

Tempo!

the national
newsletter of
SIGMA ALPHA IOTA
INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC FRATERNITY

NOV 2025

New Fraternity Education Resources

Now available in the Officer Portal (Document Library - Fraternity Education) and in the Fraternity Education Calendar:

“Working in Harmony: Upholding the Rose— Living the Values of SAI Every Day”

This resource helps members bring SAI’s mission to life through everyday actions that promote respect, accountability, encouragement, and inclusion. It offers practical tips for building stronger sisterhood, resolving conflict with care, and recognizing each other’s contributions, reminding us that small acts of kindness and support keep our bonds and the spirit of SAI strong.

Additional Reminders

As conflict arises, remember to loop in your PO, RO, NEB and Advisors(collegiate) so they can assist and are in the know.

Don’t forget about the Conflict Resolution Resources from the 2025 Convention that can be found in the Officer Portal!



Above: Zeta Gamma

Thank you for sharing your resources with the sisterhood!



Service Projects

GOAL: Outreach and support for our school and community.

1. Collecting food for a local charitable food distribution program by requiring a food item as admission to a concert
2. Asking the department of music how SAI can provide it's services to the department (collegiate)
3. Adopt-a-School

Reminder: SAI Philanthropies, Inc. provides grant money for chapter projects.



“Chapter Activities and Service”

A guide full of ideas to inspire chapters to engage in meaningful music-centered service, leadership, and sisterhood. It encourages creativity and collaboration, whether through performing for the community, organizing service projects, or partnering with local schools, to strengthen connections and share SAI’s love of music and harmony with others.

Special thanks to the Zeta Gamma Chapter for creating and sharing these valuable resources with the sisterhood.

2

**NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

4

**PROVINCE
DAY**

6

**COLLEGIATE
COMMENT**

8

**ALUMNAE
COMMENT**

The *Tempo!* National Newsletter is published by the Fraternity to provide a source for chapters to share their activities and for Fraternity Education updates. Many creative ideas for programs, fundraising, and service projects can be found in these pages. Take notes!

51st Convention Workshop Highlight:

From Zeta Tau at the University of Central Florida: “In our National Convention workshop – **From Interest to Initiation: The Recruitment Blueprint** – we were so excited to be able to share tips and tricks on how to have a successful recruitment season. The best part? All of our advice came straight from experience! My name is Hailey Gauger, chapter president of the Zeta Tau chapter, and I had the pleasure of presenting this workshop with my fellow sisters Abby Romano, our VPM, and Baylee Behrens, our former treasurer and social co-chair. Throughout this workshop, we shared a bit about our chapter in Orlando, Florida as well as details about: recruitment budgeting, how to recruit, how to plan events, the significance of a pre-recruitment information session, as well as the importance of a cohesive social media presence. Most importantly, we also discussed how to tie in the purpose and objective of our amazing organization into our recruitment events.”

Their full presentation slides, with great tips and recommendations for each segment of the collegiate recruitment process, are available in the Officer Portal Document Library under both Convention 2025 and VP Membership Resources.



Members of Zeta Tau before presenting at convention with their chapter bear, Mrs. Potts (named after our founder, Georgina Potts).

OUR CHAPTER

Fall '23 Total active Members: 36 MIT's: 10		Spring '24 Total active Members: 39 MIT's: 8
Fall '24 Total active Members: 36 MIT's: 12		Spring '25 Total active Members: 41 MIT's: 5

BRANDING

Why Branding Matters:

- A consistent, polished feed makes a strong first impression
- Helps potential members understand your chapter's values and vibe

Tips for Cohesive Branding:

- Use a coherent theme
 - consistent colors, filters, and fonts
- Create and update Instagram Highlights
 - example: Service, E-Board, Philanthropy, Events

Keep It Going Over Time:

- Even if the Historian changes, keep branding strong
 - Pass down templates and branding guidelines to maintain visual identity year to year

A well-branded feed = a more memorable and inviting chapter!

