

TEMPO!

APRIL
2012
WHAT'S
INSIDE

Sigma Alpha Iota INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FRATERNITY

Convention Pair-Up Approaches

If you are going to Convention, the "The Great SAI Convention Pair-up" will help you fill up your hotel room, meet an airport-to-hotel travel mate, or carpool buddies.

There are several options for transportation from the airport, including an inexpensive MARTA light rail option, a shuttle, and a taxi.

Early-bird registration for Convention is May 31, so we will start the great pair-up in June to give everyone a chance to get registered and travel plans made. Don't worry, there will be plenty of reminders.

Delegates are encouraged to be at the hotel by 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 2, to attend orientation at 4:00 p.m. On Monday, Aug. 6, plan to leave after 3 p.m.

Once the deadlines below have passed, sisters' contact information will be sent

out via the collegiate and alumnae listservs.

Please sign up for the listserv here:

<http://bit.ly/GVTEGY>

You may also send an email to Christine Hall, the SAI Communications Director, at hall_c12@yahoo.com.

DEADLINES:

- Need a roommate: June 15
- Sister(s) to drive to Convention with: July 1
- Sister(s) to travel from airport to hotel: July 15

Deadline reminders will be placed on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google+. However, in the interest of privacy, any contact information will be sent out **only** on the SAI listserv, so it's important to join the listserv if you want to participate.



Also note that SAI will not be held liable or responsible for any of the contacts sisters make with each other.

Stay tuned to the listserv for more Convention information as well as the dates for the Great Pair-up!

Be sure to get your registration in for the National Convention before the early-bird deadline of May 31. The sooner, the better. Visit the SAI National Website for all the links and information.

OFFICER PORTAL

The OP will give you access to various stored documents in the library, will allow you to complete certain forms for electronic submission, real time chapter account balance information, and much more!

Officer Portal URL:
<https://op.sai-national.org/>

These chapter officers have access to the Officer Portal:

- President
- VP Membership
- Treasurer
- VP Ritual
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Editor
- Sergeant-at-Arms
- all Advisors

These officers are responsible for the following actions in the OP:

- Add/replace chapter officers and their contact info: President & Recording Secretary
- Edit chapter member contact info: President
- Report new MITs: VP Membership
- Report collegiate initiations: VP Membership
- Submits collegiate membership roster: Treasurer
- Reports 1/2 year, inactive & graduated members: Treasurer
- Reports MITs withdrawn: Treasurer
- Access the Document Library: Any officer or advisor with OP access
- Access current chapter statement: Any officer or advisor with OP access
- Adding/replacing chapter advisors: Email NH with information
- Edit chapter advisor contact info: Email NH with information

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Members of the Gamma Phi Chapter surround Honorary Member Rachel Barton Pine (center with roses) who led a masterclass at Hardin-Simmons University.

Theta — Washburn University, Topeka, KS

The sisters of Theta chapter hosted the Theta A & B Province Day on January 28, with over 70 collegiate and alumnae members from Theta A and Theta B provinces in attendance. The theme for the day of musical sisterhood was “Painting the Roses Red” from *Alice in Wonderland*. The Theta ladies have successfully completed their annual burrito fundraiser and three membership recruitment events.

— Kelsey Rice, editor

Kappa — University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Members of Kappa chapter performed a valuable service for the Lincoln Public Schools when they volunteered to help reorganize the music library on November 18. A fire at the district office had destroyed much of the library and caused disarray in the remainder of the collection, which was the source of the majority of the music for the district’s ensembles.

— Sara Warner, editor



Members of the Kappa Chapter volunteered to reorganize the music library for Lincoln (NE) Public Schools.

Sigma Delta — University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

A fall picnic hosted by the Urbana Alumnae Chapter, recruitment events, and caroling at area care centers were activities enjoyed during the first semester. A large class of 12 members-in-training joined the Sigma

Delta sisters. The chapter will host the 2012 Upsilon B Province Day in the spring. Many of the sisters are also preparing for the Mary Payne auditions, a contest sponsored by the Urbana Alumnae Chapter.

—Kailey Draves, editor

Alpha Mu — Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Alpha Mu members participated in Relay for Life in memory of SAI sister Lauren Nicole Eshbaugh, who passed away in May 2010. The chapter was the top Greek fundraiser, as well as second place overall, raising \$2,200. Sisters Kahli Dalbow and Martina Caruso helped organize a charity concert for the Children’s Miracle Network, an international non-profit organization that raises funds for children’s hospitals, medical research, and community awareness of children’s health issues. Over \$700 was raised. The chapter welcomed six new sisters in December. SAIs performed in over 30 concerts, including large and small ensembles and chamber groups. Caruso, Dalbow, and Nicole Marie Gasse received top honors at the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition.

