continued investment in member development. Looking forward, the chapter plans to build on the success of this year's collaborative service initiatives through additional partnerships with sponsoring firms, and maintaining its commitment to fostering leadership, connection, and professional growth at every stage of the candidate experience.



While this semester has been marked by meaningful progress, the chapter's greatest opportunity lies in the potential of the members it continues to develop. With a growing foundation, strengthened partnerships, and a clear focus on long-term success, *Xi-Eta is well-positioned to carry this momentum into the coming Fall semester.* We thank you for your continued support and investment in our chapter.

Sincerely, Historian - Romina Velasco

In Memory Of William Klem



We honor the
memory of William
Klem, whose
presence and
impact will remain a
valued part of our
chapter. He will be
remembered with
gratitude and
respect.