HOW SAI'S PURPOSE TIES INTO RECRUITMENT

Connecting Our Values to the Way We Welcome New Sisters

- Promote Musical Sisterhood
 - Create meaningful connections through music-based events
- Uphold Musical Excellence
 - Attract members dedicated to growing as musicians
- Foster True Sisterhood
 - Emphasize support, inclusivity, and lasting bonds
- Encourage Cultural Development
 - Highlight diverse music, arts, and traditions in event themes
- Support Philanthropy
 - Share SAI's service mission to attract community-minded members
- Inspire Lifelong Engagement
 - Set the tone for growth, connection, and lifelong involvement

Recruitment reflects who we are and what we value as a fraternity.



SAI Convention Workshop Recap: Applying for Chapter Outreach Grants

By Colleen Christiansen, Director, Chapter Outreach Grants

Many SAI chapters are unaware of the opportunity they have to apply for a Chapter Outreach Grant from Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, Inc. At the Sigma Alpha Iota National Convention in Minneapolis, I, along with two of my committee members, presented a workshop about how far a chapter can go with the funding that we can help provide.

A chapter can apply for up to \$500 in funding for support of an outreach project in their local community. In the application, the chapter must provide information regarding where their matching funds will be coming from to meet the grant amount. An example: if a chapter wants to apply for \$250, they must also raise \$250 to help offset the project's costs. Some fundraising ideas that chapters had included having a movie night on campus, where they show a movie but only charge for concessions such as popcorn and snacks. Other ideas were to hold a silent auction or collect member donations. The amount of chapter income (fundraised + grant) must match the amount of the project's expenses for the grant to be awarded.

Another area that we discussed was the benefit that we have seen happen by connecting collegiate and alumnae chapters. I

shared that the Tampa Bay Alumnae Chapter applied for a grant for a joint outreach project they hold with Delta Chi Chapter every year. Their outreach project helps supply local schools with much needed equipment or music for their classrooms. Some workshop attendees liked knowing that chapters can work together on an outreach project for their local community. At the end of the session, there was time for a breakout session and members talked to each other about possible outreach project ideas, such as: bringing in guest speakers for workshops/clinics at colleges; supporting a free concert for the community; having a fundraising concert that also supports the church or venue where an alumnae chapter would have their monthly meetings.

Once the project has been completed, a report must be submitted to the grant director with detailed information on the outcome of the project. Many of these follow-up reports have been included in the fall issue of *PAN PIPES* or in *Tempo*! This is done to share project ideas with other chapters that encourage raising awareness about Sigma Alpha Iota and what our organization is about.

To learn more and apply, visit the SAI website at:

<https://www.sai-national.org/philanthropies/scholarships-grants-awards/scholarship-grant-program.html>



Members of Nu Province met at the University of Puget Sound in September.

Nu

The Tacoma Alumnae Chapter was fortunate enough to be blessed with good weather this Province Day as the Nu Province met at Kilworth Memorial Chapel at the University of Puget Sound on the morning of September 27th. The day started off with a joint breakfast, put together by the sisters of Tacoma Alumnae, as members caught up with each other and made new connections with others. The Phlea-Phlam table was also set up, as well as a separate donation piggy, which was available throughout the day for the sisters to shop and browse.

The day started off with a gathering upstairs at the chapel for the first portion of our sing-along, led by Susan Billin from Moscow-Pullman Alumnae Chapter and Madison Cummings from the Sigma Zeta chapter. Then we had our introduction and formal opening, the former of which was given by Dr. Tracy Doyle, the Director of the School of Music in UPS. Following that was our Province Officer, KT Turner, going over the new National Objectives, as well as messages and greetings from National Headquarters.

We then moved back downstairs to allow time for the first program to be set up, which allowed the members, in a more intimate setting, to share about their experiences at the National Convention, both the previous one and ones from the past. The general consensus from those who attended was that they had a wonderful time. They highly recommended to the other sisters that they should attend one, at least once in their lives.