— Ashlinn Dowling, editor

Gamma Psi — William Jewell College, Liberty, MO

The main goal for the year is to raise awareness of SAI and Gamma Psi among the music students. To that end, the chapter held a brunch for new students in September, placed an informational booth in the music building lobby, organized a music movie night, volunteered at a vocal competition, and held a fundraiser at the James Galway master class hosted by William Jewell College.

— Fran Webber, editor

Collegiate Comment Editor Pam Prouty, an initiate of Pi Chapter, can be reached at pjprouty@prairieinet.net or 29976 328th Place, Adel IA 50003 or 515-987-1809. Submitted articles should be pasted into the email message. Photos should be sent to gregory@sai-national.org.

Delta Gamma — University of Florida, Gainesville

The fall members-in-training performed a musicale/Toys-for-Tots drive in November. Everyone in attendance was asked to bring a toy for a donation. The Delta Gamma sisters collaborated with the men of Phi Mu Alpha for three events: a winter concert; caroling at a daycare center for elderly persons with Alzheimer's and other memory difficulties; and, a Bread of the Mighty food bank drive for needy families. In addition, the Boy Scouts joined the two groups to sing carols at a local care center.

— Alexis Wilson, editor

Epsilon Epsilon — West Chester University, PA

In October, through the collaboration of Erin Ketterer, VP-membership, and corresponding secretary Katrina Franck, the sisters and members-in-training of Epsilon Epsilon had the opportunity to meet with several of their alumnae members who shared their experiences and what they loved about Sigma Alpha Iota. They gave updates on their lives and provided insight into how SAI helped them to achieve their goals. All remembered the positive experiences their involvement had brought. It reminded the Epsilon Epsilon sisters that Sigma Alpha Iota is not just an experience on the collegiate level, but a commitment for a lifetime.

— Kaylee Black, editor



Members of the Epsilon Iota Chapter.

Epsilon Iota — University of Tennessee, Martin

In December, the ladies of Epsilon Iota and the men of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia spread the joy of music in the Martin, TN, area by singing Christmas carols at three care centers and a group home for mentally disabled adults. More than 150 residents were impacted through this musical outreach.

— Kori Ellis, co-editor

Epsilon Lambda — Belmont University, Nashville, TN

The Epsilon Lambda chapter, in fulfilling the SAI Purpose of furthering the development of music in America and throughout the world, is focusing on projects at the local, national, and international level to specifically promote music education. Projects include mentoring to local children and encouraging them to stay involved in music programs; building bridges between other SAI chapters across the nation; and sending recorders to an orphanage in Haiti to help them reach their goal of giving children access to music in school.

— Cora Kilgour, editor

Theta Zeta — Alabama A&M University, Normal

Semester activities for Theta Zeta include selling chocolate roses and SAI-Sing-A-Grams, as well as participating in a community panel discussion concerning attending an HBCU University (Historically Black Colleges and Universities founded by African Americans).

— Michelle McComb, editor

Theta Omicron — Central Methodist University, Fayette, MO

At their annual SAI Christmas concert, the Theta Omicron chapter collected \$534 for tornado-damaged Joplin schools. Fourteen members-in-training will be initiated in March.

— Calley Rogers, editor

Iota Chi — Ball State University, Muncie, IN

Activities for the fall semester included a Halloween costume contest, singing at Westminster Village Nursing Home, a Thanksgiving eating contest, two park clean-up projects, and Global Heart Strings (Honorary Member Rachel Barton Pine's foundation). The sisters also participated in a recital with members of the Muncie Alumnae Chapter. New member Margaux Glenn was initiated in November.

— Amy Clerget, editor

Kappa Iota — Tennessee State University, Nashville

During the fall semester, the sisters of Kappa Iota participated in the Nashville Alumnae Chapter's Benefit Concert at the I.T. Creswell Magnet Middle School to raise money for the performing arts department and SAI Philanthropies, Inc. President Leandria Lott received the Sword of Honor in December. In February, the chapter will join with Phi Mu Alpha members for Sig-Phi week, which will include such events as a talent show, Sadie Hawkins Dance, and Love Session Musicale.

— Alysia Lee, editor

Kappa Pi — Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro

Brandi Patterson, Amy Rivera, and Sky Roberson were initiated in the fall. For spring recruitment, the theme is "Roses on the Runway: Fashion Collides with Music" which will highlight women who have made a professional impact in both the musical and fashion worlds. Each night will include fashion and music-themed fun, such as VIP goody bags, "Dressed to Impress" awards, and trivia.

