

# 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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## *Tulsa Alumnae Formal Meeting Saturday, 29 September 1:00 pm*

### **Location:**

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

### **Announcements**

 **Tulsa Alumnae:** If you haven't already, please pay your chapter dues ASAP if you would like to be included in the 2018-2019 yearbook. Dues are \$25 and can be mailed to Sherye Halliburton at 4113 E 42nd St, Tulsa, OK 74135.



### **September Musicale: "Oklahoma!" Songs and Songwriters from our State"**

Mary Snider, Aileen Todd, Kathy Huber, Jeanne Stover

### **Hostesses**

Mary Snider, Glenda (Jodi) Powell, Kathy Huber

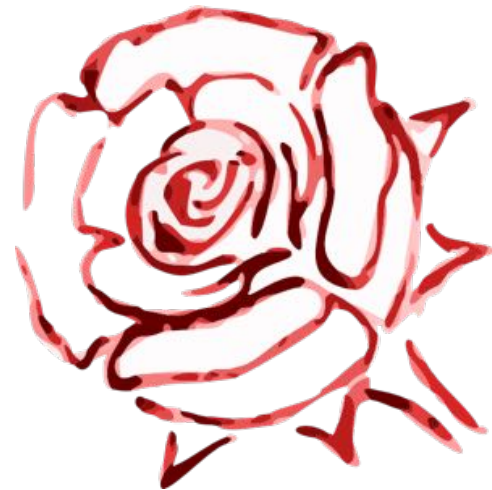
### **In This Issue**

Chapter Communications	2
Fraternity Education, Alumnae Fundraiser	3
Calendar of Events, Birthdays, Thanks to Mayfest Volunteers	4
In Memoriam	5
Tulsa Chapter Officers	6-7
National Convention	8-9
Things We Did Last Summer	10
Chapter Notices, People of Note	11-12

## Sigma Gamma Chapter Communications

### Amber Bunnag-Stoner

The school year has started and Sigma Gamma has hit the ground running! We hosted a week of recruitment events for the marching band, set up a table to advertise our organization at TU's annual activity fair, and we have our official recruitment week scheduled for the week of September 3! Because this year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Harry Potter books, our recruitment is Harry Potter themed! This theme has already caught the attention of many interested students, so we hope to see them at our recruitment events and to have their pledging ceremony on September 14 at 7:30 in the Lorton Performance Center. Our members are also putting together sisterhood events, committees, recitals, and more. It'll be a great year!



## Tulsa Alumnae Chapter Communications

### Patty Mandrell

Can summer be over already? Seems it went by so quickly... but not before a successful national triennial convention was held in July in Scottsdale with Zeta A well represented. Now we're ready for a new Tulsa Alumnae season, our 75th anniversary year! We plan to celebrate officially at our February potluck meeting, with a special musicale to commemorate our achievement. Stay tuned for details.

I hope each and every one of you can participate in activities this very special Tulsa Alumnae year. It's always a treat to see you, even if only from time to time. Lots of opportunities are on offer, November Hideaway evening, caroling on a December Saturday, sharing table and terrific musicales at luncheons or meetings, or giving a little of your time (not money :<) to our lifeblood fundraiser, Mayfest. Mark your calendars for an event or two. Your sisters will be glad!

## “Movers and Shakers’: Tulsa Alumnae’s Valued Matriarchs [and one Patriarch]”

by Sue Amstutz (Tulsa Alumnae)

In this, the 75th Anniversary of Tulsa Alumnae Chapter’s chartering which occurred on November 9, 1943, it is fitting that we renew our acquaintance with some of the individuals responsible for envisioning an SAI chapter for Tulsa Alumnae and for making that vision a reality.

We can call these women (and one husband) our “movers and shakers,” our “matriarchs” (and one “patriarch”). Their desire, their inspiration, and their belief in SAI combined to allow us in 2018-2019 to experience many of the opportunities, joys, and sisterly love they could only have hoped for and dreamed of back in 1943.

As we reacquaint ourselves with these inspiring people of the past, we might pledge ourselves to continuing their service, their encouragement, and their goal of making Tulsa Alumnae Chapter not only successful but a constant fulfillment of the realization of all the desires for the future of which we are privileged to be the beneficiaries.