Once everyone's stories were told, we were right on time to go back upstairs to engage with our first program of the day. One of our DMs, Pat Wooster, put together a lovely Harp Program to share with each of us, with some duet pieces that were performed with her granddaughter, Abigail Wooster. For one of the pieces, Abigail played the flute and Pat's husband,

Jim Wooster, provided accompaniment. Much laughs were to be had for that one piece! Once again, we thank Pat Wooster, as well as Abigail and Jim Wooster, for putting this all together for us! Once that ended, we took our group photo seen at the top before going off to enjoy our lunch downstairs, which consisted of a garden salad, sandwiches, and brownies.

After lunch, we stayed downstairs to do our second portion of our sing-along, led again by Susan and Madi. Once that finished, we were treated to our second program of the day: Dr. Gwynne Brown's presentation about William Dawson. She went over a quick overview of the process of writing her book on the esteemed composer and shared some lovely facts and stories about him. A couple copies of her book were for sale at the Phlea-Phlam table, which were snatched up quickly following the program. We appreciate your presentation, Dr. Gwynne Brown!

Afterwards, we took another quick break with the final opportunity to shop at the Phlea-Phlam table, as we transitioned back upstairs for the final part of our day. Once we were ready, we took part in our last portion of our sing-along, once again led by Susan and Madi. Again, we thank them both for a job well done for all three portions of our sing-along! We then went into our musicale section, which featured performances from all chapters in attendance at Province Day: Moscow-Pullman Alumnae, Sigma Zeta, Seattle Alumnae, and Tacoma Alumnae.

A warm thanks to all in attendance who helped, all who put on performances, our program presenters, the staff at Kilworth, and everyone else present who came with their smiles wide, hearts open, and voices raised in music. Our Province Day would be nothing without all of you there.

— Tacoma Newsletter

Great Gift Ideas



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- D. Musical Note Charm with Snake Chain, #0135A
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- F. Rose Silhouette Earrings, #ER141
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Beta Lambda Valparaiso University

Beta Lambda ended last spring by celebrating our local theatre and our graduating seniors. We were delighted to see our own Gabby Unzicker perform in *Much Ado About Nothing*, a show which featured original music from Valparaiso students. In April, the chapter went to see our local theatre's production of *She Kills Monsters*, which inspired a Dungeons & Dragons-themed recruitment for this fall. Two of our graduating seniors, Gabby Unzicker and Sammy Knapp, received awards from the Valparaiso University Music Department, in connection with their work for SAI.

We were also excited to have raised enough money this year to send two of our members to this summer's National Convention. For incoming president and delegate Melody Pearson, convention was a terrific opportunity to connect with our alumnae network and learn about the resources we can use in the upcoming year. For graduating senior Sammy Knapp, it was a look forward to a life celebrating music after college. The National Convention also inspired us to put more focus on service and philanthropy this year. We have several exciting ideas for service projects and are deciding on our favorite.

— Sammy Knapp, Beta Lambda alumna



Seniors Samantha Knapp and Gabrielle Unzicker with their awards from the Valparaiso University Music Department in recognition of high achieving SAI seniors.

Delta Lambda State University of New York at Fredonia

The State University of New York at Fredonia's Delta Lambda Chapter has been fortunate enough to have amazing musical experiences so far this year! Over the summer, some chapter members went to Italy as a part of a SUNY Fredonia Choir trip. As we moved into the semester, we had our first round of large ensemble concerts. We congratulate our members who were a part of the Fredonia Concert Band, Wind Symphony, and Wind Ensemble! Aside from band concerts, our members also perform in the Hillman Opera production of *The Consul*, as well as the upcoming Fredonia College Symphony Orchestra concert! We are so proud of our members who participate in a variety of the performing ensembles here at Fredonia and of our chapter's efforts to keep the excitement of the semester rolling! — Samantha Tirino, editor



MARCI KRAUS Collegiate Comment Editor

I was initiated as a member of the Epsilon Eta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota at Eastern Illinois University on December 14, 1974. I have also been a member of the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter. During my time in the Alumnae Chapter, I was asked to serve the Fraternity as Omega C Province Officer, 2013-2018. I was also, at various times, Province Officer for Omega A and Omega B Provinces. In 2018, I became Region 4 Regional Officer, an office I held until 2025. At conventions, I volunteered in Atlanta, played viola in a string quartet for Ritual and a concert in Greensboro, and was a member of the Nominating Committee for our last convention in Minneapolis.