— Shelby Huggins, editor

Lambda Iota — Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

Recruitment week was a success and resulted in 16 new members-in-training. Preparations are being made for a fundraising event, "Rock for Poverty," to raise awareness of local and national poverty levels, as well as highlight local talent.

— Kaitlyn Christiansen, editor



The Lambda Iota Chapter at Rollins University welcomed 16 Members-in-Training.



MU DELTA University of Toledo, installed Dec. 10, 2011

On the morning of December 10, 2011, Alpha A Province welcomed one of Sigma Alpha Iota's newest chapters, Mu Delta. Seventeen members at The University of Toledo were initiated, with the assistance of Marcie Richardson, National Vice President, Extension and Fraternity Development. Both advisors for the Mu Delta chapter and six of the seven Alpha A chapters participated in the ceremony. A luncheon was hosted by the Northwest Ohio alumnae chapter following the initiation. The two members of Alpha chapter in attendance posed for a photo with the members of Mu Delta, creating a unique picture with members from the oldest and newest SAI chapters!

— Jennie Ross, *Alpha A*

SPRINGFIELD (MO) ALUMNAE CHAPTER installed Sept. 24, 2011

The Springfield Alumnae Chapter was installed on Sept. 24, 2011, at Asbury Methodist Church in Springfield, MO. Marcie Richardson, National Vice-President, Fraternity Development, and Jennifer Zerangue, National Vice President, Finance, conducted the installation ceremony with the assistance of Pi A Province Officer Marilyn Miller, Kansas City Alumnae Chapter member Marsha Oyer, Epsilon Omega president Kiersten White, and Epsilon Omega treasurer April Wilson. After the installation of the chapter and chapter officers, the Springfield Alumnae Chapter and guests had a luncheon followed by a musicale. The program consisted of Olivia Toney (piano, saxophone respectively) who performed "Arietta Op. 12 n. 1" by Grieg and "Fantassie Mauresque" by Combelle; Kara Raney (soprano), who performed "Island Magic" from *Trouble in Tahiti* with accompaniment by Marcie Richardson (piano); and Kathy Love (cello) and Elizabeth Suh (violin) who performed "Duet for Violin and Cello, Op. 30" by Pleyel and "Duet for violin and cello, K487" by Mozart. A good time was had by all. The sisters of the Springfield Alumnae Chapter wish to express gratitude to all those who assisted in our installation as a chapter.

— Erin Palicki, *Editor*



Mu Epsilon George Mason University, installed Dec. 3, 2011



SPRING INSTALLATIONS

Mu Zeta Kutztown University, installed April 29, 2012
Raleigh/Durham Alumnae Chapter May 5, 2012

SAI offers tours of Headquarters, Biltmore House

Convention attendees, this is your opportunity-tea!

This year, the unique experiences offered at the National Triennial Convention don't end with the concluding gavel of the last general assembly. Attending delegates and sisters are invited to take advantage of the proximity of the 2012 Convention to National Headquarters.

A limited number of spaces are available for a three-day, two-night roundtrip post-convention tour from Atlanta, GA, to Asheville, NC, on August 6-8.

The package includes:

- Roundtrip, luxury motorcoach travel
- 2 nights accommodations at Four Points Sheraton in Asheville (just one mile from National Headquarters)
- Guided tour of National Headquarters and the SAI Harmony Rose Garden, complete with an English Tea party and refreshments

Price: \$222.32 per person for double occupancy, including taxes, gratuity & luggage/porterage fees

+ + +

The second day of the tour, Aug. 7, may be used to roam about Asheville's many sights, or you can join a special SAI tour of Biltmore House, the 8,000-acre estate with the world-famous 250-room chateau whose grounds were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the



creator of New York's Central Park and the father of American landscape architecture. The estate has been seen in major films such as *Hannibal*, *Patch Adams*, *Forrest Gump*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, and *Being There*.

Optional Biltmore Estate Package

The optional package includes:

- Roundtrip travel from your hotel to Biltmore Estate (just 4 miles from National Headquarters)
- Professionally guided tour of Biltmore Estate, Gardens (whose 250 varieties of roses will be of particular interest to SAI members), and Antler Hill Village & Winery

- Lunch at Deerpark Restaurant, offering Southern family-style dishes and Appalachian specialties prepared-to-order specialties.
- Access to the Biltmore Estate shops, including an Appalachian Mercantile, Outdoor Adventure Center and shops ranging from Christmas-themed to books to confections and toys.

Price: Additional \$119 per person.

**Total for Post Convention Package \$222.32
With Optional Biltmore Estate Tour:
\$351.32**

Register online now for your tour preference at sai-national.org.
Seats are limited!





