

Tempo!

the national
newsletter of
SIGMA ALPHA IOTA
INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC FRATERNITY

AUGUST 2026

Sigma Alpha Iota History Committee

FRATERNITY EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS



Minnie Davis Sherrill



Elsie Sterrenberg



Brenda Ray

National President



Ginny Johnson



1911



The circle of pearls is more rounded,
and the Pipes of Pan do not overlap
the pearls.

It was decided "the pin shall
be seven Roman gold pan
pipes encircled by a gold band
bearing the letters SAI on
black enamel, set with 15
whole pearls only."

Members' names were engraved
on the back of their badge.

This Large Badge design would
stay until 1953.

A great resource for Fraternity Education is our SAI History Book. This resource is available for all chapters and individuals to purchase through our SAI store (<https://www.sai-national.org/products/112-chapter-supplies/2-sai-history-book.html>). Over the last several years, the FrEd History Committee has been combing through our history book and summarizing many key components into smaller presentations. Check out our newest FrEd presentations and take the opportunity to share them with your chapters!

Special thanks to the committee for their countless hours and dedication: Marie Bonello, Ashley Melendez, Stephanie Riley, and Gabby Wladimirsky.

**Rebecca Sepulveda,
NVP Ritual and Fraternity Education**

2

**NATIONAL
NEWS**

7

**PROVINCE
DAYS**

8

**COLLEGIATE
COMMENT**

10

**FOUNDERS'
DAY**

12

**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!

EVENT PLANNING TOOLKIT

Planning chapter anniversaries, Province Days, and similar events to engage Sigma Alpha Iota sisters



One Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC · 28805
828-251-0606
nh@sai-national.org

Version 06/2026

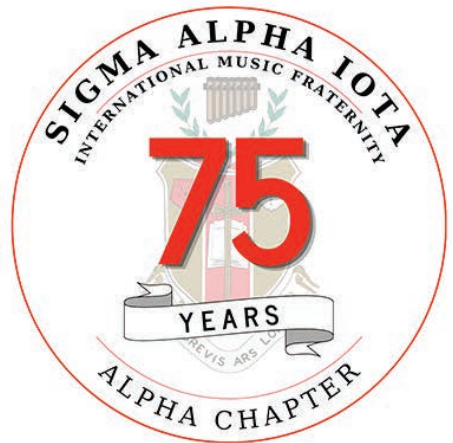
Use Our New Event Planning Toolkit!

Whether you are coordinating a significant chapter anniversary or organizing a Province Day, we recognize that there are many logistical details to manage to ensure a successful event. To streamline this process, we have developed a comprehensive new Event Planning Toolkit.

Available for download in the “Fraternity Education” and “President Resources” folders of the Officer Portal Document Library OR from the SAI national website, under Chapters > Chapter Resources > Province Day Resources (<https://bit.ly/4pJSQR6>).

Have questions? Email: nvp.development@gmail.com

Michelle Werner
NVP Fraternity Development



Have a chapter anniversary coming up? Want to celebrate and share?

Visit this link (<https://www.sai-national.org/chapters/chapter-resources/sai-graphics.html>) to customize a copy of these badges for your chapter anniversary!

SAI ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

Hello Roses!

The Alumnae Appreciation Week, held from April 12 to April 18, 2026, aimed to increase awareness of the Alumnae Association and enhance membership. The campaign utilized social media channels and concluded with a Zoom webinar. Many of our members raved about our social media campaigns as our “You’ve Come a Long Way, Roses” campaign being the one of the top performing posts during this week across Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Our next highest performing post was the “Seven Reasons to Join” campaign which performed well across all platforms (FB, TT, IG, and LinkedIn). We gained new followers to our accounts, new memories, and even more importantly, 16 new alumnae members!

Thank you all for an amazing Alumnae Appreciation Week in April. A special shout out to the Alumnae Association Committee for the work that went into making the week a success. A huge thank you to Michelle Werner, NVP Fraternal Development, for capturing the data from our social media campaigns and providing the following data points for us.

Be on the lookout for our next campaign to engage newly graduated Roses. That’s right, we’re coming for you! Membership in SAI is for a lifetime, and your journey in the garden has just begun.

Dr. Angelica Brooks
Alumnae Association Director
sai.alumnae.assoc.director@gmail.com

Social Media Performance

FACEBOOK: Experienced significant growth, with views up 253% (94,561), interactions up 350% (3,305), and 46 new followers.

INSTAGRAM: Achieved 76.8K views (up 191.5%), 3.4K interactions (up 135.1%), and 13.4K reach (up 55.3%).

LINKEDIN: Demonstrated strong engagement with 2,683 impressions (up 4,607%), 113 reactions (up 5,550%), and 10 new followers (up 25%).

TIKTOK: Recorded 1.6K views (up 178.5%) and 115 reactions (up 422.7%).

Webinar and Membership Results

WEBINAR: The closing Zoom call saw 50 registrations and 31 attendees, resulting in a 62% attendance rate, which is considered strong compared to the typical 35-50% range.