Sigma Omicron University of Arkansas

Sigma Omicron began the semester with an incredibly successful fundraising Percentage Day at Chipotle near the University of Arkansas campus. Promotion through social media and campus group chats helped fill the restaurant with sisters and supporters alike. The next planned fundraisers are a campus bake sale and Panera Bread Percentage Day.

To boost morale and engagement, Sigma Omicron has introduced themed chapter meetings, including floral prints, decades day, and favorite music t-shirt day. These creative themes encourage participation at chapter and make for great photo opportunities with our sisters! Excitement is building as Sigma Omicron begins preparations for a year of special events celebrating its centennial.

— Isabel Fuentes, editor



Zeta Rho member Rachel Estep trained for seven months with the Arkansas National Guard.

Zeta Rho Arkansas Tech University

This semester, the Zeta Rho Chapter welcomed back our dear sister, Rachel Estep, from a long seven months in Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training for the Arkansas National Guard. Before she left, Rachel was nervous about saying goodbye to her chapter, but she was met with love and support.

“Though I was nervous, my chapter helped encourage and remind me that I was fully capable of hard things,” Estep said. “During basic training, I received letters from my chapter, and I even had the opportunity to call my Little, BreAnna Stephens, on Sundays. She would give me all the updates and remind me of how much my sisters had missed me and were thinking of me. Now I’m back home and getting back into the swing of things with my chapter! And what better way to get back into the groove of Zeta Rho than by welcoming my new Little, Mora, as a Member-in-Training! This whole experience has made me so thankful for my sisterhood and has reminded me of how my sisters will always be there for me through hard times.”

We are so proud of Rachel, and we are glad to have her back home.

— Brook McCready, editor and corresponding secretary



A quick little rainbow of sisterhood from the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter. Upper left to right: Emily Boorstein (vp, ritual), Braeden Weyhrich (recording secretary), Talitha Malone, Sally Oakes (vp, programs), Margaret Joiner (treasurer), Desiree Bell (president). Lower left to right: Melanie Jackson (editor/historian), Stephanie Wilk (corresponding secretary/vp, membership), Sophie and Jenna.

Asheville

As a relatively young chapter of eight years, the Asheville Alumnae Chapter has struggled to retain membership for the last few years. We're happy to report that we are now growing! Thanks to some new affiliations and the initiation of a new Patroness with Training, we have exceeded our membership expectations. We anticipate adding two additional affiliates this fall.

With our new "lease on life," we're looking forward to the future with new plans and new ideas to carry our chapter forward. We are trying to build relationships with each other by holding social gatherings between our regular business meetings. We're also working on some fundraising ideas to benefit our community outreach and SAI Philanthropies, Inc. Our president brought back some great ideas from the convention that she shared at our recent meeting. We hope to include some of them as we plan our activities for the rest of this year.

— Bonnie Richards, editor

Atlanta

The Atlanta Alumnae Chapter celebrated a vibrant and memorable year, marked by musical fellowship, recognition, and reflection. We proudly welcomed Dr. Paul Hill, longtime director of the Marietta Pops Orchestra — an ensemble several of our sisters have performed in — as our newest Friend of the Arts. In honor of our 80th Anniversary, members gathered to showcase their musical talents, create a time capsule, and strengthen bonds through shared celebration. Throughout the 2024-25 year, we recognized outstanding service and leadership, with Desiree Bell, president, and Sally Oakes, vp, programs, receiving awards and honors for their contributions.

Founders' Day featured inspiring musical presentations, and we learned how to play the Appalachian Dulcimer! At our annual Membership Tea, themed "The Rainbow Connection," we sang the beloved song and reflected on how music, like rainbows, unites us across diverse perspectives, reminding us of our shared human experience. These events have deepened our connection and reaffirmed our commitment to



REV. DR. MICHELLE WHITLOCK Alumnae Comment Editor

Rev. Dr. Michelle Whitlock is an initiate of Epsilon Chapter at Ithaca College. She was previously affiliated with Baltimore Alumnae for many years and served as president of that chapter. Michelle holds several degrees in music and theology, including a PhD in Liturgical Studies from Garrett-Evangelical School of Theology. She is the pastor at Whispering Pines Community Church in Northeastern Pennsylvania and an adjunct professor at Marywood University in Scranton, PA.

sisterhood, artistry, and service.