Above, representatives of member chapters attended the Omicron Province Day in January. Below, the Phi A & B Province Day cake. At bottom, members of the Alpha Lambda Chapter at the Alpha B Province Day hosted by the Beta Eta Chapter of Western Michigan University on January 21, 2012.

Phi A and Phi B Province Day

Phi A and Phi B Provinces celebrated their Province Day, spotlighting “Phi’s Pride”, in Framingham, MA, November 5, 2011. Festivities included a awards, initiations, a musicale (which included at least one member from each chapter present), a fraternity sing-along, workshops, forums, and Phlea Phlam to benefit SAI Philanthropies. Initiations included Helen Mahoney West and Kathryn Marie Giorgio as Patronesses; and Richard Ortner as a Distinguished Member. In addition, John Moriarty was honored for his participation as a long-time National Arts Associate. Workshops included J. Scott Brumit, General Manager of Longwood Opera and a National Arts Associate, on “Creating Opera Anywhere”; Yoichi Udagawa, Conductor of the Cape Ann Symphony and National Arts Associate, and David L. Benjamin, Business Manager of the Cape Ann Symphony and Friend of the Arts, on “Creating a Community Orchestra”; and Thomas Enman, Opera Director at Longy School of Music and National Arts Associate, on “Louis Moreau Gottschalk: An American Original.” Province Day was hosted by the Boston Alumnae Chapter and the Epsilon Zeta Chapter of The Boston Conservatory. Conference Chairmen were Geraldine Barretto-Sims and Arlene Jospe Veron.

— Sarah Moyer, Boston Alumnae Chapter Editor

Psi B Benefit Concert

The Psi B Province, headed by the Nashville Alumnae Chapter, held a benefit concert for I.T. Creswell Arts Magnet Middle School on November 4, 2011. The Province raised money to benefit both the school’s Music Department as well as SAI Philanthropies, Inc.

— Jessica Oliver,
Nashville Alumnae Chapter, VP-Membership





Members of the Cleveland Alumnae Chapter.



The Abilene Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota awarded the Rose of Honor to five members, from left, Sue Siltman, D'Anna Smith, Rachael Bein, Nancy Jones and Britt Jones. All are graduates of Hardin-Simmons University and were initiated by Gamma Phi.

Buffalo (NY)

Celebrating America's choral heritage, the "Made in America" Concert combined the voices of Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus (BPC), Amherst Bel Canto Choir, Helen Hosmer Singers from the Crane School of Music, BPC High School Affiliates, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. The program highlighted music of distinguished American composers. Singing in Kleinhans Music Hall in "surround sound" was unforgettable! A pre-concert workshop under BPC Director and Sigma

Delta initiate Dr. Doreen Rao combined Hosmer Singers, Buffalo State College Chorale, choirs from 2 high schools, and the 2011 BPC High School Affiliates. Chapter member Dr. Kathleen Keenan-Takagi assisted in organizing this wonderful collaboration. Another chapter highlight was our "Keyboard Extravaganza" with performers Jane Cary (harpsichord) and Persis Vehar (piano) and Karen Schmid (forte-piano). This delightful and educational program gave the audience an opportunity to hear examples of music on each instrument. We enjoyed a special tour of the Tiffany Windows at Lockport Presbyterian Church. This event was arranged by Dr. Jacklin Stopp whose historical commentary was an added treat. We heard a short organ recital by patroness Dr. Carole Harris, who discussed their newly-renovated Moeller pipe organ.

— Marilyn Obermeyer, Editor

Cleveland (OH)

A luncheon meeting at the home of Marilyn Meadows in September was followed by a musicale presented by soprano Missy Sorohan. A dinner meeting was held at the home of Claire Stair in October. Claire shared an excellent video from The Musical Instrument Museum which has opened recently in Phoenix. Claire also exhibited her collection of folk instruments used in her teaching career. In November members gathered at the home of Amanda Meitz for a Thanksgiving dinner after which we commemorated the Incorporation of Sigma Alpha Iota.

Diana Le was affiliated and welcomed into the chapter. Beverly Sater Dempsey was honored with a Red and White shower in celebration of her recent marriage.