Membership: Between April 12 and April 30, the association welcomed 16 new members, directly supporting the goal of boosting overall membership.



It has been a busy year for the Distinguished Membership Committee! During this fraternity year, we had the privilege of approving 47 outstanding individuals for membership in SAI. We enjoyed learning about each nominee’s accomplishments and contributions, and we look forward to reading about their initiations in Pan Pipes.

As you begin planning for the 2026-2027 fraternity year, I encourage you to consider nominating deserving musicians and supporters of the arts for distinguished membership in SAI. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for the process, which includes committee review and discussion of nominations, processing of paperwork, and shipment of the necessary initiation materials from National Headquarters to your chapter.

As always, if you have questions or encounter difficulties in obtaining any of the required documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me: SAIDistinguishedMemberDirector@gmail.com.

Enjoy your summer,

Leslie Odom Miller
Distinguished Membership Director
Former National President



Andromeda Electric Orchestra of North Hills, CA

SAI Philanthropies, Inc. is pleased to announce the grant recipients for the inaugural year of the Community Arts Grant for 501c3 Organizations program. From a pool of 25 applicants, we awarded grants to seven organizations to support a wide variety of programs. Grantees included: Andromeda Electric Orchestra (North Hills, CA), Thursday Musical (St. Paul, MN), North Atlanta Voices, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), Salon (Philadelphia, PA), Waterloo Wind Band (Austin, TX), Beaver City Symphonic Wind Band (Beaver, PA), and the South Indiana Wind Ensemble (Bloomington, IN).

The modest grants (all were less than \$5,000 each) will support a variety of projects including commissioning a new composition for wind band, producing a 40th Anniversary documentary film, launching two new youth music competitions, music and voice lessons for volunteer choir members, purchasing digital music library software, concert season production expenses, and expanding a senior day care recital series.

In the coming months, information on each grantee and their project will be posted on Sigma Alpha Iota social media. Congratulations to all our 2025-26 grantees.

Applications for 2026-27 will open in November 2026. Please see the SAI Philanthropies, Inc. webpage for more information.

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

Gayle Ober
Director, Community Arts Grants

Have you received a scholarship, grant, or internship from Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, Inc.? If yes, we'd love for you to share how SAI Philanthropies has impacted your experience as a member or an alumna! Upload a short testimonial and accompanying photos (if any) to the form (<https://forms.gle/Xe6tqhZKEeD9nZgv5>) and you may be featured on our social media accounts or promotional materials. Thank you and I can't wait to hear your stories!

Jacelyn Forst
Multimedia Resources Director

Convention Webinars



UNITED IN MUSIC: THE HOME TOUR

KEEPING THE SAI FUN IN FUNDRAISING!

Elevate your chapter's fundraising game and dive into the art of fundraising while strengthening sisterhood. Discover creative approaches to turn your favorite pastimes into impactful fundraising opportunities, making every endeavor a celebration of sisterhood. Join us as we delve into the strategic integration of goal-setting and fundraising, transforming it into an organic part of your chapter's culture.

AUGUST 16TH, 2026
08:00 PM EST
REGISTER TODAY!

PRESENTED BY:
CHRISSY M. THORNTON



What if fundraising became one of your chapter's favorite activities?

Join us for Keeping the SAI Fun in Fundraising! and explore how fundraising can strengthen sisterhood, create memorable experiences, and support your chapter's goals at the same time.

Discover creative strategies that transform fundraising from a task into a tradition.

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://bit.ly/3RofykK>

Every successful ensemble needs a strong foundation. The same is true for our chapters. Join Money Matters: Cultivating Financial Health in Your Chapter and explore strategies for budgeting, fundraising, planning, and member engagement that can help your chapter achieve its goals and sustain its impact.

Presented by Raechyl Thieringer & Christina Paparo

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://bit.ly/4wbmyRj>



UNITED IN MUSIC: THE HOME TOUR

MONEY MATTERS: CULTIVATING FINANCIAL HEALTH IN YOUR CHAPTER

Money Matters is a dynamic workshop packed with interactive activities and practical tips to set up your chapter for long-term success. Discover creative ways to budget, fundraise, and plan to help your chapter reach its goals. Learn how to make financial practices transparent and engaging for all members, and turn common challenges into opportunities for growth. Whether you're a treasurer or just passionate about your chapter's future, this workshop will empower you to engage all members in the long-term success of your chapter.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
08:00 PM EST
REGISTER TODAY!

PRESENTED BY:
**RAECHYL THIERINGER AND
CHRISTINA PAPARO**



For the full schedule and replays, visit:

<https://www.sai-national.org/resources/con2025.html>

Convention Webinars

What is Imposter Syndrome?

DEFINITION
A psychological pattern where an individual doubts their skills, talents, or accomplishments and fears being exposed as a "fraud."

COMMON THOUGHTS

- "I got lucky."
- "They're better than me."
- "They'll find out I'm not as good as they think."

