

Tempo National Newsletter April 2026

Text Only Version

Fraternity Education

Did you know you have a “life leasehold” of your official SAI badge? Hmmm, what does that mean?

Each initiated member of the Fraternity has the privilege of wearing the appropriate badge or insignia for as long as that person is a member. Badges of deceased members are to be returned to SAI National Headquarters. When that happens, the badge is placed in the Memorial Collection and held in trust for a descendant.

No badges should be passed down to other chapter members.

The badge disposition form (https://www.sai-national.org/images/PDFs/Badge_Disposition_Form.pdf) can be filled out and put with your legal papers so that your family will know what to do with your badge. In addition to the badge, your ritual book should also be returned.

Within the photo, you will see that your badges, jewelry, and correspondence are held in high esteem and gratitude at National Headquarters in the Memorial Collection. Your membership is truly honored and remembered.

If you ever have the opportunity to visit our beautiful National Headquarters, take a moment to look at this truly remarkable collection honoring our dear sisters.

Rebecca Sepulveda

National Vice President, Ritual and Fraternity Education

Alumnae Association

The Harmony Doesn't Have to End

Why staying connected through the Alumnae Association is the most important thing you can do after graduation

By Dr. Angelica Brooks, Alumnae Association Director

Roses, you joined this fraternity because of your love for music and the bonds that form when passionate musicians come together through sisterhood. You've shared rehearsal rooms, late-night practice sessions, and performances that gave you chills. But graduation day doesn't have to mark the end of that chapter — it can be the beginning of an even richer one. The Sigma Alpha Iota Alumnae Association exists for exactly this reason: to keep the music going long after your student days are behind you.

Whether you are a recent graduate or did so decades ago, the Alumnae Association is your home within this fraternity. Here's why joining — or renewing your connection — matters more than you might think.

A Network That Moves With You

Careers in music are rarely linear. Opportunities come through relationships — a recommendation from a fellow alumnae, a collaboration that sparks from a reunion performance, a job lead shared in a chapter newsletter. The women in this fraternity span orchestras, studios, schools, conservatories, and every corner of the music industry. When you join the Alumnae Association, you gain access to that entire network.

Membership isn't just a title — it's an active, living community of women who understand what it means to dedicate yourself to music. Your longest period of membership will be as an Alumnae; it's a lifetime of support, resources, and love.

Keep the Traditions You Helped Build

Every ritual, every anthem, every tradition you experienced as an active member was shaped by the alumnae who came before you. Now it's your turn to be that guiding presence. Alumnae members help fund scholarships, mentor active sisters, and provide the institutional memory that keeps our fraternity's values alive across generations.

Your experience, your perspective, and your story are exactly what the next generation of members needs to hear. They need you.

The Benefits Are Real

Alumnae Association members enjoy a wide range of ongoing benefits, including:

- Privilege of affiliating with an alumnae chapter
- Access to career development grants and graduate awards under the auspices of our foundation, SAI Philanthropies, Inc.
- Subscription to the fraternity's newsletter and publications
- Voting rights and a voice in the fraternity's future direction
- Advanced notice of fraternity merchandise, events, and convention registration
- The simple, irreplaceable joy of staying connected to people who just get it
- Participation in our Alumnae Appreciation Week!

A full week of events celebrating the women who came before - and who continue to make us who we are.

Be sure to check out our full schedule on upcoming social media posts!

How to Join or Reconnect

Joining the Alumnae Association is simple. Contact National Headquarters (nh@sai-national.org), or speak with an active chapter officer who can connect you with the right people. Alumnae Appreciation Week (April 12–18, 2026) is the perfect moment to take that step — events will be open to prospective alumni members, and you'll have the chance to reconnect with sisters you may not have seen in years.

If you're already a member, use this week as a reason to re-engage. Attend an event. Reach out to a new graduate. Volunteer to mentor. Sigma Alpha Iota is only as vibrant as those who show up and share their light.

If you are graduating this spring, the chapter Treasurer will report you as a new alumna in the Officer Portal, and then you will automatically receive an email inviting you to join the SAI Alumnae Association.

The music brought us together. Let the sisterhood keep us there.

We can't wait to celebrate you — April 12–18, 2026.

