

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

Newsletter Editor: Megan Whitley | Email: saitulsaalumnae@gmail.com

Announcements

📢 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!



Be sure to take a look at what our Tulsa SAIs have been up to and save the dates for our exciting upcoming events!

Tulsa Alumnae:

Website: saitulsaalumnae.com

Sigma Gamma:

Website: saisigmagamma.org

Twitter: @SAI_SigmaGamma

Instagram: @saisigmagamma

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Chapter Communications

Sigma Gamma Chapter

Alex Vest

This past month has been full of exciting activities! Our Art Sale, which took place on March 23, was a great success. We made over \$300, and all proceeds will be donated to the Sweet Relief Musicians Fund in the upcoming weeks. On March 28 we conducted Officer Installation virtually, and we are so happy to welcome our new officers. As we wrap up the semester in the upcoming weeks, our chapter hosted our National Arts Associate Ceremony for Professor Vernon Howard on April 11 at 6 pm. We are excited to welcome such an accomplished and dedicated musician into our organization and to fully recognize his contributions to the Tulsa community and afar. As we wrap up the semester, we will be honoring our seniors at our final chapter meeting at the end of the month.



Tulsa Alumnae Chapter

Patty Mandrell

Our 2020-2021 year is rapidly coming to a close. For being in a pandemic environment we've been very busy . . . virtual meetings, yearbook, Province Day, fundraisers, service project, supporting sisters, awarding Mary Bowles Memorial Scholarship, *Tempo!* articles, adding to the archive, issuing *Scrolls*, hosting our Sigma Gamma Senior Farewell Picnic and winning the Zeta A Alumnae Chapter Achievement Award.

Rounding out the semester is Mayfest. If you would feel comfortable working an outdoor beverage booth watch for the sign-up sheets for the May 7-9 event, our largest fundraiser and the one which funds our scholarships.

Be well. Remember to practice the three Ws: Wear your mask. Wash your hands. Watch your distance.

Fraternity Education: SAI Firsts

"Fraternity Leadership Record"

As a fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota has occupied and continues to occupy a position of leadership. During March, April, and May, our Fraternity Education columns in *Scroll* will examine the lengthy list of "Firsts" for which SAI claims credit.

Note: The entire list can be found on page 437 of *Sigma Alpha Iota: A History* by K Marie Stolba.

First International Professional Music Fraternity for Women

First music group to build a cottage at the MacDowell Colony for the Creative Arts

First Women's Music Fraternity to join the National Music Counsel, being one of its thirteen Charter Members

First Music Fraternity to build a year-round Scholarship Lodge at Interlochen

First Organizational Member of the American Symphony Orchestra League

First Music Fraternity to establish a broad program of Music Rehabilitation in the postwar years following WWII

First organizational member of the National Association for Music Therapy

First fraternity to establish its own Foundation for the benefit of music with focus on American youth. (Foundation eventually became part of SAI Philanthropies, Inc.)

First Music Fraternity to present Graduate Scholarships to the Summer Music Centers: Aspen Institute of Art, Berkshire Music Center, Chautauqua, Fontainebleau School of Music, Idylwild School of Music and Arts, Music Academy of the West, and the Organ Institute

First Music Fraternity to establish National Television Awards in the field of music, designed to further the best interests of music in the video field



Mayfest is on this year, taking place **May 7-9**, and the Tulsa Alumnae Board is recommending that we participate as a way to raise valuable funds for the important scholarships that we sponsor. When the sign up comes around, if you are willing and able, please consider donating an hour or few of your time to support a great cause with reaching benefits for Tulsa SAIs.

Sign up for a time at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vFwKrVRNP5VZ6VfMpNG7D72JBD2wg8NmxtfCxx-wjos/edit?usp=sharing> and email saitulsaalumnae with any questions!

Upcoming Events

23-25 April: *Pioneer Women* showing at Poncan Theatre, Ponca City, OK

25 April: Sigma Gamma Formal Chapter Meeting

2 May: Sigma Gamma Informal Chapter Meeting

7-9 May: Mayfest

Chapter News

New National Arts Associate: Professor Vernon Howard!