ROOT CAUSES

- Past Trauma Experiences
- Perfectionism
- Comparison Culture
- External validation focus
- High-achieving environments

4. Community Connection

Find Your People

Real communities you can join today — for pros, hobbyists & everyone in between:

- ♥ SAI (Sigma Alpha Iota) — lean on your sisters for support
- 🎵 Sweet Adelines International — women's a cappella
- 🎵 Barbershop Harmony Society — weekly rehearsals & quartets
- 🎵 Local community bands, orchestras & choruses
- 🎵 Church/worship teams & community theater
- 🎵 NAFME alumni chapters — networking & growth
- 🎵 Meetup.com — search 'music' for jams & open mics
- 🎵 Facebook Groups: Adult Music Students, Musicians Over 40
- 🎵 Discord & Patreon — find your genre tribe online
- 🎵 NATS — voice teachers, workshops & singer community
- 🎵 SmartMusic & Tonic — practice with accountability
- 🎵 Local open mic nights & songwriter rounds

Tuning Out the Doubt: Overcoming Imposter Syndrome

Musicians spend years preparing for performances, auditions, and leadership opportunities, but even the most accomplished performers can struggle with self doubt. During Tuning Out the Doubt: Overcoming Imposter Syndrome, we explored how imposter syndrome often shows up in the performing arts through comparison, perfectionism, fear of making mistakes, and the feeling that we have to prove we belong.

Throughout the session, participants reflected on their own experiences and discussed practical ways to quiet the inner critic, trust their preparation, and approach performances with greater confidence. We talked about the importance of giving ourselves the same grace we so freely give others and recognizing that growth as a

performer comes from embracing challenges, not avoiding them.

Whether you are a student, educator, performer, or arts leader, this webinar offers practical strategies to help you move beyond self doubt and perform with authenticity. Confidence does not come from being perfect. It comes from believing in your preparation, embracing your unique artistry, and continuing to share your gifts even when doubt tries to take center stage.

You can watch the webinar replay here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otZ97-ps8oE>

Brandi Neal, Webinar Presenter



Nu Province Day attendees

Nu

The Tacoma Alumnae Chapter hosted Nu Province Day on Saturday, September 27, 2025. The 26 attendees represented the Seattle Alumnae, the Tacoma Alumnae, the Moscow/Pullman Alumnae, the Sigma Zeta Chapter from the University of Idaho, a non-affiliated guest, and three distinguished members.

The event went very well. We received many compliments about how much people enjoyed the day. Province Officer, KT Turner, led an engaging discussion about the National Convention. The group sat in a circle that encouraged sharing; nearly everyone participated. This was followed by an incredible harp program by our distinguished member, Patricia Wooster, and her granddaughter, Abigail Wooster. Following the harp program, we gathered for a group photo session with our photographer being Jim Wooster, Pat's husband. And then, we eagerly looked forward to lunch. The Deli Buffet offered many choices, which pleased everyone. An all-day coffee cart with snacks and cookies was available from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm. The afternoon program was a PowerPoint presentation by SAI member, Dr. Gwynne Brown, Professor of Music at the University of Puget Sound. She spoke about her recently published book titled "William Dawson, composer." Her personal account of conducting the research was also quite interesting. Her presentation included excerpts from the concerts at which Dawson's compositions were performed. Her presentation was engaging, and we learned more about Dawson, the composer. His success was achieved by overcoming many struggles because of Negro race. Dr. Gwynne Brown's lecture about William Dawson was inspiring.

Each SAI Chapter participated in the Province Day Musicale, which enhanced the day and strengthened the sense of bonding at the event.

The group sing-alongs, led by Madi Cummings, Sigma Zeta President, and accompanied by Susan Billin, Moscow/Pullman President, were fun and invigorating, taking place throughout the day.

At 3:40 pm, the members from Idaho were in their cars and off on the 300+-mile, 6-hour drive over the mountains and across the State back home. I received a text from Susan Billin that the group arrived home about 10 pm. It was a long and good day. — Joanne Iverson, Tacoma Alumnae Chapter



Members of Theta Chi during their *Spring Soiree* event.

Theta Chi
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

On May 1st, the Theta Chi chapter at the University of South Carolina hosted a spring formal, titled *Spring Soiree* with the Delta Sigma chapter of Phi Mu Alpha!

The formal featured headlining performances by Garnet & Brass and Katie DeMartini, creating an evening filled with dancing and unforgettable memories. Students from the School of Music and the rest of the university were seen filling the venue with their stunning attire and lively energy.

The former president of the chapter, Kara Gingrich, played a significant role in *Spring Soiree's* success, organizing committees within the chapter and working closely with the Delta Sigma chapter of Phi Mu Alpha to bring the event to life.

With 154 tickets sold, the two fraternities were able to raise \$994 to donate to Music Will, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing instruments and resources that help children discover the joy of music.

Spring Soiree was a symbol of community, collaboration, and philanthropy, uniting many to celebrate music while supporting a cause.

— *Thailyn Sanders, corresponding secretary*



Zeta Tau celebrated their 50th anniversary in April.