### Odessa Fink Simpson

Odessa was a charter member of both Sigma Gamma and Tulsa Alumnae Chapters, a 1924 initiate of Sigma Gamma at the time the chapter was installed. Odessa’s major instrument was piano. While an alumna member active with Sigma Gamma, as all local alums were in the years preceding Tulsa Alumnae Chapter’s installation in 1943, Odessa served as Zeta Province Treasurer during 1938. As Tulsa alums anticipated becoming a chapter, Odessa served as the group’s president in that all-important 1942-1943 term of office, a time devoted to laying the groundwork and completing the steps required for chapter status and Tulsa Alumnae Chapter becoming a reality. After the chapter’s installation, Odessa assumed the office of Editor, a position she held for the next three years, 1944-1947. Odessa authored our very first official Chapter Comment column which appeared in the May 1944 issue of *Pan Pipes*, a lengthy article including news of summer activities, musicales, our chapter’s installation, the Marjorie Lawrence concert, Vespers, Christmas party, new alum members, a Patroness musicale honoring two Tulsa Honorary SAIs, and professional and social activities in which members were involved. Other columns which Odessa wrote about Tulsa followed in the issues of *Pan Pipes* which were published in October 1944, February 1945, October 1945, December 1945, and February 1946. Odessa was one of five charter members still living and remaining active at the time Tulsa Alumnae Chapter observed its 50th Anniversary in 1993; the 1993-1994 Yearbook is dedicated to those five long-time, loyal Sisters. Odessa passed away on April 3, 1994.



## *Lending a Helping Hand*

To begin the year on a “giving” note, the Tulsa Alumnae Chapter is receiving monetary donations to fund purchasing a tone chime and framed SAI crest for the Kappa Rho Chapter. This active chapter based at Langston University has to borrow ritual equipment from Iota Alpha Chapter in Stillwater whenever they perform ritual services. As an alumnae chapter who is supportive of active members, the Board feels providing these two ritual items would be a wonderful way to show the girls we care and that there is life in SAI after college. If you were unable to attend the Membership Brunch and offer your support, another chance is coming your way at the September meeting on Saturday, September 29th. Donations will be received at that time or you can send a donation via mail to Sherye Halliburton at 4113 E. 42nd St., Tulsa, OK 74135. Thanks for your participation in this worthy cause to help our Kappa Rho sisters.

# Calendar of Events

**3-7 September:** Sigma Gamma Recruitment, "Explore the Magic of SAI," 7:30pm

**14 September:** Sigma Gamma Pledging Ceremony, 7:30, Lorton Performance Center

**29 September:** Tulsa Alumnae Formal Meeting, 1:00pm, University United Methodist Church

**27 October:** Tulsa Alumnae Formal Meeting, 1:00pm, Home of Phillelle McBrayer

**13 November:** Hideaway Pizza Fundraiser

**8 December:** Caroling, Location TBD

**26 January:** Tulsa Alumnae Formal Meeting, 1:00pm, Home of Debbie Watts

**23 February:** Tulsa Alumnae Potluck Luncheon, 12:00pm, St. Mary's

**30 March:** Tulsa Alumnae Formal Meeting, 1:00pm, Location TBD

**27 April:** Tulsa Alumnae Formal Meeting, 1:00pm, Home of Anna Norberg

**16-19 May:** Mayfest

**25 May:** Tulsa Alumnae Formal Meeting and Potluck Salad Luncheon, 10:30am, Southminster



**2 June:** Anna Norberg (TA)

**4 June:** EvaMarie Campbell (TA)

**12 June:** Tracy Crow (TA)

**2 July:** Lakin Freedle (SG)

**9 July:** Jean Wallace (TA)

**21 July:** Vaughndean Fuller (TA)

**31 July:** Karen Hiller (TA)

**4 August:** Beth Keener (TA)

**20 August:** Sandra Hayes (TA)

**21 August:** Amber Baxter (SG)

**24 August:** Kelly Bezan (TA)

**27 August:** Allison Whitelock (SG)

**1 Sept:** Jeanne Stover (TA)

**6 Sept:** Carrie Hanson (SG)

**9 Sept:** Bonnie Griffin (TA)

**10 Sept:** Megan Gibson (TA)

**12 Sept:** Nicole Asay (SG)

**22 Sept:** Linda Bradshaw (TA), Audrey Beckon (SG)

**30 Sept:** Deana Mobley (SG)

## THANK YOU!!

Big thanks to the following who participated in the Tulsa Alumnae Mayfest fundraiser, which supports scholarships for convention:

Sue Amstutz, Amber Bunnag-Stoner (Sigma Gamma), Amy Clark, Karen Cluck, Peggy Cooper, Sherry Crosby, Tracy Crow, Megan Gibson, Gordon Gingrich, Karen Gingrich, Crista Grimes, Sherye Halliburton, Grace Heaberlin (Sigma Gamma), Jack Heaberlin, Victor Hiller, Karen Hiller, Kathy Huber, Beth Keener, Patty Mandrell, Rowena Mills (Province Officer), Julie Mitchener (Sigma Gamma), Dr. Joseph Rivers (National Arts Associate), Mary Snider, Jeanne Stover, Jean Wallace, Rachel Wallis (Sigma Gamma)



# *In Memoriam*

The SAI Memorial Ritual for Jeannine and Carol will take place at Tulsa Alumnae's September Formal Meeting.



*Jeannine  
Smith*

Jeannine Lee (Brooks) Smith went to be with her Lord on May 7, 2018. Jeannine was born December 6, 1928 in Okmulgee, Oklahoma to Ross A. and Eva Price Brooks. The family moved to Konawa and later to Wewoka, where she graduated High School. Jeannine was blessed with a beautiful soprano voice and majored in music education at Oklahoma College for Women. After college, she moved to Tulsa to teach elementary music. She met and married the love of her life, John Smith, in Tulsa. They joined First Baptist Church Tulsa and were blessed with three children. She was a life long member of SAI music sorority, served as a Stephens Minister, sang beautiful solos in numerous choirs, enjoyed road trips and loved playing cards and dominoes with her family and friends. She will be dearly missed by everyone who knew and loved her.



*Carol Bailey  
Kamp*

Carol Bailey Kamp was born on September 19, 1934 in East St. Louis, Illinois. She grew up in Blytheville, Arkansas, attended Hendrix College, and moved to Tulsa in 1966. Carol was initiated in 1987 as a Patroness of Sigma Gamma Chapter at the University of Tulsa. She affiliated as a Patroness-with-Training with Tulsa Alumnae Chapter in January, 2017. Carol was a member of Sigma Alpha Iota for 31 years. During Carol's many years as a member of the Tulsa Patroness Chapter, she held many elective and appointive offices, of most importance being Patroness Chapter Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and in 2002-2003, Patroness Chapter President. She attended at least one National SAI Convention during her years in the Patroness Chapter and often spoke enthusiastically about that experience. Carol was involved in arts-centered activities in Tulsa besides SAI. These included Tulsa Philharmonic, Tulsa Ballet, and Tulsa Opera of which she was a member of the Tulsa Opera Guild. Carol enjoyed singing in church choirs and was a member of Vintage Voices, a chorus of senior citizen singers. Carol died on June 30, 2018, at the age of 83.



*Jane  
Helander*

Ella "Jane" Helander, 86, went to be with her Heavenly Father, Sunday, August 12, 2018 in Atlanta, GA. Born September 11, 1931 in Fayetteville, AR to Sudie and Truman McCoy, the family of six moved to Oklahoma and made Tulsa their home. Jane later graduated from Will Rogers High School. She attended Oklahoma State University and Park College before graduating from University of Tulsa. She married Donald P. Helander and worked alongside him in his petroleum consulting business as a business partner. Jane was active in many organizations through the years including Tulsa Boys Home, PEO, Assistance League, Opera Guild, Delta Delta Delta Sorority, and SAI. Jane was an active patroness until the chapter closed. She took the picture of the Kendall Hall bell that was given to all the graduating Sigma Gammas for several years. She enjoyed gardening, traveling all over the world, decorating, time with friends and family, and a good hot dog! Jane will be remembered as gentle and kind, fun-loving, curious, and always delighted to laugh.

*Vita Brevis, Ars Longa*

## Get to know our ...

**T** Patty Mandrell, President Born in Kansas farm country, I married a terrific Tulsa boy, graduated from TU and taught Spanish. Then and now I continue to garden, love pets, jog, and play in community bands and orchestra. Since retiring I have added other interests: animal rescue and welfare and SAI. I volunteer with a local pet rescue and am working with the City to resolve Tulsa's pet overpopulation crisis. In 2012 I was initiated as an SAI Patroness With Training by Tulsa Alumnae, and have served with a tremendous Board as chapter President, and convention delegate, since 2015. I very much enjoy our chapter sisterhood, activities and anniversary celebrations. 2021 will be SAI's 50<sup>th</sup> triennial convention, I plan to be there!