As we look ahead, we are excited for the continued growth, creativity, and camaraderie that the coming years will bring. The chapter's journey remains a harmonious blend of tradition, celebration, and forward momentum.

— Melanie G. Jackson, editor, historian



All 5 Xi C Province Officers attended the Convention this summer. In order from newly elected to the original: Jessica Knieff, Megan Nugent, Patty Stanfield, Anne Kleve, and Colleen Christiansen.

Boulder

Five sisters of the Boulder Alumnae Chapter attended the convention, and we all enjoyed reconnecting with sisters from far and wide in Minneapolis. The chapter was also awarded the Xi C Province Chapter Achievement Award for 2025, and we presented our outgoing Xi C PO Megan Nugent with the Wreath of Achievement. With the election of a new Province Officer for Xi C, Jessica Knieff, who hails from the Denver Alumnae Chapter, we have ended an era. Our fifth-ever PO is the first who is not a current member of the Boulder Alumnae Chapter!

Our first meeting was at an elevation of 8,500 feet and featured a flute petting zoo where instruments ranged from piccolo to an over 6-foot-long walking stick flute. Our second meeting will include the affiliation of three new members. We are very proud that our chapter continues to grow as we enter our 25th anniversary year in 2026. We hope to return to our 2001 re-charting size of 23 members by our anniversary next June 10th. So, if you know any unaffiliated sisters in the Front Range of Colorado, please send them our way.

— Patty Stanfield, secretary, editor

Buffalo

The annual opening meeting for our chapter was held on Saturday, September 20th, at the home of member Deborah Jasinski. This luncheon meeting gave members the opportunity to reconnect and hear about plans and dates for another great year of programming and projects. The 19 current and prospective members attending each received yearbooks and



The Buffalo Alumnae Chapter members at their opening meeting in September.

refrigerator magnets listing our dates and programs for the year.

We are looking forward to a wide variety of programs, including presentations about music therapy, streamlining music with technology, a "guess the composer" evening, stories in stained glass, and a special tour of the historic Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo. Our fundraiser "Burgers and Blues" is being hosted by Salvatore's Chandelier Bar on October 2nd, where a portion of the evening's profits will be shared with our chapter. Funds raised will be used for chapter outreach and philanthropic support of the arts in Buffalo. Our opening meeting ended, as has become customary, with the group singing some SAI songs.

— Louise Schwarz, editor

Colorado Springs

The Colorado Springs members enjoyed a beautiful summer here in Colorado. At our first meeting of the 2025-2026 year, we enjoyed a flute quartet musicale. Linda Keefe, Erin Spencer, Karen Morsch, and Susan Walker played pieces by female composers Judy Nishimura and Yvonne Desportes. We are excited to be affiliating at least one new member



Colorado Springs Alumnae Chapter delegate Sharon King (bottom row, second from the right) attended Convention in July.

this fall. Fundraising will be a priority for our chapter this year. We are hosting Province Day, a visit from our province officer, and a booth at the Colorado Music Educators Association Conference in January. Our chapter representative, Sharon King, gave us a glowing report of this summer's national convention. — *Christ Heisler, editor*



Members of the Fayetteville Alumnae Chapter.

Fayetteville

Sigma Alpha Iota sisters from both the University of Arkansas and the Fayetteville Alumnae chapters gathered for their annual brunch — a tradition rooted in the spirit of sisterhood, support, and shared passion for music and service. The brunch served as a platform for sisters to share personal stories, chapter updates, and ask for advice on how to navigate the year. Collegiate sisters shared their recent memories of recitals, recruitment events, and balancing academics and music, while seasoned sisters offered mentorship and reflections. The afternoon was filled with meaningful exchanges and moments of joy. The attendees at this event are reminded each year just how strong our bonds are, even after college. SAI truly is for a lifetime. Sisters left feeling energized and united, committed to continuing their service through music and supporting one another in true SAI spirit. Plans for next year's brunch are already underway, promising even more opportunities for connection and collaboration.

