

Bradley Tune's Interview

1. What is your full name?
 - Bradley Tune
2. When were you born?
 - 1996
3. Where were you born?
 - In Memphis
4. Where did you grow up and what other places have you lived?
 - I grew up in Memphis. My family moved to New Jersey two years ago.
5. What was your high school experience like? Can you share some stories?
 - I actually homeschooled from kindergarten to graduation, so it was very different from college. So coming to college was a pretty big transition.
6. What was social life like in high school? I know you were homeschooled, but were there other social groups or students that were with you?
 - I had friends, I definitely wasn't just alone. It was just a different world from college.
7. What was the transition like from high school to college? I'm sure it was a big shock.
 - It was a big shock. I went from being at home and being with my family 24/7 to being away. Especially since I have five younger siblings that I'm super close to. So like when I went to class for the first time in college, it was the first time going to class period; like I had never even done that in high school. So, there was just like a million new things at once.
8. What about like living in the dorms? Did you live in the dorms?

- Yeah, I did. That was a pretty big thing also. It was just like everything was new to me and being on my own. I feel like it was a bigger transition than if I had gone to high school for sure. Like I think home schooling prepared me in some ways, but in other ways it's just totally different.

9. Why did you choose Ole Miss?

- Um, funny story. I actually chose it partly because it is close to home and then my family moved to New Jersey. But also they gave me a really good scholarship and I just kind of like the campus.

10. Did your parents attend Ole Miss or where did they attend college?

- They did not. My mom went to Auburn and my dad went to Michigan State.

11. Where else did you apply to go to college?

- I only applied to Ole Miss and the University of Memphis just kind of as a back-up. Just because by the time it came to apply to colleges I was so set on going here.

12. What did you know about Greek life before coming to Ole Miss?

- My mom was in a sorority, but I just didn't think it was for me at all. Like it didn't seem like something I would be interested in at all. I think I was going off what I saw on TV and stuff, the stereotype. So, I had no intention of being a part of that.

13. When did you pledge?

- Fall of my freshman year. So, 2015.

14. So what changed your mind about rushing and being in a sorority?

- Um, my mom said like, you can rush and then just decide not to do it, but you can never go back and do it. So I was like I'll do it and see what it's like. If I like it I can

join it and if not I can go home and it will just be a new experience. And I did it and I just fell in love with the people I met.

15. What was your recruitment experience like?

- It was very stressful. I went through rush and basically the second or third day I had been cut by basically everyone except Theta. Which I was happy with that, it just kind of hurts your self-confidence to be cut by every single sorority. So it just kind of self-consciously, it made me very nervous. It's just a very emotional experience for everyone I think. Even in your mind you know they just probably didn't have enough spots or something like that, but you still think it could've been something I did or said, especially when it's your first month of college.

16. How would you describe Greek life on the Ole Miss campus?

- Um, I think it's different from anywhere else that's for sure. I'm looking at law schools and I just finished visiting Illinois and I couldn't believe how different it was. Just because like here I feel like everyone wears their letters every single day because like everyone is Greek. It impacts you everywhere you go. Like everyone in student government is Greek and you know they are Greek. Like at Illinois I feel like it's more of different bubbles, like you have the Greeks and you have everyone else. And I feel like Greek life here it just impacts everything.

17. What is the mission of Theta?

- The official thing is like creating leading women. I think for me, Theta was always about taking people who are good and making them even better and pushing them

to self evaluate and become even better from their faults and just become better people. Just to be the best version of yourself.

18. Why did you choose to join Theta?

- Um, like I said I didn't think it was for me, but then I went through and I saw people who were just very genuine and down to earth. They just constantly inspired me to be the best version of myself, they were always there for me. And it was just a very good experience, it is hard to put into words. Its more than just like finding friends, it was about finding people who were going to push me to be my best self.

19. What does Theta mean to you?

- Theta means to me like sisterhood. Like I have a sister and we fight a bunch, but I'd still do anything for her and I feel like in Theta even if they are people I don't like, I love all of them. if anyone ever needed anything I would be there for them and I know that if I ever needed anything in ten years; I could call them and they would be there for me, so its like a lifetime commitment.