**U** Sue Amjutz, Vice President Ritual I attended TU where I received a BA in journalism and BA and MA degrees in music education. I was initiated into Sigma Gamma in January of 1959, affiliated with Tulsa Alumnae in 1961, and have been actively involved in the chapter ever since. My professional career was as a music educator for 29 years, 28 of which were spent at Jane Addams Elementary School in Tulsa. I retired in 1989, freeing up much more time to pursue other interests. I also taught private flute for many years, beginning while I was still in high school. I have played flute since the summer of 1950, just after I completed sixth grade. I am a "charter member" of our Pan's Flute Choir and principal flute of First Baptist Church's Celebration Orchestra. In addition to SAI, I am involved in P.E.O. and Oklahoma Native Plant Society. Native plants of Oklahoma, as well as Colorado mountain flowers, have been an avocation of mine since 1973, and though I am a professionally a musician, I'm something of an amateur botanist as well. SAI is a family thing with me, since my sister Sherye is the treasurer for our chapter, and our mother, Mary Ellen Esser, was a Patroness. I am grateful that SAI and Tulsa Alumnae chapter have given me so many opportunities over my nearly 60 years of SAI membership.

**S** Beth Keener, Vice President Program The rattlesnakes grow in Sweetwater, TX, and I was born there too! Our family moved to Tulsa when my dad began working for McDonnell-Douglas, and my sister Jane (now a Dallas SAI Alum!) joined the family shortly afterward. Our parents bought us a nice piano, and I took Yamaha classes with Mrs. Janell Whitby followed by piano inspiration from Mrs. Maxine Hale and Mrs. Anna Harriett Foshee. I was introduced to string instruments though a summer program, school orchestra programs, and lessons with Mrs. Cindy Hostetler. I had the opportunity to attend the TU and was initiated into Sigma Gamma. My husband and I married in 1982, and I soon had the opportunity to teach at Union Public Schools, where Mr. Pete Peterson mentored me. I affiliated with the Tulsa alumnae chapter, represented the chapter at the 1987 convention, and spent some time with the Dallas alums when we lived there. We were blessed with three children in 23 months, then moved the family back to Oklahoma. I have enjoyed spreading the love of music to students in several cities. Our children are now grown, finished with college and giving back to society as a watchmaker for Rolex, a designer for Blue Star Studio, and an officer in the Tulsa Police Department.

**A** Sherye Halliburton, Treasurer Born in St. Louis, I arrived in Tulsa via train at six weeks old. I have been a Tulsan ever since except for the 2 ½ years spent in Izmir, Turkey while my husband, Richard, was stationed at NATO Headquarters during the Vietnam War. A quartet of loves has shaped my life: young children, music, church work, and volunteering. My career path took me through one the great loves of my life—working with young children as an educator and worker in the field for agencies supporting the education of young children. A second love, music, prompted my initiation in SAI as a Sigma Gamma member. Flute was my instrument which I still play in Pan's Flute Choir. The love of music and children blended together as I served as choir director for the kindergarten-first grade choir at my church for 35 years before retiring. I still am musically involved at church where I have played in the handbell choir for 40 years. Church work continues to be a major focus as I am responsible for seasonal decorations in the sanctuary at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, along with arranging weekly bouquets of flowers that the Deacons take to hospitalized or home bound members. The final love is being a volunteer at Saint Francis Hospital for fifty plus years where I've served in a variety of capacities, always with the spirit of giving and helping others. This quartet of loves, young children, music, church work and volunteering has been, and continues to be, a blessing to me in my life.

**L** Sherry Crosby, Secretary I became a Patroness with Tulsa Alumnae Chapter, Oct. 2016 to carry on my mom's legacy and to meet others who share in the love of music! I was born and raised in Tulsa. My parents, Orval & Mary May, passed away in April 2016 just 6 days apart! First Baptist church has been our anchor in many life events! Jim and I were married there by Dr. Hulgren nearly 39 years ago this Sept. and both of our sons were baptized there as well as myself. I have an Associate degree in Elementary Education from TCC but for the most part I was a stay at home mom raising our 2 sons. I now help my husband with the bookkeeping for his landscape architecture firm. Jim earned his BS degree from OSU in Landscape Architecture and has owned his business, Planning Design Group, for the past 33 years. I've been active in volunteering for a number of organizations such as Blue Star Mothers, Cub Scout, Treasurer for baseball team, and Sunday school teacher.