Zeta Tau
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Zeta Tau Chapter commemorated its 50th Anniversary with a reunion banquet on April 18, 2026, bringing together current sisters and alumnae to celebrate five decades of sisterhood, service, and musical excellence. Sisters from multiple generations gathered to reconnect, share memories, and reflect on the chapter's rich history. The evening featured speakers, including alumna Amy Klaber, whose reflections highlighted the lasting impact of Zeta Tau and the bonds that unite its members across generations.

Earlier that morning, Zeta Tau welcomed 10 new sisters through its initiation ceremony, continuing the chapter's legacy for future generations. Two weeks later, the chapter celebrated 13 graduating seniors with their Senior Commitment ceremony. A scholarship recognizing academic achievement, leadership, and chapter involvement was awarded to Abby Clark. Three sisters were honored with the Sword of Honor for their exceptional commitment and devotion to Sigma Alpha Iota: Abby Romano, Amy VanValkenburgh, and Hailey Gauger.

The anniversary celebrated the chapter's past while embracing its future. Zeta Tau is grateful to all who attended this milestone event and looks forward to many more years of musical excellence, service, and sisterhood.

— Kara Hummel, *president*

10 Founders' Day

Chapters gathered for the 123rd Founders' Day in June. Here are just some of the images of their celebrations.



Houston Alumnae Chapter

We had an indoor picnic (because Texas weather), shared about summer plans, Founders' Day ceremony, and finished the night by watching USA soccer.



Buffalo Alumnae Chapter

Members celebrated Founders' Day with a hat craft.



Chicago Alumnae Chapter

In honor of Founders' Day, chapter members shared the gift of music during our annual Covenant Home Musicales. From Handel and Andrew Lloyd Webber to Paramore, Jewel, and beloved ensemble works, our performers brought joy and connection to residents through a diverse and inspiring afternoon of music.



San Diego Alumnae Chapter

Our String Quartet performed music by Florence Price.



Minneapolis/St. Paul Alumnae Chapter

We celebrated with the Founders' Day ritual, a program and meeting, and extended social time to enjoy all the wonderful things that SAI means to us!



Colorado Springs Alumnae Chapter

Three of our members celebrated together at Chili's.



Phoenix Alumnae Chapter

We sang the very beautiful song called "Our Day To Remember" which was written specifically for Founders' Day by Adreinne Provenzano of the Indianapolis Alumnae Chapter. We also sang "To Sigma Alpha Iota" and did the seven readings of our seven Founders. It was a wonderful celebration of sisterhood!



Pasadena Alumnae Chapter

We supported our chapter sister playing oboe in a production of *Brigadoon* at the Pasadena Playhouse.

Asheville (NC)

The Asheville Alumnae Chapter had a very exciting and successful year. Highlights include affiliating three new members (Abigail Farley, Ruth Sieber Johnson, and Beth Packer), initiating Dr. Rollo Dilworth of Temple University as a National Arts Associate, awarding Mary Ann Cooper the Rose of Honor, and hosting the Psi A Province Day at National Headquarters. We extended congratulations to member Ruth Sieber Johnson, who was awarded the Evin C. Varner, Jr. Fraternal Communications Award in recognition of her outstanding work in communicating the meaning of “fraternity” through working for Sigma Alpha Iota and the Greek-letter system. Our Facebook and Instagram pages (SAI Asheville Alumnae) are up and running, and we invite you to visit to see what we have been up to. 2025-2026 was a very busy and rewarding year, and we look forward to what 2026-2027 has in store for our chapter.

— Bonnie Richards, treasurer and editor



The Boulder Alumnae Chapter celebrated its 25th Anniversary in June.

Boulder (CO)

The Boulder Alumnae Chapter held our 25th re-chartering anniversary on June 7th. We invited friends, family, and SAI sisters from near and far to celebrate! The event included admission to an SAI Philanthropies, Inc. benefit concert featuring: SAI Dr. Jamie Reimer Seaman, soprano; Richard H. Larson, Distinguished Professor of Music, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; and Katilyn Rittner, adjunct faculty, collaborative pianist, University of Northern Colorado. A highlight of the concert was the fitting performance of “Sisters” from Berlin’s *White Christmas*, featuring Abbi Brundett, Boulder Alumnae member and former student of Dr. Reimer Seaman.

We congratulate Boulder sister Katie Seelmeyer for performing with Tokyo Opera Studio this summer with her portrayal of Pamina in Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*. A scholarship from SAI Philanthropies, Inc. supported Katie’s attendance at this conference. We also congratulate Abbi Brundett for graduating with her Master’s in Vocal Performance with a certificate in Arts Management from Colorado State University!

Our Honor’s Committee awarded our current secretary, McKenna Shuler, with the Sword of Honor. McKenna has served in multiple offices since affiliating and is always willing to support a sister in need. We celebrate and thank McKenna for her dedication to our chapter and sisterhood!

— Jenna Moore, vice president, programs and editor



Buffalo Alumnae Chapter members Ellen Cool, Louise Schwarz, Jane Cary, Cynthia Ripley served refreshments at the Momentum Choir Spring Concert.