— Marilyn Meadows, Editor

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Columbia (MO)

The chapter has been organizing a service project to support Joplin High School music programs. The May 22, 2011 EF-5 tornado destroyed a significant portion of the city of Joplin, including the high school and one of the largest sheet music libraries in the state of Missouri. The Columbia Alumnae Chapter is currently collecting monetary donations as well as instruments, instrument accessories, and sheet music towards the cause. We have raised \$745 to date and hope to raise over \$5,000 by the end of 2012. If you or your chapter would like to donate, checks made out to "Joplin Band Boosters" can be mailed to Caroline Leemis; 3608 Chestnut Drive; Columbia, MO 65202. For item donations, please contact Caroline at caroline.leemis@gmail.com to arrange shipping to Joplin. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We greatly appreciate your support! — *Caroline Leemis, Secretary/Treasurer*

Des Moines (IA)

The chapter was thrilled to affiliate seven new members in November. The December meeting featured a special performance by local singer Fred Gazzo and pianist Jason Danielson, husband of chapter president Sara Danielson. Fred and Jason performed songs from their newly released Christmas CD, which features two chapter members, Sara Danielson (flute) and Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg (oboe). This year's Barnes & Noble bookfair raised nearly \$600 to buy instruments for the Des Moines Public Schools. The chapter also continued its tradition of assembling care packages of goodies before final exams for Pi Chapter at Drake University. — *Stacie Bendixen, Editor*

Indianapolis (IN)

At the November meeting chapter VP-Membership Heather Pechin presented a program on American composer/singer/songwriter Ben Folds. The program included a biography and some samples of his recorded music. She, along with member Jill Wallace, performed some of Folds' songs for us. At our January meeting, we got crafty and worked on some projects to sell at future Phlea Phlams. We were also proud to affiliate two new members, Lydia Zacharias and former NVP-Extension and Fraternity Development Anna Ratliff. In the coming months, we will be working hard to organize our annual Scholarship Benefit Recital. The recital will take place on March 25th at 5 p.m. at the Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall on the campus of Butler University. All donations collected at the recital will go toward scholarships for the ladies of the Zeta chapter at Butler University. — *Karen Hromada, Editor*

Iowa City (IA)

For the first time, SAI was selected to volunteer at the 4th Annual Teen Summit Program sponsored by the local alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a historically black sorority. We were charged with developing and presenting fun and engaging ways for young African-American high school students to get involved in music creation. In a section of the program titled "A Positive Me," we presented our workshop entitled "Music is Everywhere." After a short presentation and group demonstration of how to create music from non-traditional instruments (pots, cups, voices, etc.), we assisted ten separate groups of 10-15 students



Members of the Iowa City Alumnae Chapter created a music advocacy presentation for an annual Teen Summit Program.

each with the creation of their own musical demonstration based on a given scenario (going to school, being stuck in traffic, etc.). The students loved creating their own music. The best part of the entire project was seeing the change in attitudes from both the students and the members of SAI. Our small chapter has an average age of about 50, and we enjoyed seeing the students' faces go from "what can these old ladies teach us" to "wow, these are some cool and creative old chicks." Everyone loved the presentation and we have been asked to present this again at similar events. — *Karletta White, President*

Kansas City (MO)

The new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts opened in September in downtown Kansas City. We sponsored a seat upon which a plaque was placed on seat HHH 129 with the inscription: "Vita Brevis Ars Longa, Sigma Alpha Iota, Kansas City Alumnae Chapter." Our September meeting featured a musicale with clarinet duets by Aimee DeSotel and Diane Briggs. October featured a musicale presented by Paula Kramer (mezzo-soprano) and Jennifer Hull (cellist).

Marjorie Ounsworth, the last founding member of the Kansas City Alumnae Chapter, died on Nov. 9 at the age of 102. She was an outstanding pianist and a retired faculty member of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. She served as Faculty Advisor of the college chapter at the Conservatory for many years.

In 2007, Marjorie was honored as a seventy-five year member. She remained an active member until she was no longer able to attend our meetings but continued to show great interest in our activities and events. JoAnn Gaunt, an Instrument Repair Technician, and Krystal Meyer, a K-12 Hearing Impaired Specialist, affiliated with our chapter in November. In December we presented an afternoon holiday musicale at Bishop Spencer Place and an evening holiday musicale at Lakeview Village Retirement Community.

— Vicki Hedger, Editor

Lake County (IN)

The chapter concluded 2011 with a musical presentation for the residents of Hartsfield Village in Munster, IN, followed by our annual potluck and Christmas Party at the home of Beth Flynn. We also supplied Care Packages for our Beta Lambda sisters as they prepared for final exams before returning home for the holidays. In addition, we continue to provide snacks for the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and Chorus as they held final rehearsals for their Holiday Concert. Several chapter members perform with the Symphony Chorus. Gift cards serve as a great fundraiser for our chapter, and we hope to expand these efforts to retailers who provide rebates to non-profit organizations. In November, a successful raffle event was held. Two concert tickets were donated from the Northwest Indiana Symphony, courtesy of conductor and National Arts Associate Kirk Muspratt, along with two dinner/theater tickets from L'Arc en Ciel to their current production of *Oliver*. Chapter members attended the Indiana NAFME Conference (formerly MENC) in Fort Wayne in January. We continue encouraging local band, choir, and orchestra directors to contact us if there is need for contest accompanists at local and state Indiana State School Music Association contest sites.