**U** Megan Gibson, Editor I am a PhD candidate at the TU, studying English. I grew up in Alabama, and have also lived in Louisiana—where I minored in music at Northwestern State and initiated with Beta Iota—and England before coming to Tulsa for grad school. I have been involved in orchestra (violin), choir, and light opera in years past, but these days I have been teaching English/writing classes at TU and am currently trying to finish my dissertation. I have loved serving as the Editor for Tulsa Alumnae chapter and look forward to another year of letting you know what all of our brilliant Tulsa SAI's are up to!

## ...2018-2019 Tulsa Chapter Officers!

### Amber Bunnag-Stöner, President

Amber is a Junior Chemistry major. She plays the cello in the Orchestra and currently can't stop listening to the album "Melodrama" by Lorde. She loves a good cup of coffee and wishes she could play the piano.

### Hope Bradford, Vice President Ritual

Hope is a Senior Vocal Performance major. She loves all things "Lord of the Rings," coffee, and choral conducting. If she could play any instrument in the world it would be the mandolin.

### Allison Whitelock, Vice President Membership

Allison is a Senior Music major with a minor in Education. She is also involved in Delta Gamma and is a drum major in the TU Marching Band. Her favorite artists are Macklemore, Weezer, and John Mackey and she is very proud of the random assortment of music in her Spotify playlists.

### Sarah Carr, Secretary

Sarah is a Junior Instrumental Music Education major. She plays the viola in the Orchestra and is a dog person. If she could be famous for anything it would be her puns.

### Jesica Santino, Treasurer

Jesica is a Senior Vocal Performance major. She sings Soprano in the choir and wishes she could play the violin. Her favorite quote is "sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together."

### Rachel Wallis, Music Director

Rachel is a Junior Vocal Performance major and Women's and Gender Studies minor. She is currently obsessed with "The Silver Aria" from Ballad of Baby Doe. If she could be famous for anything it would be for writing an opera where the tenor dies to advance the plot of the soprano (instead of the other way around).

### Audrey Breckon, Sergeant-At-Arms

Audrey is a Senior Biology major on a Pre-Med track. She plays the flute and piccolo in the marching band and loves Journey and Taylor Swift. Her favorite quote is "calories don't count during midterms."

### Holly Harper, Editor

Holly is a Senior Music major and Education minor. She sings Soprano and is active in the community theatre scene. Her favorite thing in the world is her cat, Margo, and she can't stop listening to "Mean Girls: The Musical."

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# 2018 SAI National Convention!



L-R: Hazel Rowena Mills (Zeta A Province Officer), Emily Hughes (Iota Alpha), Taleah Egland (Kappa Rho president), Maggie Conners (Iota Alpha president), Amber Bunnag-Stoner (Sigma Gamma president), Patty Mandrell (Tulsa Alumnae president), Sherye Halliburton (Tulsa Alumnae), Rachel Wallis (Sigma Gamma)

Convention was, in a word, amazing. It was incredible to walk into the hotel lobby on the first day and to spot someone in an SAI shirt no matter which way I turned. It was even better to hear hundreds of voices singing our songs in unison all around me. Actually, the best part was probably meeting and talking to the national officers whose names I had to memorize for my MIT exam! As it turns out, they're all wonderful, hard-working women and it puts my mind at ease to know that they're the leaders of this fraternity. I also enjoyed spending time with Patty, Rowena, and the members from the other collegiate chapters in our province! We ate lots of meals together and even celebrated a birthday! Overall, convention was a great reminder that SAI is more than just Sigma Gamma; it's an international organization of people who love music that I'm proud to be a part of. I'm so lucky that I got to attend.

— *Amber Bunnag-Stoner*  
(Sigma Gamma Delegate)



L-R: Patty Mandrell, Sherye Halliburton, Taleah Egland, Amber Bunnag-Stoner, Rachel Wallis, Maggie Conners, Hazel Rowena Mills, Emily Hughes.



## ...National Convention Continued...

When I learned about SAI as a high schooler, I instantly decided I wanted to attend a college with a chapter and join as soon as possible! I initiated in Spring 2017, and my SAI sisters have been a huge part of my life ever since! Going to convention was like a dream come true. I'm so grateful to have been given this opportunity as a recipient of the Palmer scholarship.

