



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!

*Tulsa Alumnae Formal Meeting** *Saturday, 30 October 1:00 pm*

Location:

University United Methodist Church
2915 E 5th St, Tulsa, OK

“Reunited, and it Feels So Good!”

Iris Ramirez
Debra Harden Rue

Hostesses:

Tulsa Alumnae Board

***Mask required, vaccinations encouraged.**

With COVID in mind we will not be passing around a scholarship jar or Silver Bowl to collect funds for scholarships. Instead please feel to drop your change in the “Tip Jar” by the sign-in sheet.

Tulsa Alumnae:

Website: saitulsaalumnae.com

Sigma Gamma:

Website: saisigmagamma.org

Twitter: @SAI_SigmaGamma

Instagram: @saisigmagamma

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Chapter Communications

Sigma Gamma Chapter

Iris Ramirez

Our Sigma Gamma Chapter recently had a very successful homecoming week at The University of Tulsa. Throughout the week the chapter participated alongside TU's Kappa Alpha and Delta Delta Delta chapters in various homecoming activities. On Friday October 8, our SAI and Phi Mu Alpha chapters were invited once again to sing the alma mater at the traditional bonfire. This was just a start to a very busy October for the chapter. We recently welcomed six new members-in-training and are preparing them for initiation later this semester. We are also currently planning and practicing for our joint recital with Phi Mu Alpha, set to happen in November. Our next upcoming social event will take place on Halloween which we are currently calling our "Spooky Sister event." We are excited and eager to start hosting in person social events and continue serving our community through music.



Tulsa Alumnae Chapter

Patty Mandrell

Wow, we haven't met in-person since February 2020 . . . but we're finally fixin' to meet now.

Come join us October 30, 2021 at University United Methodist Church for music, sisterhood and a few refreshments. We are affiliating, awarding and memorializing members. You can meet new members and catch up with old ones.

Let's enjoy this opportunity to meet in-person while remaining COVID cautious to keep everyone safe and healthy.

See you on the 30th.

Fraternity Education: Memorable Convention Moments

“Convention for the Silver Anniversary—1928”

SAI's 25th Anniversary Convention was held June 24 - 27, at Ithaca, New York. Even before 1928, members were eagerly anticipating this milestone event. A tentative program for the four days in Ithaca, as well as a detachable registration form, appeared in the March 1928 *PAN PIPES* (the Fraternity's official Silver Anniversary issue). Hazel E. Ritchey was National President and presided over the 1928 Convention.

During deliberations at the 1924 Convention, a Province plan had been approved and put into operation. Further work on the Province plan continued in 1928, at which time the Fraternity had ten Provinces.

Since Miss Ritchey was insistent that no alumnae member should be “lost,” the Silver Anniversary Convention delegates ratified two important policies for alumnae: #1. a group of organized alumnae could petition to become a chapter when its membership reached ten; and #2. the National Vice President was positioned to be “in charge” of alumnae chapters and their activities.

Membership classifications in 1928 were Active, Chapter Honorary, Patroness, Second Degree (those members who had received what we now know as Sword of Honor), National Honorary, National Member-at-Large, Province Member-at-Large, and Alumnae.

To recognize academic achievement, the 1928 Convention voted to award an Honor Certificate to the graduating senior with the highest grade point average.

While the business of SAI was of vital importance during the Silver Anniversary Convention, there was time for a Vespers service on Sunday, June 24, a model initiation, a gala banquet, several luncheons, an Ithaca Conservatory Faculty Recital, and, of course, music at all official functions.

How times (and Convention finances) have changed! Registration fee was \$25.00. Lodging at the hotel—\$1.00 per night or \$4.00 for the whole four nights of Convention. Luncheon cost per meal (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday)—75 cents each; dinner for Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday—\$1.25 each; Formal banquet—\$2.00.

In her remarks printed on page 11 of the Silver Anniversary *PAN PIPES*, Hazel Ritchey wrote, “We are ambitious for Sigma Alpha Iota. We believe in her and are sure that every hope can be realized. We see ahead of us a goal beautiful in its setting and rich in its reward—a goal entirely within our reach.”