— Carol Y. Ondra, Editor

Las Vegas (NV)

The chapter affiliated two new members in January and plans to affiliate two more this spring. In November, we held a successful Holiday Bazaar fundraiser at the home of Zahra Buttar. The bazaar featured jewelry, Tupperware, greeting cards, and bake sale items. Other fundraisers for this year include chocolate sales and a garage sale. In



Members of the Midland Alumnae Chapter perform the musicale for the chapter's November 2011 meeting.

December, several members attended the *Lion King* during its final days. In May, members will be attending *The Phantom of the Opera*. Several of our members are making plans to attend the National Convention in Atlanta. In the spring we also are planning a music badge day for girl scouts.

— Chris Heisler, Editor



Members of both the Milwaukee Alumnae Chapter and the Dodds family welcome Roderick Dodds as a Friend of the Arts.

Milwaukee (WI)

In the fall of 2011, the Milwaukee Alumnae Chapter voted to nominate Roderick P. Dodds as a Friend of the Arts. Among many musical pursuits, Rod, the father of Milwaukee Alumnae Chapter Member Martha Dodds Stoner, has enjoyed playing the saxophone, flute, and other instruments since his high school days 80 years ago. An avid music supporter at the age of 94 and practically blind, Rod still plays in the Springfield (IL) Shrine Band and at nursing homes and club meetings. Martha reports that her father was very moved that SAI felt he was worthy for this distinction. The Sigma Alpha chapter at Illinois Wesleyan University, Martha's initiating chapter, enthusiastically agreed to conduct the initiation ceremony, but health issues prevented the initiation from taking place there. After Rod had a health scare, Martha received special permission from the National Vice President, Ritual and Fraternity Education to have Milwaukee VPR Catherine Schmanski conduct the ritual via speakerphone. With Cathie standing by in Milwaukee, the SAIs in the Dodds family scurried around to get Rod ready in Springfield. Despite not feeling well, Rod was thrilled and honored to become a member. SAI members in Rod's family include Dorothy Evans Dodds (first wife, deceased), Margery Winter Dodds (wife), Martha Dodds Stoner (daughter), Joanne Dodds Erwin (daughter), Emily Dodds Erwin (grand-daughter, Joanne's daughter), and Carolyn Dodds Stoner (grand-daughter, Martha's daughter). Carolyn Stoner, Margery Dodds, Joanne Dodds Erwin, and Martha Dodds Stoner were in attendance at the initiation.

— Jill Anderson, editor

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Minneapolis/St. Paul (MN)

In November we initiated Dr. Christopher Kachian, distinguished Classical Guitarist, and Professor of Music at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, as a National Arts Associate. Sword of Honor recipients Katherine Majkrzak (soprano) and Susan Anderson-Benson (piano) performed, followed by an improvisation by Dr. Kachian. In January, Rebecca Shockley, Professor of Piano Pedagogy and Coordinator of Class Piano at the University of Minnesota presented a program entitled "Reflections on Percy Grainger," concluding with a performance of Grainger's "Colonial Song." Barbara Pihlgren-Warner (soprano) and John Helgen (piano) performed four songs which they entitled "Love on Broadway," including songs by Rodgers/Hart, Wright/Forrest, and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

— *Madalyn Traun, Editor*

Muncie (IN)

Members welcomed back the Iota Chi members at Ball State University in September. We prepared a picnic dinner for about 14 college members who ate and talked with the alumnae members. American Music is our theme this year and has been evident in our musicales. In the October meeting, Becky Burkart performed two preludes for piano by Robert Vandall, and mezzo-soprano Meryl Mantione performed "Come Ready and See Me" by Richard Hundley and "Poem" by Christopher Berg for our December meeting. Our annual alumnae/collegiate recital was a success again this year. The Bell Choir, consisting of seven alumnae and three college students, performed three Disney-related songs by Richard and Robert Sherman and an arrangement of "Shenandoah," while several American compositions were played including "Take, O Take Those Lips Away" by Amy Beach. The program began with the singing of the SAI Chorale and ended with "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." Two of our members have had faculty recitals at Ball State University. Burkart gave a harpsichord recital on October 9, and Mantione gave a voice recital on January 21. We also volunteered to coach students at Muncie Central High School to prepare their pieces for the Solo and Ensemble contest.