20. Can you tell us about your philanthropy?

- Our main philanthropy is CASA which is court appointed special advocates. So what that does is it takes people and it trains them to be there for a child going through the foster system to represent them in the court and out of the court. CASA gives several thousand dollars to train them and we recently started a CASA chapter in Oxford. So that's a pretty big deal.

21. Can you tell us about the events yall did for philanthropy, like how you would tell somebody who is learning about Theta for the first time?

- Well the biggest thing we did was Theta Encore which is pretty cool because every single sorority does that and it is kind of like a campus wide event. It earned more than any other event on the Ole Miss campus except for football. Our chapter earned more for our philanthropy than any other chapter in the nation. We also did other fundraising events like cupcakes for CASA and popsicles and stuff like that. Theta Encore is the main one.

22. What happens at Theta Encore?

- Theta Encore is this dance competition. So, every single sorority their new pledge classes would put together a dance and tons of people would pay to come see it. And the sororities would also like raise money through websites. Sororities get very competitive and very into it trying to get the most "points".

23. What would a say an average day of your life was like as Theta before the loss of the charter?

- I have lived in the house every single year. So I think I didn't even realize how much it impacted my everyday life like I would eat breakfast at the house and lunch and dinner. I would study at the house, everything about my life was centered around Theta or the people in Theta. So it wasn't until we lost our charter until I realized how much my entire life revolved around it, because honestly all of my closest friends are Thetas. So, its just bizzare to realize how different my life would have been without it, because it really did define my college years.

24. How has your life changed since the loss of the charter?

- It has been really hard. I think because there was something that defined my college for three years and now its just completely gone. So like before I ate every single meal at the house and it would always be packed full with tons of people and I would meet this people and I would see people that I kind of knew but it gave me a chance to have different connections with them. now when I eat at the house its maybe me and two other people like me, my sister, and my roommate, that's it. So, there are people in my life who I used to see every day who are now just gone. Its not like we were best friends or anything, but Theta brought us together and it connected us. Now those like 100 people are just gone from my life and its just very weird. Like every Monday, it just feels so weird to not be going to chapter because like the past three years that has been a constant in my life. Or like not preparing for rush practice. Like this thing that everything revolved around is just kind of gone, so I feel like everyone feels just very disconnected.

25. Do you still live in the house?

- I do. Half of the people decided to leave and half of the people decided to stay. Its just very very bizzare because like for the three years that I lived there everytime you went in the house people were laughing and talking and it was like very vibrant and alive. Now it is just kind of like a ghost town. So its like very odd.

26. So are they still like providing food for yall?

- They are, but again maybe like four people will come. I think a lot of people want to like move on with their lives, like why keep going if its going to end soon? It is just very odd.

27. What's it like living in the Theta house and what did you like about it?

- I met all of my best friends there. Like when I lived in the house my sophomore year, I had to live with two people and I had never met them before and I probably never would have. I became best friends with them just because you meet people that you wouldn't have otherwise.

28. So you've never lived off campus?

- No.

29. What do y'all think were y'all's challenges to recruitment?

- I think there were a bunch of challenges. I think that one thing was that we were smaller than the other houses, so where we might have two hundred members another house might have 400. So, what other houses could do is they could take turns like rushing people so some people would have breaks and when we were rushing we would have to be present every single round, like we couldn't have breaks. So, we would get tired, because rush is full of long days. Greek day starts at like 8 AM, so by the end of the day we would just be exhausted and it would show. Like I was a Gamma Chi my junior and senior year and like people would always say like Theta seems like so tired and out of it and so people would rank them badly which would cause us to get a smaller pledge class. Getting a smaller pledge class would cause us to have to work even harder so it was kind of like a self-repeating cycle. I also think that some people came here, especially people from Mississippi, and they came in here knowing that they would never touch Theta. Like as a Gamma Chi, people would tell me like, my parents won't pay for me to join Theta. Parents

put so much pressure on people and so like there was no way that they would even consider it. It was like we were fighting a losing battle from day 1, their mind had been made. So it was like no matter how much time we spent, it didn't matter. Then you have people come through rush that would just be outright rude to us. And its just like how do you fight that?