Vernon Howard, Professor of Music at the University of Tulsa, was initiated by Sigma Gamma as a National Arts Associate on April 11. Prof. Howard is a longtime faculty member at TU and at Interlochen and a professional trombonist. We are thrilled to welcome him to SAI!

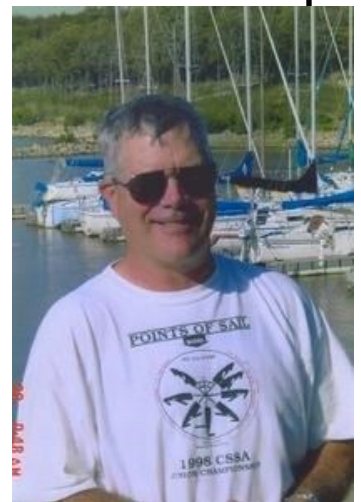


Prof. Howard pictured here with Tulsa Alumnae President Patty Mandrell (L) and Zeta A Province Officer Hazel Rowena Mills



In Memoriam: Steve Snider

A Celebration of Life for Steve Snider, husband of Alumna Mary Snider and ardent supporter of the Tulsa Alumnae Chapter, was held on Saturday, April 10, at First Presbyterian Church of Sand Springs. Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with Mary and the Snider family during this time.



*Congratulations to 2021
Mary Bowles
Memorial Scholarship
winner Iris Ramirez!*

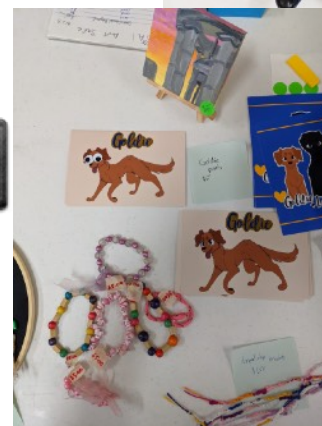
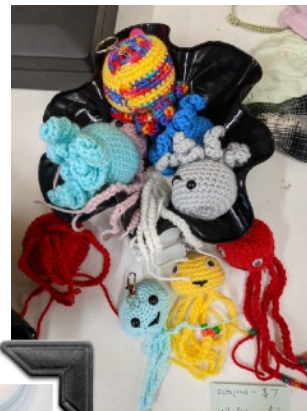
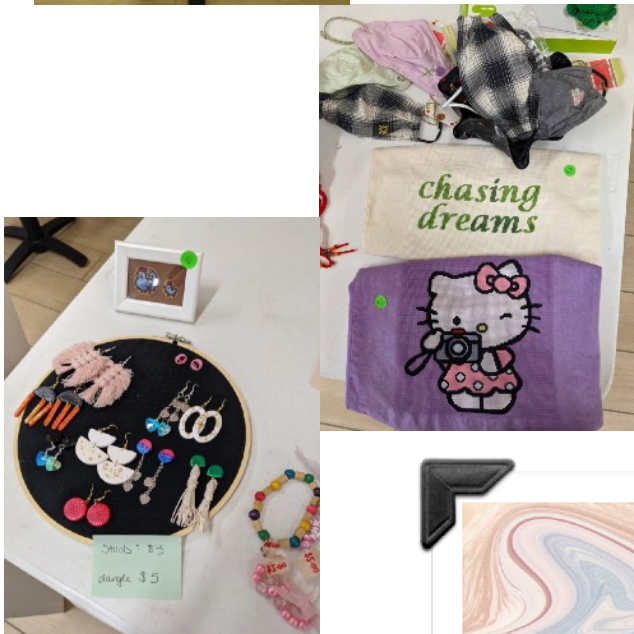
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/tulsaworld/name/steve-snider-obituary?n=steve-snider&pid=198158640>

SENIOR FAREWELL 2021

Sponsored by Tulsa Alumnae, April 10



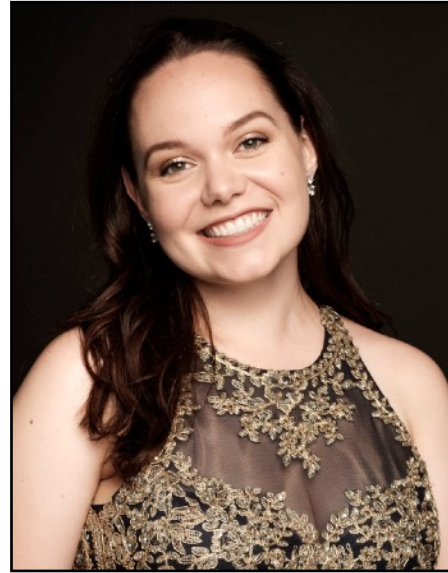
Sigma Gamma Art Sale



Alumnae News

Abigail Raiford has Opera Debut!