Buffalo (NY)

Spring activities culminated with our Founders’ Day gathering at the home of Rachel Nickel. It was a fabulous afternoon of fellowship, ritual, music, and even a bit of frivolity! In addition to a large chapter turnout, it was very special to have two Rochester Alumnae Chapter members join us for the meeting. We enjoyed a beautiful ceremony honoring the founding women of SAI. Following the ceremony, we put our creative skills to work with a craft project decorating hats that reflected the ideals of each of the founding SAI women. Everyone participated and joined in the fun. There were a lot of creative ideas, great teamwork in assembling the hats, a few laughs, and plenty of smiles and fun. We continued the afternoon meeting by singing songs from the *SAI Songbook* and a fun kazoo band playing a round. Refreshments and great conversation ended the event.

Finally, on June 14, 2026, our chapter again sponsored the Spring Concert cake reception for the local Momentum Choir, a professional singing group for adults with disabilities. Among our activities and service projects each year, this contribution, which helps to provide opportunities for music for all, has become a chapter favorite. As we enter the summer season, we look forward to our July 26th summer social at the home of Barb Messer. Also in July, our Board will gather to discuss and brainstorm some ideas for the year ahead.

— Louise Schwarz, editor

Colorado Springs (CO)

The Colorado Springs Alumnae Chapter had several members involved with concerts this spring. Three of our chapter members met at a Chili’s restaurant to celebrate Founders’ Day, where we had a very nice time catching up. We had a potential new member attend our last meeting of the year and hope to affiliate her in the fall. A Panda Express fundraiser is planned for this summer.

— Christine Heisler, editor

East Bay (CA)

At our May meeting at the home of Carol Morris, the East Bay Alumnae Chapter awarded the Rose of Dedication to long-time member

Nancy Rude. She and Carol Morris performed duo piano selections for the musicale.

Nancy has represented our chapter at many Province Days and has opened her home often, not only for our chapter meetings but for many other music-focused groups. This is where she maintains her active teaching studio. Many times, she has hauled her electric piano to accompany our ritual songs and sing-alongs.

For years she has been active as a local accompanist and is an avid chamber music player in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area, as well as in France and Austria. In Brazil, she toured with the “Camarata Duo” which includes another East Bay Chapter member, cellist Ariel Witbeck. While there, they taught as volunteers at a Music Conservatory in the town of Sao Joao del Rey where they participated in the Winter Arts Festival (July!) which has been taking place for decades.

Nancy is active in many organizations, including Berkeley Piano Club, Etude Club, Senza Ritmo, Music Teachers Association of California, and was a pianist with the Diablo Symphony and Contra Costa Wind Symphony with whom she performed the Grieg *Piano Concerto*.

Nancy Nelson Rude attended Scripps College and San Diego State University, where she earned her master’s degree in Piano Performance and initiated into the Iota Delta Chapter of SAI. — Ariel Witbeck, editor

Gainesville (FL)

The Gainesville, FL, SAI Alumnae sisters gathered on Sunday, April 12, at the home of President Barbara Wingo. The featured agenda was a recital presented by SAI Delta Gamma sisters who received the Penland



Gainesville Alumnae Chapter President Barbara Wingo, center, with award-winning Delta Gamma members Jennifer Gardner and Alexandra Gerehristedoulos.

Performance Prize. Our alumnae chapter honors the legacy of two now deceased SAI Members: Arnold and Joan Penland. University of Florida SAI sisters from Delta Gamma Chapter audition in late spring, and winners receive a monetary award. This year’s recipients were soprano Jennifer Gardner and trombonist Alexandra Gerehristedoulos. Following their lovely recital, we enjoyed a buffet luncheon and fellowship. Our next gathering will be in May when we will journey to Micanopy, Florida, to plan our 2026-2027 activities and enjoy visiting an antique shop, followed by fellowship and food.

— Cheryl Poe, editor



Members of the Grand Rapids Alumnae Chapter celebrated their 60th Anniversary in October.

Grand Rapids (MI)

Members of the Grand Rapids Alumnae Chapter performed a musicale for senior residents on July 1, 2026, at Waterford Place in Jenison, MI. Musical selections ranged from classical to patriotic since this was just before the United States’ 250th July 4th celebration. Members Sharon Steffens and Lucy Spinner greeted guests with programs and small United States flags. Performing alumnae members were Michelle Momber, voice; Jean Hudson, flute and alto flute, accompanied by Marcia Klein, pianist; a quartet performed by Margaret Thorstein, oboe, Helen Emerson, piano, Jagienka Timek, cello, and Jean Hudson, flute. In between these performances, the audience participated in four sets of sing-alongs with instrumental and piano accompaniment. Linnæ DeBoer, violin, helped with the sing-along accompaniments. Some of the selections included “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” “Yankee Doodle,” “God Bless America,” “This Land is Your Land,” and “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” Mother and daughter piano duo, Helen Emerson and Margaret Thorstein, performed a stirring rendition of “Stars and Stripes” for four hands to end the program!

— Jean Hudson, co-president

Houston (TX)

The Houston Alumnae Chapter has been a force of sisterhood, service, and outreach over the past several months. The chapter continues to embody the Fraternity’s Purposes with enthusiasm.



