




THE SCROLL

The Official Sigma Alpha Iota Newsletter of Tulsa Alumnae Chapter and Sigma Gamma Chapter at the
University of Tulsa | Region 2, Zeta A Province

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Stay Connected!

 If you are an SAI Alumna but not yet affiliated with our Tulsa Alumnae chapter, please let us know! We'd love to stay connected with you and let you know a little more about what we do and what's coming up for us this year.

Also be sure to get on the *Scroll* list by emailing the editor at saitulsaalumnae@gmail.com or visit *Scroll* issues at our website, listed below, to stay up to date on what both of our Tulsa SAI chapters are up to!

Celebrate the New Year with Tulsa Alumnae!

Join us for our

SAI Tulsa Alumnae Virtual Meeting

Saturday, 29 January
1:00 pm

Tulsa Alumnae:

Website: saitulsaalumnae.com

Sigma Gamma:

Website: saisigmagamma.org

Twitter: @SAI_SigmaGamma

Instagram: @saisigmagamma

In This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Chapter Communications | 2 |
| Fraternity Education, Upcoming Events | 3 |
| Chapter News and People of Note | 4-6 |

Chapter Communications

Sigma Gamma Chapter

Iris Ramirez

Our Sigma Gamma chapter recently initiated 6 new members and we are so excited to welcome them into our sisterhood! This was the biggest fall initiation we have had in a very long time. We are starting the spring semester with hope and enthusiasm as we get ready for philanthropic events, another recruitment season and more social events. As COVID continues to impact our daily lives we are staying optimistic and are looking forward to what this semester holds for us.



Tulsa Alumnae Chapter

Patty Mandrell

Welcome to 2022 🌹

I trust all of you had restful and rewarding holidays. The Alumnae have scheduled a variety of events for this semester, including virtual and in-person meetings, Harmon Memorial Scholarship, Taziki's benenight, Senior Farewell Luncheon, service project, hopefully our May luncheon, and election of officers for next year. We need to fill positions for Editor, Secretary, and VP Hostess. Secretary and Hostess do not require much work compared to pre-pandemic times. Editor is more involved but requires only monthly computer time, September-November and January-May. Our Nominating Committee will be voted on at January 29 chapter meeting so give the board positions some consideration when the committee canvasses chapter members.

Hope you can join us virtually for January 29 meeting, see you then!

Fraternity Education: Memorable Convention Moments

“CENTENNIAL CONVENTION—SAI’S ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY—2003”

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SAI” stated the banner above the podium as Sigma Alpha Iotas from across the Fraternity met August 5-8 in Dearborn, Michigan, to observe the 100th Anniversary of our founding. The National Executive Board, Michigan chapters, Province officers, individual chapters, and individual members had spent the 2000-2003 Triennium preparing for this milestone convention. Celebration was everywhere one turned!

Of course, there was business—election of National officers, Committee reports, inspirational speeches, workshops, displays, and round table discussions. Key business items conducted included amending and updating of the Fraternity’s Articles of Association, registration of SAI trademarks for the design of our badge, our crest, our motto, “Vita Brevis, Ars Longa,” and our name itself. No SAI convention is complete without music—at Dearborn, there was plenty!

The import of our history, indeed of our very founding, was emphasized time and again. The traditional Opening Evening Initiation used the very Ritual the Founders themselves had established in 1903, with participants dressed in period costumes. The Saturday “field trip” using a caravan of chartered buses stopped first at the University of Michigan School of Music where the Founders’ Ritual was presented on the lawn by the “Seven Founders” portrayed by a group of alumnae gowned in white and each carrying a red rose. The SAI Sundial on the campus was rededicated and the beautiful new Centennial Plaque was unveiled and dedicated.

Philanthropies had its own special day which charted the history of SAI Philanthropies Inc. from SAI’s first project, the publishing of *PAN PIPES* in 1909, through a review of the many efforts under SAI Philanthropies Inc.’s guidance since then.

And there were “gifts” for us all: K. Marie Stolba’s *SIGMA ALPHA IOTA: A HISTORY*; Centennial quilts produced by SAIs from all parts of the nation; the Centennial Songbook Supplement; “Presenting SAI 2003” brochure for use in collegiate recruitment; and the premiere of the official Centennial song, “Give Thanks for Music.” An exciting announcement, the result of the decade-long Century Drive, to raise \$1 million for Philanthropies, revealed the final total of \$1,150,000 raised since the drive had begun in 1993.

This milestone convention, #43 (4+3=7!), used 1600 fresh red roses, counted exactly 1000 in attendance, and created memories for a lifetime for those of us who had the privilege of joining with our sisters from far and wide in celebrating SAI’s 100th Anniversary.

2022 Chapter Events

29 January: Tulsa Alumnae Virtual Chapter Meeting, 1:00pm

26 February: Tulsa Alumnae Formal Chapter Meeting, 1:00pm, Church of St. Mary, 1347 E 49th Pl, Tulsa, OK 74105

8 March: Taziki’s Benenight Fundraiser

10 March: Cindy Harmon Memorial Scholarship Applications due to Prof. Raiford’s office

11 March: Cindy Harmon Memorial Scholarship video auditions due (link information TBA)

20 March: Cindy Harmon Memorial Scholarship Virtual Committee Meeting, 4:00pm (announcement to follow)

28 March: Province Day, sponsored by Kappa Rho

2 April: Senior Farewell Luncheon, 11:00am, Location TBD

14 May: Tulsa Alumnae Salad Luncheon, 11:00am, Home of Debbie Watts

6-8 May: Mayfest

Chapter News and People of Note

Fundraiser Update

Once again, Tulsa Alumnae chapter members have supported our annual Hideaway Pizza fundraiser in an excellent way by dining in or carrying out.