Soprano Abigail Raiford (BM in Vocal Performance, 2017) made her professional operatic debut on April 11 in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with Sarasota Opera. Previously engaged to be an Apprentice Artist with the opera company for the 2020 season, she was invited to return as a Resident Artist in 2021 singing the role of the Second Witch and covering the lead role of Belinda in the baroque classic. Sarasota Opera is one of the few companies continuing to offer performances in the midst of the pandemic,



presenting short one-act operas with small casts, limited audience sizes and requiring the members of the

cast to remain "in a bubble" throughout the entire rehearsal and performance process. The opera opened to enthusiastic reviews and will continue for five more performances.

For more information on Abigail, visit her website at abigailraifordsoprano.com.

Abigail Raiford (left) in a scene from Sarasota Opera's production of *Dido and Aeneas*.
ROD MILLINGTON/SARASOTA OPERA

Karen Gingrich performance at Trinity

Tulsa Alumna Karen Gingrich performed for "Tuesday's at Trinity" at Trinity Episcopal Church on April 13. The concert featured a collection of Jazz favorites sung by Karen, Margaret Sewell, Donna Reneau (three sopranos) and Anne Roberts on Piano.

Check out a recording of this performance on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQxH9378a64>

News and Announcements



Pioneer Women by Alumna Debra Rue!

Let us invite you to a positive beginning for 2021 with a project that will prove to be an important part of our history—the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of Ponca City’s Pioneer Woman Statue. Based on the twelve statues commissioned by E. W. Marland in 1928, **Debra Harden Rue** has written stories and songs for PIONEER WOMEN, a multimedia musical theatre production. The Oklahoma Kid Trick Roper will be performing with local music talent—Prairie Fire—all directed by Cara Kem Cassens. On **April 23-25, 2021 at the historic Ponca Theatre**, the statues will come to life as they represent the pioneer women who helped shape America.

This unique production is offered as part of the 100th anniversary of the Ponca City Music Club and is endorsed by the Pioneer Woman Museum, the Oklahoma State Preservation Board, the Ponca Playhouse, the Ponca City Theatre Troupe, the 101 Ranch Old Timers and other Ponca City Marland entities.

Performances take place APRIL 23 at 7 PM, April 24 at 7 PM, & April 25 at 1:30

Buy tickets at <https://www.poncantheatre.org/pioneer-women.html>

People of Note

🎵 Congrats to Alumna Hope Forsyth on her article, “Trial and Tchaikovsky,” published on pages 12-13 in the recently-released Winter 2021 issue of *Pan Pipes*!

🎵 Well done to Alumna Sue Amstutz for a terrific *Tempo!* article!

🎵 Congratulations to Sigma Gamma Abigail Christine Williams on winning second place in the Laven Sowell Collegiate Vocal Scholarship competition sponsored by Hyeckha Club of Tulsa! She is a student of Judith Raiford.

Russell Myers Honored in *Tulsa People*

The March 2021 issue of *Tulsa People* magazine features a short “Voices of Oklahoma” item about syndicated cartoonist **Russell Myers**, creator of “Broom-Hilda,” and his collection of vintage comic books (see “Notebook,” by Morgan Phillips, page 10). Myers, a University of Tulsa art graduate, is the son of the late much beloved Tulsa Alumnae member **Maxine Benton Myers** and her husband, **Russell B. Myers**.

Maxine’s friends in Tulsa Alumnae will remember how proud she was of Benton Russell (she always referred to her son by both given names) and how she joked about being “the grandmother of Broom-Hilda.”

Myers continues to draw the comic strip, which has been in syndication since 1970, at his home in Grants Pass, Oregon.

John Erling founded the “Voices of Oklahoma” oral-history project in 2009. See voicesofoklahoma.com for more information.