Members of the reinstated Kappa Omicron Chapter at Texas Southern University in April.

The chapter proudly initiated Regina A. Gordon as a Patroness with Training. Regina, a multi-expression artist from Houston, brings a dynamic creative voice to our sisterhood. Her work spans poetry, visual art, and storytelling. Her newest publication, *The Abstract Alphabet*, highlights her imaginative approach to language. The chapter celebrates her artistry and welcomes her to the bonds of sisterhood.

In February, chapter members traveled to San Antonio to volunteer at the SAI booth during TMEA. With hundreds of educators, performers, and students in attendance, members were able to engage with prospective members and share the mission of SAI with the broader music community.

This year, Province Day was held at Texas A&M Prairie View. Sisters from collegiate and alumnae chapters gathered for a day of singing, workshops, fellowship, and new friendships. Our chapter was well represented, and we look forward to continuing our involvement with our collegiate chapters.

On April 29th, the Houston Alumnae Chapter joined NVP Extension Jennifer Zerangue Mistretta to reinstall and initiate members at Texas Southern University, Kappa Omicron chapter. Sisters from across the province came together to celebrate the chapter's return. The months ahead promise even more opportunities for connection and service!

— Kim Everett, member

Kansas City (MO)

In February, we awarded our annual Alumnae Project Grant to Cardinal Keyboard Day at William Jewell College, which was held on March 28th. The clinician at the event was Master-Certified Taubman Approach teacher Elizabeth Grace, who discussed and demonstrated playing the piano without tension.

On February 21, our chapter held an audition to award scholarships to college-level music students. Ten scholarships were awarded to students whose instruments included: organ, piano, violin, voice, and cello. The scholarship recipients performed in a public concert on April 27th for a



The Kansas City Alumnae Chapter awarded ten scholarships to collegiate music students in February.

very appreciative audience.

Mikaela Lange affiliated with our chapter during our March 9th chapter meeting. We held officer elections at our April 13th chapter meeting. The program for our May 11th meeting was a presentation by Dr. Paula Moseman on the Inter-American Music Awards (IAMA). Paula is the Director of the IAMA.

Our June 8th chapter meeting included a potluck dinner, SAI songs sung by an ensemble of chapter members, Founders' Day Ritual, Installation of Officers, and presentation of honors. Lisa Davis was awarded the Rose of Honor, and Marsha Oyer was awarded the Wreath of Achievement. Marles Dudley and Elaine Minden were recognized for 65 years of membership in SAI. Our outgoing officers and newly installed officers met for a potluck salad supper, officer training, and planning meeting at the home of Marsha Oyer on June 22nd. — Vicki Hedger, editor

Lake County (IN)

We presented our annual spring musicale on May 3rd, in the sanctuary of Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church in Merrillville. The program featured our chorale directed by Anna Padberg and the Elizabeth Quinn Recorder



Lauren Erickson and Dale Lane of the Lake County Alumnae Chapter.

Consort under the direction of Dale Lane. Other members performed solos and duets. All donations received went to support Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies. We also celebrated our 60th anniversary. Belinda Potoma spoke of our history, and scrapbooks and other memorabilia were on display during our reception after the musicale.

On June 11, Mary Lee Riley was recognized by the Michigan City Community Band for 63 years of playing the clarinet. The band is under the direction of Sigma Alpha Iota Distinguished Member Jeff Dobbler. In honor of her retirement, the band played two selections chosen by Mary Lee.

Sisters came together at Gelsosomo's Pizza for our end-of-the-year banquet on May 11. To keep our "Symphony" ever in our hearts, we continue to record volunteer hours given to musical activities both in our chapter and the community.

— Anna Padberg, editor

Memphis (TN)

After meteoric growth in the first half of the 2025-26 year, the SAI Memphis Alumnae Chapter finished with yet another explosive drive, adding thirteen new members and one affiliate. This spring, the chapter premiered its Pearls & Panpipes Cotillion, which was established to provide opportunities for young women to develop confidence, refine their talents, and prepare for future success through mentorship, workshops, and community engagement. Due to the investment of families, sponsors, and community partners in the future of our community, four debutantes were awarded scholarships and were presented in a formal ceremony.

— Marsha Rider, editor

Midland (MI)

The Midland Alumnae celebrated Women's History Month by presenting a concert of music performed by women and/or composed by women on March 22, 2026. Participants were from the chapter and the community, inspiring some new faces to enjoy time with our members and perhaps join the chapter. Donations from the audience were matched by the chapter and sent to three women's shelters in the area. This was the second annual concert dedicated to women.

Our last regular meeting of the season was hosted by Cindy Mikulin at her rural home on 5-16-26. Members were encouraged to take home as many vegetable seedlings as they wished, raised by Cindy from seed.

— Mary Adams, editor, historian, and recording secretary



Participants of the Midland Alumnae Chapter's Women's History Month concert in March.



Minneapolis/St. Paul Alumnae Chapter members performed during a chapter musical presentation.

Minneapolis/St. Paul (MN)

This year we tried a fresh approach to fundraising. Member artisans replaced the traditional silent auction with a percentage donation from craft sales. The result: donations rose 10 percent over last year's event and exceeded the average from previous fundraisers by 20 percent.