Amber Bunnag, Sigma Gamma's president, attended convention as a voting delegate, but I was mostly along for the ride. I got to relax, enjoy myself, and spend time getting to know my sisters from the Tulsa Alumnae Chapter, Iota Alpha, and Kappa Rho! Every day we would have one or two general sessions (beginning with a dance session led by Leslie Odom Miller), where all SAIs in attendance would meet. Business would be discussed, votes would be cast, speakers would speak, and of course, there was *plenty* of music. One of the highlights was a performance by Leah Hawkins, a BREATHTAKING soprano and an SAI sister! Hearing her sing made me want to run from my seat straight to a practice room!

There were also concerts, workshops, and a trip to the Musical Instrument Museum! Not to mention--amazing food at restaurants in Scottsdale and a wonderful Dinner of Honors the last night of convention. Amber and I attended a workshop with Tracey Wygal Withrow, and she shared with us some fascinating documents showing us how our ritual has evolved over the past century. At the Musical Instrument Museum, Amber and I learned about instruments and musical customs from every country. I loved seeing the intricate costumes worn in cultural musical performances, and of course, the display of costumes, guitars, microphones, and a piano used in one Taylor Swift's world tours.

Because I wasn't attending convention as a voting delegate, I was able to join the Strolling SAIs, and we entertained everyone before meetings by singing all of the songs from the SAI Songbook! We even premiered "Ode to Pan's Cottage," by Debra Rue, the winner of a songwriting contest dedicated to Pan's Cottage. Debra Rue happened to be an initiate of Sigma Gamma, so meeting her and getting to sing her song was such a special experience! I got to speak with Ms. Rue and she told me she would love to come visit Sigma Gamma soon, on one of her many trips to Tulsa from her current residence in Texas.

Overall, convention left me feeling excited to start my year as music director for our chapter, and more lucky than ever to be a member of this sisterhood!

—*Rachel Wallis (Sigma Gamma, Palmer Scholarship Recipient)*

So near so dear is SAI!

On July 26, 2018 I arrived in Scottsdale, Arizona with a sister from Kansas, two big duffel bags, and a brain that was ready for all of the knowledge I was about to receive.

When I first walked in to register I was greeted with sisters from all over, and it felt amazing. After I finished registering, I headed up to my room in which I shared with my wonderful Province officer, a sister from Tulsa Alumnae, and a sister who was from Maryland.

From the musicales, to the award shows, to the fun times in the hotel, I had a great experience while I was there. I learned so much about the organization I joined which made me fall deeper in love with SAI. The Sunday before we left, I had brunch with sisters from Florida and Louisiana and during that time we shared our different taste in music, we talked about our experience with SAI, and most importantly how great the bond was at convention. We also discussed future plans to go to convention every 3 years together. The time I spent in Arizona I will forever remember. Why, because I made connections from all over the world and it made it all clear of why I joined this organization, to share the love of all music in all ways possible.

—*Taleah Egland (Kappa Rho Delegate)*

## ...National Convention Continued

This summer I was fortunate enough to receive the partial Genevieve Stout Palmer scholarship from the Tulsa Alumnae Chapter, which allowed me to attend the *So Near, So Dear* Sigma Alpha Iota National Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. I am incredibly grateful to have received this opportunity for so many reasons. I loved having the time to foster relationships with the other women of SAI, with both sisters within Zeta A province and sisters across the country. Furthermore, I got to celebrate my birthday with my SAI sisters, and I couldn't have asked for better people to spend it with. It was lovely to share meals and spend time together in this unique experience, and we feel much closer for it. Also, it was surreal to meet the women behind the names of the National Executive Board members; it is one thing to memorize their names during MIT classes, and quite another to see a glimpse of their personalities, and now I can say I've shared an elevator with Leslie Odom Miller! Furthermore, it was incredible to see the breadth of the work of SAI as a whole, and specifically SAI Philanthropies Inc. One of my favorite presentations was from Andrea Clearfield, a woman with an incredible story who personally benefited from Pan's Cottage to create the Cantata, Tse Go La. Of course, it is wonderful to read about the good of SAI Philanthropies Inc., but to hear directly from the source is even more moving. I could speak on each of these aspects of convention, and more, at length. However, for me, the highlight of convention was in the ritual and the music.