30. Was there a prior indication that yall were going to lose the charter or was it sprung on yall?

- I think it was just 100% sprung on us just because people would say we need to have a meeting but they never told us what was going to happen. When we went through rush this past year, we cut some people because we were trying to get our grade average up. So, we thought if we can get a good GPA then maybe that will help us in the long run. If we had been warned like hey yall might lose your chapter if you don't get a really big pledge class, we wouldn't have cut those extra people. So, it was a total shock. The thing is also when they warned us that we were going to have a meeting there was always the question like what if they take our charter away, but it was spread out to like three or four weeks of us wondering and we didn't know. And then they just sent us the email, they never told us when they made the decision or anything; they just sent us an email saying that our chapter was being taken away. It was just a huge shock. When we met with them in person they didn't give an indication of that.

31. Is there anything else you would like to add about your experiences as a Theta?

- Not really, no.

32. Can you tell me about the article you wrote for the Daily Mississippian?

- I wrote that like the day after the charter was taken away. I was like very angry. I wasn't expecting it to get any attention. I wrote it when I was very emotional and sent it in and kind of forgot about it. Then like two weeks later I look on facebook and it had been shared like hundreds of time, so it was very odd. Funny to me, but yeah I think that a bunch of people text me privately and said it summarized how they were feeling. Just like the idea that we weren't asking to be the best of all the sororities but we just wanted to be allowed to do our own thing. I feel like a lot of people didn't want us doing our own thing and were just attacking us. People were very emotional. Its not like we were trying to be the top sorority, we just wanted to be accepted. We just wanted to be allowed to have a sorority. I feel like a lot of freshman going through rush, couldn't just let us be happy being our self and had to attack us to I think feel better about themselves.

33. So there were a lot of attacks on your organization?

- A lot. And I think that those should have been shut down and they weren't. like when I went through recruitment, I would say like im excited to be going Theta and I girl would say im not talking to them or opening my mouth until every single person in there looses thirty or forty pounds. Like that was before she even went inside, like how do you fight ignorance like that? And its not like we wanted every one to join Theta we just wanted people like that to let us co-exist. I think there was just a lot of like subtle attacks. Like my sister was at a grocery store and a woman came up to her and said, "are you in a sorority?" and my sister was like "yeah", and the woman

was like, "oh which one?" My sister answered her and said Theta and the woman like made a face at her. Like this is like a forty to fifty year old woman.

34. We were talking about the unspoken hierarchy in class in Greek life do you think that's true?

- Yes, totally. I think that people in like fraternities wont date girls who are Thetas even if they are beautiful awesome people because they are Thetas. Because they have like that stigma around them. I cant even explain it, its very weird to try and explain to someone who is not in it. The people who were from like up north going through rush, they didn't care, they were just wondering like why is that sorority worse than that sorority?

35. I feel like it is people whose parents attended Ole Miss.

- Yes it is. Parents are like crazy like they will come and they will get in their cars and they will drive around. They will spy on their kids during rush. My parents didn't really care what I joined or what I did, but there are some people since they were like 7 or 8 their mom was going to be like "youre going to go to Ole Miss and youre going to be an "XYZ". They feel like if they join Theta then they are like letting their parents down

36. In like reality joining a sorority is such a personal decision

- It really is. I don't think really any sorority is bad, there are just different things for different people.

37. Any other thoughts or questions or things people should know that are unfamiliar with the Greek system at Ole Miss?

- I think one thing is like, like I think what happened to us is what happened to Zeta several years ago and what happened to Alpha Delta Pi several years ago. And im scared that people are going to forget what happened here and then in 15 years its just going to happen again. Its just going to happen again because of the same stupid like tier system. So unless we just like make serious changes, I think its just going to keep happening like over and over and over again. Its like already people are saying like, "oh AOPI is like the new bottom, they are the new bottom tier." And people are going to keep on until they drive them off. Its just like there has to be a bottom one when I wish we could all just like let people do what makes them happy and like mind your own business.