In April, Wendy Bokovoy guided us through the world of twentieth-century song, illuminating how the events of each era shaped its music. By weaving our own voices into the presentation, she transformed a history lesson into a shared musical experience.

The award-winning Spice Quartet, led by chapter member Heidi Dick, delighted us in May, with sparkling barbershop harmonies. Members of Sweet Adelines International, they broadened our horizons with their music, ending with an enthusiastic sing-along.

Our 2025-26 season ended in June, with Sarah Langmead introducing us to her 3D-printed statuettes of women musicians, too often absent from the ones typically bestowed on music students. She encouraged us to look beyond familiar icons and discover overlooked artists through a more inclusive lens.

— Helen Roberts Franczyk, editor

Oak Park (IL)

On February 4th, three Oak Park Alumnae sisters participated in the Songs for Justice & Peace service at the First Congregational Church of Western Springs. Member Janet Mensen Reynolds helped organize the free



Oak Park Alumnae Chapter members participated in Songs for Justice & Peace in February.

16 Alumnae Comment

evening of candlelit singing, which sought to create meaningful moments through shared music. Organizers designed the experience to lift the spirit, open the heart, and invite shared reflection and hope.

"I think when our hearts feel heavy, we can come together in song and find community in music," said Janet.

It was a deeply considered program that invited all attendees to come together in song, no matter their singing experience. Marty McIntyre and Kathryn Coffey joined Jane for the event.

"It was a very moving program, and it was delightful to be a part of it," commented Kathryn.

The audience came away with renewed spirits refreshed with the singular balm of sharing music and choosing radical love and peace.

— Heather Prince, editor



Members of the Orlando Alumnae Chapter in May.

Orlando (FL)

The Orlando Alumnae Chapter had a wonderful 2025–2026 year, gathering monthly throughout the academic year to strengthen sisterhood and support our collegiate chapters. One of our highlights was attending the Lambda C Province Day in February 2026, where our Lambda Iota sisters were exceptional hosts. It was a meaningful day of fellowship, sharing chapter stories, exchanging ideas, celebrating our love of music, and community with sisters from across the province. We also enjoyed hosting British High Teas with our collegiate sisters and our annual Senior Brunch, celebrating graduating seniors from Lambda Iota at Rollins College and Zeta Tau at the University of Central Florida as they transitioned into alumnae life.

Community service continues to be a passion for our chapter. We proudly support "A Gift for Music" by hosting receptions following its holiday and spring concerts. Seeing the adults, students, and children celebrate together while enjoying refreshments brings smiles to our faces and joy to our hearts. Our chapter also celebrated membership growth by affiliating Rebecca Hammac and Ginny Urichko and initiating Grace Wiechowski as a patroness member with training.

The Orlando Alumnae Chapter is grateful for another successful year of fellowship, service, and sisterhood. We look forward to continuing to support our members, collegiate sisters, and community in the year ahead.

— Cyndy Aazami, president



Members of the Peoria Alumnae and Beta Gamma chapters gathered in April.

Peoria (IL)

The Peoria Alumnae Chapter held an informal meeting in April, and the Beta Gamma chapter from Bradley University joined following the meeting to socialize and share SAI memories. In May, the chapter treated Beta Gamma graduating senior Kenzie Puckett to dinner as part of the annual senior welcome dinner. The Peoria Alumnae chapter's original service project was snowed out in the winter, so this spring members are collecting donations for The Hope Store.

— Stacey O'Bryan, secretary

Phoenix (AZ)

The Phoenix Alumnae Chapter finished out the year by installing new officers, initiating classical guitarist Mark Woestehoff as a Friend of the Arts, giving a musicale on flute and classical guitar, and celebrating Founders' Day with ritual, roses, readers, and the singing of "Our Day to Remember."

The Phoenix Alumnae Chapter also participated in "Make Music Phoenix" Day sponsored through Rosie's House Music Academy for Children. The new Executive Board will meet this summer to set up this year's calendar. The sisters are excited for another year of sisterhood, music, and service as we strive to fulfill the National Objectives!

— Lauren Erickson, president

Rochester (NY)

In April, members attended a joint Province Day musicale hosted by Sigma Theta and supported by Rochester Alumnae members. This year, members attended two Founders' Day Ceremonies. One was a picnic in Rochester at the home of Elizabeth Million, and the other a joint ceremony in Buffalo with the Buffalo Alumnae Chapter. In addition, members enjoyed a docent-led tour of the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery with a focus on Impressionism in art and music. SAI member Amy Harris gave the tour.

— Amy Harris, editor



San Francisco Peninsula Alumnae Secretary Laurel Brobst-Gilbert, Vice President-Program Alice Preston, and President Katy Mitchell at Delta B Province Day.