— *Kaitlyn Rebidue, editor & vice president, ritual*

Fort Lauderdale

Our chapter kicked off the 2025-2026 year with our first formal meeting held on September 21 as we dove into the new SAI Songbook



Members of the Fort Lauderdale Alumnae Chapter during their September formal meeting.

and learned the song "Weave." It was a great opportunity for all our sisters to work together and sing in harmony. We also had the honor of initiating Patroness with Training Makeeda Warrington. From the island of Dominica, she is a recent graduate from Florida Memorial University with two Bachelor's degrees in business administration and music, and is accepted to the University of Miami to pursue her master's in music therapy with undergraduate equivalency. She currently serves as a Guide Girl, was a long-time member of the Ambassador Chorale, and is a founding member of The ROAR Marching Band of Florida Memorial University. We are happy to welcome Makeeda into SAI and to the opportunity to share our love of music. — *Gabrielle Wladimirsky, member*

Fort Wayne

It's fall, time to hit the ground running! Our chapter has been working towards our community service project this fall. We have planned for and raised funds to bring in a nationally renowned trio, The String Queens, for workshops and a concert for area orchestra students. The talented trio will present two workshop sessions, one geared toward middle school students and another for high school students. There will also be a free evening concert open to the public.

Our chapter is co-sponsoring this project with the Pearl Arts Center, a shining jewel in the arts center of our city. Pearl Arts Center includes a performance venue, meeting rooms, classrooms, and lesson studios where students can receive free or reduced-fee lessons. We are excited to partner with them for this event.

Our two Youth Symphony Orchestra summer camp scholarship winners performed for us and shared a little about their camp experiences. It is always delightful to hear such talented youth. We are so pleased to welcome Kendra Reusser, who has affiliated with our chapter. She brings a wealth of experience, having served most recently as the Region V Regional Officer. Welcome, Kendra! — *Susan Jehl, editor*

Houston

The Houston Alumnae Chapter has enjoyed a meaningful and eventful year, marked by celebration, remembrance, and national engagement. Our chapter continues to uphold the values of SAI through music, friendship, and service.

We were honored to initiate Matthew Pate as a Friend of the Arts, recognizing his outstanding support of our musical community. His

Ann Petty joined the Houston Alumnae Chapter in a memorial ceremony for her mother Jo, a recipient of the Sword of Honor, Rose of Honor, and Rose of Dedication.





The Long Beach Alumnae Chapter hosted Province Day for Delta A and Delta C.

commitment to the arts aligns with our mission, and we are proud to welcome him.

In a moment of reflection and love, we held a Memorial Ceremony for our beloved sister, Jo Petty. Her legacy lives on in the hearts of our members, and we were deeply moved to have her daughter, Ann, join us in commemorating Jo's life and contributions. The ceremony was a touching reminder of the enduring bonds we share.

Our chapter was also represented at the 2025 SAI National Convention in Minneapolis with eight members attending. Their participation helped strengthen our connection to the national organization and brought fresh inspiration to our local efforts. From workshops to performances, our delegates returned energized and ready to share new ideas.

As we look ahead, the Houston Alumnae Chapter is excited to continue our journey of service and sisterhood. We remain committed to fostering musical excellence, supporting one another, and engaging with our community through meaningful events and outreach.

— Kimberly Everett, editor

Long Beach, CA

Long Beach Alumnae Chapter, despite our small size, was able to have a successful year and host an amazing Province Day for Delta A and Delta C Provinces. What we discovered, and what was solidified during our 2025 Convention, is that we are not alone. It is easy to feel isolated, but when we contacted other chapters, we were overwhelmed by the generosity and help offered. It was an amazing day, enjoyed by all. Our sisterhood proved it is strong with the participation of so many. Special thanks to Delta A PO Kendall Allen and new Region I Regional Officer Alannah Roberson, who was honored with the Wreath of Achievement. Thanks also to the Pasadena Alumnae Chapter for breakfast, all the amazing performers at the recital

from Las Vegas, Orange County, and Long Beach Alumnae Chapters, and to Patroness with Training Angelica Brooks for her outstanding presentation on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

This past spring, we were able to install Matthew Martinez as Friend of the Arts, and new members Louise Earhart, Abby Carlson, and Josie Boyer. Our spring luncheon was hosted by member Lyn Pohlmann, with music provided by students of the Bob Cole Conservatory at California State University at Long Beach, CA.