DEI Belonging

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Education Committee is pleased to be able to share upcoming educational programming over the next few months. Programming will be delivered through a combination of synchronous sessions, asynchronous activities, and social media posts.

In recognition of April's Neurodiversity Awareness Month we are grateful to the SAI Members who will be sharing their day-to-day experiences with the organization.

April is also National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM), and we look forward to an engaging opportunity to learn more about hip-hop in the Middle East. Additional details about these programs will be shared on Sigma Alpha Iota's social media pages and on the SAI website: <https://www.sai-national.org/resources/sai-dei-resources.html>

If you have ideas for diversity, equity, and inclusion programming or are interested in serving as a presenter, please contact Dr. Liz Palmer at sai.dei.education@gmail.com.

Dr. Keena Day

SAI Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion 2025-2028

June 1

SAI Philanthropies Deadlines

Community Arts Grants for 501c3 Organizations up to \$5,000

Internship Stipends 3 at \$2,500

Music Career Enhancement Grants up to \$500

Music Education Outreach Grants *in memory of Rita Green Wallach* up to \$5,000

Music Project Development Grants Funded *with a generous donation by Ruth Sieber Johnson and Dr. Michael Braz* up to \$1,500

Applications for all of the above are found here: <https://bit.ly/4aqwBbq>

Distinguished Membership

Our chapters continue to honor people by nominating them for distinguished membership in SAI. As of the publishing of this edition of *Tempo!*, the committee has approved over 35 nominations this fraternity year. We are very impressed with the quality of nominations we have received and appreciate the effort it takes to collect the necessary information. This information is essential as it gives the committee a complete picture of a candidate's background and accomplishments.

A few reminders:

- Please allow 4 – 6 weeks for the review process to be completed when deciding upon an initiation date. This window also ensures that initiation materials will arrive in a timely manner and no panic will ensue!
- A formal resume/curriculum vitae (CV) really helps the committee in the decision process. Knowing when and where the nominee's degrees were earned, seeing current and prior employment and experiences, and reviewing the nominee's local, regional, national, and international accomplishments are all taken into account when determining which category of membership is the best fit for each nominee.
- Please contact me ASAP if you are having difficulty obtaining a formal resume or CV. It may take some creativity or sleuthing to find the necessary documents.

We encourage every chapter to consider nominating people of merit for distinguished membership initiation into SAI!

Leslie Odom Miller, D.M.A.

Distinguished Membership Director

saidistinguishedmemberdirector@gmail.com

United in Music: The Home Tour

Empowering Women in Music Webinar

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3O6a6Bh>

For the full schedule and replays, visit:

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

Chapter Bylaws

Updates from the Director of Chapter Bylaws, Melissa Csengeto

- Collegiate chapters must use the bylaws and Local Chapter Procedures Manual (LCPM) voting procedures that are indicated in the chapter bylaws document, as well as in the email directions from Melissa and the LCPM review team. Changes to chapter bylaws or LCPMs must be presented at a chapter meeting, then the chapter must vote to approve the changes at a separate meeting held at least 48 hours later. Documents cannot be resubmitted via the Officer Portal for review until the chapter vote has been held and the document(s) approved by the chapter. Improper voting makes the documents invalid.
- Updated alumnae bylaws and LCPM voting procedures have been approved by the NEB. Please refer to updated instructions provided by Melissa or by your LCPM reviewer.
- Starting in fall 2026, all alumnae chapters will be required to submit an LCPM. This document must be created if it does not already exist. Please stay tuned for further communications!

All Call for Photos and Videos!

Just did a chapter fundraiser? Begging for us to hop on the 2016 trend? Was your new member probate a huge success? Did you recently travel to a conference with your fellow members? Did you or a member win an award? We've now made it easier for you to share your photos and videos with us on Flickr! Click the link (<https://forms.gle/gnZZhH5AFgwVq3sU6>) to request access to the group. You can also follow the official SAI Flickr *account* @sainh to view photos from previous fraternity events. We can't wait to see your stuff! Note: if you do not have an account, you will be prompted to make one first. A pro account is not required to register for Flickr. If any issues arise, please contact saimultimediatechdirector@gmail.com.