— *Linda Putman, Patroness*

New York (NY)

On June 5, the New York Alumnae Chapter presented the Rose of Honor to Phi B Province Officer Amber Womack. Amber was so busy hosting the meeting that day that she was caught off guard when asked to come forward and receive this honor in a ceremony where no sister's eyes remained dry. Before Amber became the Phi B Province Officer, she served as president of Beta Kappa, Delta Mu, and the New York Alumnae Chapter – just to name a few things she did. She has also received the Sword of Honor, the Ruby Sword of Honor from both Beta Kappa and Delta Mu, the SAI Honor Award, the SAI Scholastic Award, and was the Ft. Worth Alumnae SAI Scholarship Winner for 1998-99. The NYAC was thrilled to bestow this honor on such a well-deserving sister. — *Amy E. Hawley, Editor*



Phi B PO Amber Womack received the Rose of Honor from the New York Alumnae Chapter.

Philadelphia (PA)

Members took a trip to Longwood Gardens to view the "Notes from the Forest" exhibit featuring the woods used in manufacturing Steinway pianos. At the October meeting we were excited to initiate Friend of the Arts Tony Wastler and to affiliate Delta Phi initiate Jillian Katz and Lambda Tau initiate Ketti Muschler. A musicale followed, including Katz and Rheta Smith performing. Members performed at St. Ignatius Nursing Home in Philadelphia. An impromptu musicale by members at the November meeting included a clarinet trio made up of Julie Clevenger, Janet Burkhart, and Jan Scott. An unusual woodwind trio included members of the same family: mother and Iota Chi initiate Ladonna Dingledine (flute); father and Friend of the Arts Steve Dingledine (oboe); and daughter Lora Dingledine (English horn). They performed Ludwig van Beethoven's *Trio, Op. 87*. An Incorporation Day ceremony was featured in December. In January, Martha Frampton presented a handbell workshop at her church in Sewell, NJ, where members played a 4-part version of the SAI Chorale, which she arranged. Following was the annual auction fundraiser to raise money for the Eloise McKnight Scholarship Fund. For the auction, members brought wrapped white elephant gifts for those in attendance to bid on. Members also performed in a musicale at Harlee Manor in Springfield, PA.

— *Linda McAlpin, Editor*



Members of the Pontchartrain Alumnae Chapter display their Category II Annelle Chandler McAdams Alumnae Service Project Award for its support of a local not-for-profit.

Pontchartrain (MI)

The chapter lost a beloved Friend of the Arts last fall. David Culler, husband of long-time member Judith, passed away on October 11, 2011, after a long illness. His gentle manner, helpful attitude, and delicious baked goods will forever be missed. Pontchartrain and Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapters, along with some musical friends and students, again went "Beyond Bells," to perform 50 hours of music for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at Briarwood Mall, with member Lauren Erickson coordinating the event. Corresponding Secretary Joan Berndt is serving her community as a member of the Bloomfield Hills (MI) Board of Education. Congratulations, Joan!

— *Pat Loeffler, Publicity Chair*



Sarasota-Manatee Alumnae Chapter members gather before the Patricia Stenberg Memorial Concert in honor of the former SAI National President (1978-87).

Rochester (NY)

Two new members came to us through our efforts to encourage area attendees. Eileen Drechsler Ramos studied music education, musicology, piano, and voice at The Catholic University of America, Nazareth College, Eastman School of Music, Royal Conservatory, and Temple University. Eileen retired from a 33-year career as a K-12 Music Educator and Supervisor in California and New York school districts. Her current volunteer activities center on the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the philharmonic league, and the youth symphony. Sword of Honor recipient Elizabeth P. Kinney grew up in the Boston area studying, among other pursuits, the cello. To paraphrase Elizabeth, the highlight of her musical career came when she joined the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra and played Mahler and Brahms symphonies on concert tours of Japan and England – all before she was 17! She is a graduate of Hartwick College where she performed cello, piano, and organ despite no organ lessons. After years of performing and teaching in the New England area, she moved to the Rochester area. She now teaches private cello, piano and plays freelance cello in the area. While in Boston, she took groups of students through The Kinney Music Studio to do recitals at assisted living establishments.

— Carol Detblefs Menchel, Editor

Alumnae Comment Editor Kim Everett, an initiate of Gamma Rho Chapter, can be reached at sai_houston@hotmail.com or 6014 Spanish Oak Dr., Pasadena, TX 77505. Submitted articles should be pasted into the email message. Send photo submissions to Gregory Dickens at gregory@sai-national.org.