The new Fraternity year started with our president, Mary Ann Stickler, attending the National Convention in Minneapolis. She returned with stories of sisterhood and educational information learned from the general and educational sessions. She brought back a lot of new ideas to help generate momentum coming into the new year.

In September, we had our first meeting, with an amazing turnout of sisters, and the music of Gluck performed by flautist Paula Savastano and Mary Ann Stickler. We discussed membership drive ideas, secured our fundraiser, and planned our Biennial Scholarship Concert in March to support Arrow Bear Music Camp. We also committed donations to several local community music groups and SAI Philanthropies. Our chapter may be small, but we are mighty! We are looking forward to a new year of sisterhood and philanthropy.

— Paula Savastano, vp, ritual & Mary Ann Stickler, president

Minneapolis/St. Paul

Our members rolled up their sleeves to help keep the 2025 National Convention running smoothly. From July 16-21, members served attendees every single day, stuffing convention bags, playing in the Wind Ensemble, staffing the Host City Information Table, presenting roses, serving as Pages during sessions, and transporting VIPs to and from the



Members of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Alumnae Chapter members prepare Convention materials for attendees.

airport. Creativity and fun reigned as music-themed items sold quickly at our Phlea-Phlam table, raising \$584 for our chapter and \$106 for SAI Philanthropies, Inc. In all, 28 sisters took on hosting duties, and 12 attended the entire convention for an impressive showing strengthened by support from local SAI sisters we had the joy of meeting for the first time at convention.

We kicked the new year off with a lavish afternoon tea, a true celebration. Twenty-nine attended, with most donning a variety of designer vintage hats. Serious applause to Janet Boehm and Nancy Jamieson for their collections! The program featured creative bassoon and oboe duets by Telemann, Handel, and Mozart, performed by two of our newest members, oboist Sophie Gannon and bassoonist Grace Howard. We were delighted to cap the afternoon off with the affiliation of Rebecca Kopp, a new member we met at Convention 2025. — *Helen Roberts Franczyk, editor*

Orlando

The Orlando Alumnae Chapter had an incredible year filled with music, service, and sisterhood. From cherished traditions to new achievements, our members continue to make a lasting impact both locally and nationally.

Our sisters met monthly throughout the academic year, gathering in December for our beloved Holiday Social in honor of SAI's Incorporation Day. Later in the spring, we celebrated Founders' Day with our End-of-Year Potluck. These events are special moments to come together, reflect on our heritage, and strengthen the bonds of sisterhood.

This year brought many honors for our chapter and members! On May 3, 2025, we proudly welcomed Mr. David Matheson as a distinguished Friend of the Arts. Our own Cyndy Aazami received the Rose of Dedication. Michelle Scheen was awarded the Professional Development/Education Grant. At the National Convention, Orlando Alumnae earned the Top Giving Alumnae Chapter for Philanthropies, the Alumnae Chapter Achievement Award for Lambda C Province, and the Regional Chapter Achievement Award for Region VI. What an amazing year of recognition

and growth!

One of our proudest moments was supporting A Gift for Music, a Central Florida program that provides instruments and opportunities for young musicians. Thanks to our chapter's efforts, we donated one violin and three ¾-size cellos, helping students begin their artistic journeys. We also hosted two post-concert receptions, sharing joy and fellowship with students, families, and community members after the Holiday and Spring concerts.

The Orlando Alumnae Chapter is dedicated to uplifting our nearby collegiate chapters, Zeta Tau and Lambda Iota. This year, we hosted an elegant English High Tea to support their recruitment events. We also welcomed graduating sisters with a Senior Luncheon and Commitment Ceremony, graciously hosted in the home of one of our members. These traditions allow us to encourage and celebrate the next generation of sisters.