San Francisco Peninsula (CA)

Violist Noriko Iwamoto, flutist Alice Preston, and pianist Chin Beckmann performed works by women and Argentinian composers on our annual Public Musicales. Also in April, several members attended the Delta B Province Day, with Alice Preston leading an icebreaker and playing flute for the musicale. At the May meeting, the Ring of Excellence was awarded to Laurel Brobst-Gilbert, and 60-year certificates were presented to three members: Ruth Fong, Janet Lowy, and Lonna Smith. Members and guests gathered at a restaurant for the annual Summer Social.

— Laurel Brobst-Gilbert, secretary

South Atlanta (GA)

The South Atlanta Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity conducted a formal Patroness Induction Ceremony on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at the Arabia Mountain High School Media Center in Lithonia, GA. During the ceremony, the chapter proudly inducted two new patronesses: Ms. K'Lah Morgan, alto, and Ms. Candra Cherry, clarinet. Both inductees were recognized for their musical achievements and their commitment to supporting the purposes of Sigma Alpha Iota. The ceremony was conducted in accordance with Sigma Alpha Iota ritual and tradition and was attended by chapter members and guests. This special occasion marked an important moment of growth for the chapter, as the addition of these patronesses further strengthens its support of music, friendship, and service. The South Atlanta Alumnae Chapter remains dedicated to the advancement of Sigma Alpha Iota's mission to encourage, nurture, and support the art of music. — La'Tricia Hughes, editor



Members of the South Atlanta Alumnae Chapter.

Topeka (KS)

The Topeka Alumnae Chapter's April meeting featured the talents of recent Theta Chapter graduate Cleo Foster, who offered a beautiful violin performance and shared reflections from her first-year teaching in the Seaman High School String Program. In May, Theta Chapter joined us to celebrate Founders' Day. Theta Chapter presented the Founders' Day Ceremony and the Senior Commitment Ceremony honoring Iris Gaul. The program also featured a vocal musicale by Topeka Alumnae Scholarship recipient Ruby Johnson, whose performance added a special touch to the afternoon. During the celebration, we were delighted to award two scholarships for 2026–2027 to Theta Chapter members Wesley Evans and Camille Cluke. We also honored Norma Pettijohn and Lana Balka with the Rose of Dedication. Both Norma and Lana exemplify the ideals of Sigma Alpha Iota and continue to inspire our chapter through their steadfast service and sisterhood.

— Ginger Patterson, president

Urbana (IL)

On Sunday, April 26, 2026, the Urbana Alumnae Chapter hosted a reception following the Senior Commitment ritual performed by the Sigma Delta chapter of the University of Illinois.

The seniors honored included Molly Sheahan, Jane Fornes, Hillary Fleming, and Miranda Santucci. Sheahan graduated with a degree in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics. Fornes earned a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and received the Sword of Honor alongside sophomore Emma Greenberg. Fleming and Santucci graduated with degrees in Clinical Psychology, with an emphasis in Child and Family Development. Santucci also earned the Collegiate Honor Award, presented by Chapter Advisor Dr. Hannah Rudy, and the Doris Miller Award from the Alumnae Chapter, presented by alumna Miranda Molina. The Doris Miller Award honors one graduating senior each year for their commitment to their collegiate chapter and provides funds to

18 Alumnae Comment

cover their alumnae membership dues. In addition, Maggie Smith, who graduated in December, was awarded the Scholastic Award by Dr. Rudy.

The event also included the Founders' Day Ceremony by members of both chapters, the singing of "A Jolly Band," a performance of "Etude #12" for two clarinets by Cathy Mitchell, Urbana Alumna, and Ananya Maddulapalli, a junior from Sigma Delta, and reflections on being a young alumna by Lucy Kebler. In addition, Sigma Delta members got to pick out vintage SAI t-shirts and other memorabilia, courtesy of alumna Jean Peters. Lastly, as traditionally provided by the chapter, all refreshments were for "Gracious Greeks," consisting of a Greek-inspired spread. While refreshments were being enjoyed, great conversations, stories, and advice were shared among the members.

— Lucy Kebler, vice president, programs, and secretary

Washington (DC)

The Washington DC Alumnae met in June at the home of Treasurer Jane Thessin to celebrate Founders' Day. The ceremony was followed by the traditional pot-luck picnic. Another highlight from the Spring was preparing Sister-Care Packages for the collegiate chapters in the province. In April, members attended Province Day at Howard University, hosted by Delta Nu chapter. Also in April, alumnae assisted in the reinstallation



Members of the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter.

of Kappa Xi Chapter at Morgan State University, which was a memorable event. The May business meeting included a program presented by duo pianists Chen-Li Tzeng and Jeongseon Choi.

— Mary K. Traver, editor and historian

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

JAN. 30

MARCH 15

JULY 15

OCT. 1

SUBMISSIONS DUE

GREGORY DICKENS

Publications Manager

Send photo submissions to
gregory@sai-national.org

CHRISTINE BRUNS

Executive Director

nh@sai-national.org

MARCI KRAUS

Collegiate Comment Editor

Submit comments to
collegiatecomment@sai-national.org

REV. DR. MICHELLE WHITLOCK

Alumnae Comment Editor

Submit comments to
alumnaecomment@sai-national.org

INFORMATION

828.251.0606
www.sai-national.org