IN MEMORIAM

Paula Combest Unruh

Paula Combest Unruh, 92, longtime active member of Tulsa Patroness Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota and a pioneering woman politician, died on September 29, 2021, in Miami, Florida. A funeral service was held on October 9 at Memorial Park Cemetery Chapel.

She was born on February 13, 1929, and was a 1947 graduate of Will Rogers High School in Tulsa. She attended the University of Tulsa and the University of Arkansas. She was inducted into the Will Rogers High School Hall of Fame in 2013.

She was married to Tulsa attorney Robert James Unruh for 66 years until his death in 2017.

Ms. Unruh was active in civic organizations, including Tulsa Opera and the American Red Cross. She was chairman of the Tulsa Philharmonic's Cinderella Ball and cochairman of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center bond-issue campaign.

Sigma Gamma Chapter initiated Ms. Unruh as an SAI patroness in 1969. She was an active member of Tulsa Patroness Chapter until 2011, when she moved to Florida. She was recording secretary in 1998–1999 and in 1999–2000 and later was in the patroness chapter's cabinet. She was chairman of three patroness committees: the senior farewell luncheon at the Petroleum Club in downtown Tulsa in 1971, publicity in 1971–1972, and audit in 2001. She hosted numerous chapter meetings in her home.

In 1988, Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority honored Ms. Unruh with its Alumnae Achievement Award in a ceremony at the University of Oklahoma, where her personal political papers, spanning 60 years, were donated by the family and accepted by OU President David Boren. The collection is housed at the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center.

Ms. Unruh's political career began in 1958 when she helped U. S. Representative Page Belcher run successfully for reelection. Their winning streak continued until his retirement in 1973. Between 1960 and 1988, she helped to manage the state and national campaigns of Governor and later Senator Henry Bellmon, President Richard Nixon, President Gerald Ford, Texas Governor John Connally, and President Ronald Reagan.

In 1975, Ms. Unruh was the first female chairman elected to the Oklahoma Republican Party. She received a Presidential appointment to the National USO Board from President Ford and an appointment to the Department of Energy and the Department of Commerce by President Reagan.

Ms. Unruh was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Unruh, and by her daughter, Jilda Unruh, an award-winning television journalist, who died in summer 2021 in Florida. Ms. Unruh is survived by two children, James and Allison; one sister, Claire Combest; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives. Moore Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Upcoming Events, Chapter News, & Announcements

2021-2022 Chapter Events

2021

30 October: Tulsa Alumnae Formal Chapter Meeting, chapter affiliations, 50-year membership honorees, Jim Cohn Memorial, and yearbook pickup, 1:00pm, University United Methodist Church (UMC), 2915 E 5th St, Tulsa, OK 74104

6 November: Yearbook pickup at Sherye Halliburton's home

16 November: Hideaway Pizza Benenight Fundraiser

11 December: Christmas Caroling, Location TBD

2022

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

11 March: Cindy Harmon Memorial Scholarship Applications due

20 March: Cindy Harmon Memorial Scholarship Virtual Committee Meeting, 4:00pm

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

7 May: Tulsa Alumnae Salad Luncheon, 11:00am, Location TBD

13 or 20 May: Mayfest, specific dates TBD

Connecting with the past

Tulsa Alumnae charter members and sisters (nee Hunter), Anna Mae Bancroft, Eva Hunter Parrack, and Lenore Roszel, were all accomplished musicians. Anna Mae played piano, Eva taught piano and played violin in the Tulsa Philharmonic, and Lenore played cello. All were initiated by Sigma Gamma: Eva in 1930, Anna Mae in 1935, and Lenore in 1938 when she was chosen chapter Recording Secretary. They were very active in Sigma Gamma life and met regularly as alumnae with Sigma Gammas before Tulsa Alumnae became its own chapter. Anna Mae was brought back from her then Texas home to join her sisters to subsequently become Tulsa Alumnae charter members.