Though we may be a small chapter, we are a mighty force for music, service, and sisterhood. We are proud of the legacy we uphold and look forward to another inspiring year as members of Sigma Alpha Iota.

— *Janai McKissick, editor*

Pontchartrain

Vice president of membership & programs, Angela Bonello, spent one month this summer in Saluzzo, Italy, rehearsing and performing the beloved role of Susanna in W.A. Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Saluzzo Opera Academy. She arrived at the program fully prepared and jumped right into music, recitative, and staging rehearsals. The full opera was on its feet after two diligent weeks of staging rehearsals in the warm Italian sun. The following week, the production team added costumes, polished finer details, heightened the comedic timing, and the orchestra joined the singers. The final week of the program, each of the three casts had two



Angela Bonello, vp, membership & programs, of Pontchartrain Alumnae Chapter, performed Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Italy.

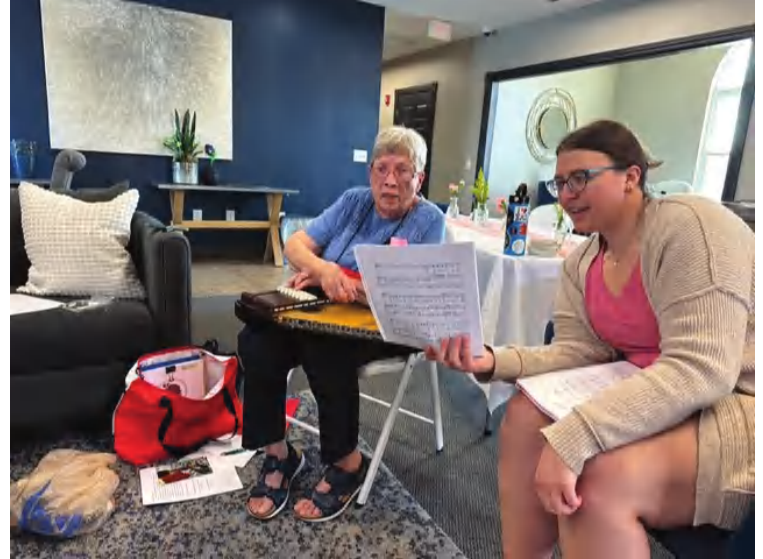
dress rehearsals and a final performance for a local Italian audience. When she wasn't singing Susanna, Angela performed in the chorus. Outside of rehearsals, Angela completed a role study of Zerlina from *Don Giovanni*, auditioned for an opera agent, performed in the Aria Evening concert, and took coaching, lessons, and Italian classes. Her Italian debut as Susanna was a success, and she enjoyed working with the conductor William Cole and director Daniel Okulitch. She is incredibly grateful for the support of Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, Inc. and its Summer Music Scholarship for this enriching career-building experience!

— Patricia Tait, editor

Urbana

Secretary Lucy Kebler was the host for an elegant summer luncheon on August 3, complete with a delicious assortment of homemade foods served on her family's lovely china. The main purpose of this unusual summer meeting was to provide an opportunity to those sisters who attended the national convention to share their experiences with the rest of the chapter members. Cathy Mitchell, Stephanie Tillman, and Beth Ann Miller described the valuable ideas they heard discussed in Minneapolis, as well as the fine musical offerings they enjoyed. The alumnae guests also began to practice the new music in the updated songbook as they looked forward to a new SAI year.

— Beth Ann Miller, editor



Urbana Alumnae Chapter members practice music from the new SAI Songbook.



NEW EPISODE!

In our ninth episode, The 1903 SAI Podcast talks with Arlene Jospe Veron, Director of the Bold Notes Project, chatting about what the project is, how it came about, what Sigma Alpha Iota has done to help with the project, and how members can get involved to help with the project.

Be sure to visit the SAI National Website at

<https://www.sai-national.org/philanthropies/outreach-projects/disabilities-services.html>

for further information and a guide from the Library of Congress to get started at

https://www.sai-national.org/images/PDFs/Bold_Notes_LargePrintGuide_2019.pdf

PODCAST: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1879090>

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