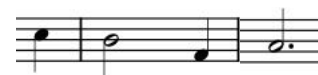
Watching the National Executive Board perform the Initiation ceremony is an experience I hope I will never forget, but what was even more incredible to me came just after the ceremony ended. Every member of the audience joined in a seemingly ceaseless applause for our new SAI sisters. It was then that I truly understood the strength of our bond. We don't share an arbitrary similarity, but rather we share almost visceral bonds with one another. After the ceremony, seeing the newly initiated sisters embrace the other women in their chapter, and seeing the absolute joy and love on each of their faces, reminded me of how powerful it is to feel the support of my SAI sisters. In times of joy and in times of grief, I know I can turn to my SAI sisters for love and support, and I know everyone in the room felt the effect. It is because of our shared experience of love for music and love for Sigma Alpha Iota that no one wanted the moment to end.

Every time we sang together, especially when we sang the Chorale, I was reminded of that bond. It is our love of music that initially joined us together, and being one voice among so many is a singular experience unlike any other. I remember going from singing the Chorale in a fairly small chapter, to singing the Chorale at Province day. I remember being awed by the way so many voices came together even then. Singing at the National Convention was an extension of that sublime moment. Though we came from vastly different communities, we could all share in the music to become a part of something remarkable. I am so grateful for the opportunity to see the breadth and the strength of Sigma Alpha Iota at the National Convention, and I am so grateful to be a part of this loving sisterhood.

—Emily Hughes (Iota Alpha, Palmer Scholarship Honorary Mention)



*So Near, So Dear is SAI*



# THE THINGS WE DID LAST SUMMER



In July, pianist Anna Norberg (Tulsa Alumnae, left) and cellist Kari Caldwell (right) performed for the Music Sandwiched In program at Central Library. Anna also performed with storyteller Connie Crowley, adding accompaniment to each of the stories that Connie shared which were based on her own life experiences.

Beach time at Hilton Head then on to Beaufort, SC to visit my sister, Shauna and brother-in-law, Huett! Then onward to visit our oldest son, Nick who served 8 years in USMC Reconnaissance and two combat tours in Fallujah, Iraq. So Proud of Nick for going on to Texas Tech to earn a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management. We visited his worksite on the Atlantic coast of Georgia. Nick is employed with the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the Wildlife Division. Fun to visit Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island, GA. Our youngest son, Nathan, earned a B.S. degree from OSU in

Business Finance and a Master's degree from Illinois Institute of Technology. So grateful they now live in Tulsa where he works at BOK and our daughter-in-law, Amber works for Snyder Trucking from home. Our little grandchildren! Dylan James 3 1/2 years old and Brooklyn Olivia 14 months old at the Fourth of July neighborhood parade! Dylan and I

enjoyed Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church where I was one of his teachers!

—Sherry Crosby



This summer Sigma Gamma spent a lot of time in Europe. Hope Bradford (Senior, crowned in picture top left) went to France and Italy with her sisters. Her favorite moment was

touring St. Peter's Basilica! Audrey Breckon (Senior, left picture below) took a trip to France where she saw La Traviata at the Opéra Orchestre National Montpellier! And Jesica Santino (Senior, right picture below) spent her summer studying voice and opera in Vienna. She even brought her letters along and represented SAI all across Europe!



I went to Italy and four different countries this summer. I took two awesome classes, the first being Renaissance Art. That class was mind-blowing because we learned about paintings and architecture, then, on the weekend, we went to see those exact works in real life. Sociology of Italian Food was my second class and enjoyed it as well, because - as the name suggested - we talked about and tasted Italian foods and wines for a grade! My favorite places that I visited in Italy were Venice and Sorrento. Both places were abundant in seaside beaches and Sorrento was my absolute favorite place because the landscape went from plunging seashore straight to steep mountains. I went to Austria, Germany, France, and UK in addition to Italy and learned how to manage and travel by myself. Overall, my time abroad was spent doing everything I loved and coming back with so many stories! It was definitely an experience I will not forget.

—Courtney Spivey





## Opera Insights: The Barber of Seville

The Guild of Tulsa Opera will present its first **Opera Insights** of the year on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 6:00 pm at The Tulsa Opera Center, 1601 S. Boulder, Tulsa. Learn about *The Barber of Seville* and hear excerpts from the opera sung by The Young Artists. Refreshments will be served. *The Barber of Seville* is Friday, October 19th and Sunday, October 21st at The Performing Arts Center. For tickets call: 918-587-4811.