Outside of SAI, giving lessons, playing and raising their families, they were known as the Vandever Sisters because the Vandever Department Store sponsored them as a trio.

Connecting to today, Lenore and her husband, Norman, raised their family, playing music, in a house across the street from where I now live. Today her younger son plays a number of instruments as well as makes instruments. He also married a girl raised in the house next door to me. Even Alumnae charter members have connections to current Alumnae members!

—Patty Mandrell

Jim Cohn Scholarship

A memorial scholarship for National Arts Associate James Cohn has been established by Jim's wife, Eileen. Details will be forthcoming in the January Scroll.

People of Note

🎵 CORRECTION from September Scroll: Dr. Megan Whitley is teaching at the University of Central Oklahoma, in Edmond this year!

🎵 Bravae to Cathy Venable, Karen Gingrich, and John Rush on a terrific concert at Holy Family on September 25!



PIONEER WOMEN: A Leap of Faith, was written and produced by Debra Harden Rue, an alumna of the University of Tulsa's Sigma Gamma Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota. Faced with a year's postponement, the COVID crisis, no money for production, and no cast or crew selected, Debbie's vision and determination paved the way to create a multimedia musical theater production in 3.5 months. This production celebrated the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of the Pioneer Woman Statue in Ponca City, Oklahoma, and the 100th Anniversary of the Ponca City Federated Music Club. Inspired by the 12 statues commissioned by former Oklahoma Governor and oil baron E.W. Marland in the 1920s to honor the women who helped shape America, the statues came to life through stories and song on the stage of the historic Poncan Theatre in April 2021. Debra is the former president of Fort Worth's SAI Alumnae chapter, and she will give a presentation of the making of *PIONEER WOMEN* on October 30, the day of her affiliation with the Tulsa Alumnae Chapter of SAI.

YEARBOOK DIRECTORY

Thanks to the hard work of Karen Hiller, Tulsa Alumnae Chapter's 2021-2022 yearbook directories are in process and will be ready for distribution at the end of the month. They will be available at the October 30th meeting at UUMC, another good reason for reuniting with chapter members for the first in person meeting in over a year and a half. If however you are unable to attend, a second opportunity is being offered again this year in the form of a "drive by and pick up" your directory on Saturday, November 6 at the home of Sherye Halliburton, 4305 E. 87th St. between **1pm and 3pm**. Those who asked that their directories be mailed will receive them following the October meeting.

The chapter sends dozens of virtual roses to Karen for all her hard work in preparing this year's directory.

THANKS, KAREN!

Tulsa Alumnae Service Project Fundraiser

It's that time again . . .

There's a hint of autumn evident around Tulsa and the calendar says it's October so that can mean only one thing in Tulsa Alumnae Chapter's calendar of events . . . it's time for Pizza!

November 16 is the date for our annual dining in or carrying out fundraiser at *Hideaway Pizza* in *Kingspoint Shopping Center at 61st and Yale*.

Each year the chapter is offered two opportunities to help raise money for our annual service project through dining out once in the fall and then once again in the spring. Last year the fundraisers allowed the chapter to donate \$125 to the Tulsa Youth Symphony which our own National Arts Associate, Ron Wheeler, conducts. The flyer in the Scroll relates all the pertinent information that you will need to be a part of this fun fundraising event. Feel free to invite family and friends to participate too. It's not absolutely necessary to have the flyer with you but be sure to tell your server when you order or whoever takes your carryout order, **and** when you pickup, that you are participating in a Sigma Alpha Iota Tulsa Alumnae Chapter fundraiser.

Mark your calendar now for **Tuesday, November 16 4:00 to 9:30 pm** and plan to enjoy an evening of not having to cook while benefiting our annual service project.

HIDEAWAY PIZZA

BENEFIT NIGHT

SAI, Tulsa Chapter

Tuesday, November 16th, 2021
4:00 to 9:30 pm

KingsPointe
5966 S. Yale Ave | 918-492-4777

Please notify your server or cashier if you are participating in a benefit night. Dine in or carryout.