Reno (NV)

What a delightful evening the Reno Alumnae Chapter and Eta Omicron Chapter had in December. Alumnae chapter member Pat Richard opened her home to all of us. She provided food along with fantastic desserts with the help of other chapter members. Members wore crazy holiday sweaters and hats. We split into our respective groups to open secret sister gifts. Gathering together, we observed the Incorporation Day ritual and sang some fraternity songs. The “Brassy Chicks” quartet played carols while everyone sang along. We were honored with a surprise performance by patroness Helen Lee singing “O Holy Night” accompanied by Beverly Kirkpatrick, mother-in-law of Philanthropies Board member, Kate Kirkpatrick.

— Beverly S. Kirkpatrick, Editor

Rockford (IL)

Rockford Alumnae Chapter initiated Joel A. Ross as a Friend of the Arts at our December meeting at the home of Martha Dahlberg. Mr. Ross is a choral conductor of note, having directed Kantorei (the Rockford Boys Choir) since 1988. His high musical standards have won him and Kantorei wide acclaim in both the U. S. and in Europe. A graduate of North Park University in Chicago, he is also a member of the American Choral Directors Association, for which he serves as Central Division Boys Choir Chair. As such he gives of his expertise to boys choir directors

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all through the Midwest. A multifaceted musician, Mr. Ross is also prominent in the region as pianist in chamber music groups and at festivals with his Jazz Trio.

— Fern Armstrong, Editor

Seattle (WA)

Seattle Alumnae Chapter hosts a monthly concert series at Ida Culver House - Ravenna (a nearby retirement home). This concert series carries even more significance as one of our founding members, Sword of Honor recipient Charlotte Totten, is a resident. These hourlong performances consist of everything from vocal excerpts to woodwind trios to student performers. As well as performances, the sisters of the Seattle Alumnae Chapter have asked audience members to join in for a good old fashioned singalong. Our goal is to provide musical experiences to the members of Ida Culver House, and we hope they end up with a smile on their faces.

— Monica N Hernandez, Editor

St. Louis (MO)

Friend of the Arts Stella Markou, director of vocal studies at University-Missouri St. Louis, began our November meeting with a spectacular performance of Mozart's "Exsultate, Jubilate" at the home of Stephanie Gummersheimer. Members put together goody bags for the Kappa Nu chapter at Lindenwood University. We're also continuing our People-to-People Project, sending music and instruments to schools affected by the tornado in Joplin. Cheryl Conley hosted the December meeting where members performed and sang Christmas carols for the holidays. Drouet's "Duo Concertant" was performed by flutists Cindy Schellenberg and Beth Parker at the January meeting in the home of Julie Hoffman.

— Stephanie Gummersheimer, editor



Members of the Tulsa Alumnae Chapter with Friend of the Arts Edward Dumit (far right).

Tulsa (OK)

On December 22, 2011, charter member Miriam Spindler Lynch celebrated her life centennial. That day was recognized by the entire Fraternity as Miriam Spindler Lynch Day, with a special certificate presented to her by chapter members and Friend of the Arts Edward Dumit along with a long-stemmed red rose. She also received a phone call from National President Elizabeth Nordling. An 80-year member of SAI, Miriam Spindler Lynch was initiated in 1931 by Sigma Gamma Chapter at the University of Tulsa. An accomplished pianist and piano instructor, Miriam has often performed on alumnae chapter musicales. She is a recipient of the Sword of Honor, Rose of Honor and the Zeta A Province Alumnae Leadership Award. Recognized as a leading promoter of the arts in Tulsa, Miriam remains active in Tulsa's Hyechka Club where she and her mother, Nelle Garbutt Spindler, established the Hyechka Piano Scholarship for high school juniors. Miriam is a lifelong member of Wednesday Morning Musicales, founded by her mother in 1921. A practice studio in the new Lorton Performance Center at her alma mater, the University of Tulsa, bears her name.

— Sue Amstutz, Editor

Volusia County (FL)

It was a busy November for the chapter. On Nov. 5, we initiated Donald McCullough as a National Arts Associate. McCullough, a graduate of Stetson University, was on campus attending the 50th anniversary celebration of Stetson's historic von Beckerath organ (the first mechanical action instrument patterned after the North German school of J. S. Bach's day to be installed in a U. S. university's concert hall). Mr. McCullough has achieved distinction as both a composer and a choral conductor, most recently as director of the Washington Master Chorale at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. On Nov. 19, the chapter held its annual Scholarship Competition for members of the Eta Pi Chapter at Stetson University. The winners from among 12 candidates are Melissa Kindy (2nd place, instrumental - clarinet), Caroline Hood (1st place, instrumental - English horn), Kate Nadolny (1st place, vocal - mezzo soprano), and Constance Rogalski (second place, vocal - soprano). Since our first competition in 2000, we have awarded \$23,000 to student members through this competition. — Patty Fort, Editor