## Silver Bowl Sampler

- This year, the Tulsa Alumnae Chapter will continue our Silver Bowl Sampler fundraiser at chapter meetings. For 50 cents you can enjoy tasty treats and get the recipe for the treat, supplied by board members.
- This benefits the convention fund, both for our alumnae delegate and the recipient of the Palmer Scholarship. Please bring a couple of dollars extra to meetings this year to participate in this worthwhile fundraising effort.

## NEW SIGMA GAMMA WEBSITE

Sigma Gamma just got a makeover! Head to [www.saisigmagamma.org](http://www.saisigmagamma.org) to check it out! Here's a sneak peek at some of our favorite new features...



### ΣΓ Chapter

*Zeta A Province, Region II*

Located at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Sigma Gamma Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity was installed on April 23rd, 1924. We currently have 31 active members and look forward to continuing to grow our chapter. At the SAI National Convention in July of 2018 we were awarded the Collegiate Service Project Award as well as the Collegiate Chapter Achievement Award for the Zeta A Province. Please check out our website and contact us if you have any questions about membership, service projects, or upcoming events!

[SAI National Website](http://www.saisigmagamma.org)  
[University of Tulsa Website](http://www.utulsa.edu)

### Upcoming Events



*SAI at the Activities Fair*  
Thu. Aug 23 | Diller Commons



*Recruitment Night 1*  
Mon. Sep 03 | Norman Village Apart...



*Recruitment Night 2*  
Tue. Sep 04 | Lenton Performance Cen...

## Philanthropy

Philanthropy is at the very core of our organization and our chapter. In the last few years we have partnered with several organizations, some local some far, some musical some not, and we hope to continue extending our reach to more communities in need.



2017 - 2018

In Spring of 2018 we chose a philanthropy near to our hearts and near to our chapter. After Hurricane Harvey hit the city of Houston many local schools were left with flooded music rooms, mangled sheet music, and destroyed instruments. We held an instrument drive for Sullivan Middle School in Houston, TX to help replace their lost inventory as well as raised funds for their program to use to rebuild.



2016 - 2017

In Fall of 2017 we partnered with a Sigma Gamma student who is currently teaching at a local Tulsa Public Schools elementary. We spent many, many hours in the classroom bonding with the kids and inspiring them to strive for a higher education. In addition we raised enough money for the teacher to purchase new instruments, including many Orla instruments, for her classroom.



## People of Note

♪ Congratulations to Alumna Nancy Haswell who got married this August! We are so happy for you and wish you all the best for many happy years to come!!

♪ Congrats to Alumna Kelly Bezan for making the President's Honor Roll for the Spring 2018 semester at NSU in her graduate program!

♪ Congratulations to Alumna Beth Keener who was awarded Teacher of the Year in Claremore for 2017-2018!

♪ Congratulations to Sigma Gamma Chapter for winning the National Service Project Award and also for winning the Collegiate Chapter Achievement Award for Zeta A Province! We are so proud of you all and the difference you are making both in and beyond Tulsa!

♪ Bon Voyage to Alumna Megan Gibson who is spending the month of September in England on a fellowship, conducting research for her dissertation! She also has an article based on part of her dissertation that is going to be published in an academic journal!

♪ Congrats to Sigma Gamma Courtney Spivey who won a prestigious national scholarship, the Gilman Scholarship for international travel. She used this to travel to Europe for summer courses. Read what Courtney has to say about her trip on p. 10!

♪ We are saddened to hear about the death of long time Tulsa Alumnae member Mary Gasser, who passed away on 28 August. Our sincere condolences go out to her family and friends.

## 2018-2021 National Objectives

*Foster a lifetime commitment  
to Sigma Alpha Iota.*

*Prioritize music in all aspects  
of chapter programming.*

*Honor the founders through  
respect for our ritual.*

*Nurture sisterhood.*

*Develop strong women  
leaders.*

*Promote women in music.*

*Increase knowledge and  
support of SAI  
Philanthropies, Inc.*

**Keep up with our Tulsa  
chapters online!**

Tulsa Alumnae:

Website: [saitulsaalumnae.wixsite.com/saitulsa](http://saitulsaalumnae.wixsite.com/saitulsa)

Sigma Gamma:

Website: [saisigmagamma.org](http://saisigmagamma.org) \*\*new\*\*

Twitter: @SAI\_SigmaGamma

Instagram: @saisigmagamma