A special thank you to those who sent a donation in lieu of being able to participate at Hideaway. The earnings from Hideaway plus the anticipated earnings from the Taziki's fundraiser on March 8 will enable Tulsa Alumnae Chapter to fund our annual service project and our annual donation to SAI Philanthropies. The Executive Board truly appreciates the continued support of our chapter endeavors by our members even as we find ourselves still functioning in a Covid environment. Keep up the good work and mark your calendar now for our spring fundraiser at Taziki's March 8.



*Congratulations
to our newest
Sigma Gamma
Initiates!*

Sigma Gamma Fall Initiates, left to right: Kailey Chinsenthagid, Chrissa Gungoll, Sabrina Sacks, Caitlyn Cox, Cailin Stauffer, and Aubrey Allen



Tulsa Alumna Debra Rue featured on Facebook!

This week's American Composer highlight features SAI Alumna Debra Harden Rue. She graduated from the University of Tulsa with a Bachelor of Music Education Degree in Vocal & Instrumental Music and received her Masters in Conducting from the University of Colorado - Boulder. Debra retired as a high school choral director from Fort Worth ISD where she was the recipient of the 2011-2012 Friedman Award for Teaching Excellence in the Performing Art.

Rue won the 2018 Sigma Alpha Iota national songwriting competition with her composition "Ode to Pan's Cottage" commemorating the 100th anniversary of the historic structure at the MacDowell Colony. She has two compositions written with composer James Adler published by Colla Voce Music - "Daughters of Music" and "Canticle for Peace," which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Music.

Her work "PIONEER WOMEN"—a multimedia musical theater production—opened April 23 and ran through April 25, 2021, at the historic Ponca Theatre celebrating the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of the Pioneer Woman Statue and the 100th anniversary of the Ponca City Federated Music Club. The twelve statues commissioned by 1920's Oklahoma Governor E.W. Marland to honor the pioneer women who helped shape American came to life through stories and songs.

Visit the SAI Composers Bureau page to learn more at: <https://www.sai-national.org/resources/composers-bureau.html>

Tulsa Symphony Orchestra to present inaugural *Ron Wheeler Tulsa Symphony Music Educator of the Year* award!

Ron is a National Arts Associate, initiated by Tulsa Alumnae in 2003. The Tulsa Youth Symphony was the Alumnae's 2021 Service Project award recipient. A contribution was made for purchasing sheet music.

The Tulsa Symphony Orchestra is proud to announce the inaugural *Ron Wheeler Tulsa Symphony Music Educator of the Year* award, which honors the impact, accomplishments, and legacy of exemplary music educators in the state of Oklahoma.

Longtime music educator Ron Wheeler is the first recipient of this award, which will be presented to him on January 15, 2022, at the Tulsa Symphony's performance of Folk Dances at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

"I am deeply honored to receive this recognition," said Ron Wheeler. "I have had a most rewarding career as a musician and teacher/conductor. I have had the opportunity to observe the musical growth of many fine young people. Music education is vitally important to a civilized society in that it stimulates human imagination and fosters an appreciation for artistic creativity."

Over his 40+ year career, Ron Wheeler inspired the community of Tulsa through the Tulsa Youth Symphony, where he led the organization as Executive Director and principal conductor from 1972 to 2021 and worked with over 150 young musicians each year. Numerous TYS alumni have gone on to pursue collegiate music degrees and now perform with major orchestras all throughout the country. Ron was also a member of the Tulsa Philharmonic and the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra performing as a violinist and is currently a member of the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra Advisory Board.





Quartz Mountain Auditions Ongoing

Orchestral auditions for the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain are being held in January and February. This two-week intensive training offers full scholarships for all.

Quartz Mountain also offers instruction from nationally renowned teachers in acting, chorus, creative writing, dance, drawing and painting, film and video, and photography.

The Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute is sponsored by the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information, go to oaiquartz.org.



AGO Chapter Remembers Marie Hine

The "Centennial Moment" feature in the January issue of *Tulsa Tracker*, newsletter of the Tulsa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, features a picture and information about Marie Hine (1878–1959), an honorary member of Sigma Alpha Iota initiated by Sigma Gamma Chapter. She and her family came to Tulsa in 1915, where she became organist at First Methodist Church. In 1920, she was hired as organist at Trinity Episcopal Church, where she served for almost 40 years. Marie was a founding member of the Tulsa Chapter of AGO and served as its dean for 25 years. The chapter is celebrating its centennial in 2022.

Meray Boustani To Sing in Evensong Service January 30

Meray Boustani and Tyler Acord will be the soloists in Canticles in G by Charles Villiers Stanford at the 5:30 p.m. January 30 Evensong service at Saint John's Episcopal Church, 4200 South Atlanta Place.

The service will be in person and live-streamed.

*Nearer and Dearer as
Years go by . . .
Cheers to a new Year of
Sisterhood!*