Jacelyn Forst
Multimedia Resources Director

Get Your SAI Graduation Supplies from the SAI Store Now

Your graduation is just weeks away! Get your SAI supplies direct from the SAI Store now.

Stoles, cords (variegated and double-strand), dangles, guards, pins, and more!

Go to <https://www.sai-national.org/products.html> today to make sure your items arrive before graduation!

Province Days

Epsilon A

A wonderful day was had by all who attended Epsilon A Province Day hosted by Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, on Feb. 21. Attendees from the Milwaukee Chapter included Robin Engl, Sue Machan, and Joan Swessel. Attendees came from throughout the state, and there were performances by many sisters. Old friends were reacquainted, and new friends made. We were excited to see Martha Stoner, who was a member of the Milwaukee chapter for many years and now is in Madison. She sang the commissioned Lillian Brooke/Libby Larsen piece.

Hearing the collegiate members perform and seeing their PowerPoint presentations showed us the future of the fraternity is in good hands. The alumnae presentations were also very interesting. One hour was spent playing in a gamelan ensemble with ear plugs firmly in place. Joan on the gongs was especially fun. Gamelan music is founded on the Indonesian islands of Java, Bali, and Sunda (West Java). It can also be found in Malasia, Australia, and New Zealand. Each of these countries has its own style of gamelan music. The name gamelan comes from the Javanese word gamel, which means hammer. It was a superb day, well organized and interesting. — *Mary Gedemer-Jensen, Milwaukee editor*

Kappa A

Theta Gamma had the honor of hosting Province Day this year for Kappa A Province. Our theme, “Stop and Smell the Roses,” encouraged everyone to reflect on our past accomplishments while looking ahead to our future growth. We were excited to welcome the San Antonio and Austin Alumnae Chapters, as well as Beta Xi and Theta Omega chapters.

We were especially honored to have our founding member, Linda Poetschke, share her experience of establishing the collegiate chapter and speak about the early history of our organization. Additionally, our alumnae members hosted an insightful panel where they

offered helpful advice, shared their experiences, and provided valuable information about joining the alumnae chapter and life after graduation.

As we closed this year's Province Day, we were reminded that our sisterhood is rooted in cherished memories, meaningful traditions, and the solid foundation built by those who came before us. While we pause to "stop and smell the roses," we also look ahead with excitement and confidence in the future we are creating together. May we continue to grow, support one another, and carry the values of our sisterhood with pride in every chapter of our lives. — *Melody Peña, Theta Gamma province day chairwoman*

Xi C

Sisters from all over Xi C Province gathered at Living Hope Church in Colorado Springs on March 7 for Province Day hosted by the Colorado Springs Alumnae Chapter. The day was built around two SAI National Objectives: Artistry Without Boundaries and Community Within and Beyond the Chapter. Music has always been a powerful reflection of culture. Our theme, Cultures in Music, was represented throughout our day's activities, as well as in the words of our guest speaker. Cellist and music educator, Sabrina Baugh, shared stories of her life of how family and community helped motivate her pursuit of excellence in music, art, and providing community for her students. We enjoyed the time spent together, sharing our own stories with each other, and creating a stronger bond of sisterhood. — *Christine Heisler, Colorado Springs editor*

Tau C

The Gamma Theta, Beta Rho, and Statesboro Alumnae chapters met at Georgia College and State University on March 7 for the Tau C Province Day. After the opening icebreaker, where we introduced ourselves and shared what music we would choose for our entrance song, we had a fun FrEd competition using Blooket. The competition was fierce! After lunch there was time for the chapters to interact while painting. There were also entertaining Karaoke and a more formal musicale. The day concluded with Dr. Laurie Peebles from GCSU sharing the uses and benefits of Music Therapy.

— *Sue McManus, Tau C PO*

Mu B

How fitting that we gathered on 03.14 — Pi Day — to celebrate the many "slices" that make up Sigma Alpha Iota and the sisterhood we share.

Our keynote speaker, Executive Director Emerita Ruth Sieber Johnson, spoke about

the idea of baking an SAI pie. The crust is what grounds us: our shared love of music and the sisterhood that first brings us together. The filling is everything that strengthens and sustains us — our ritual, our philanthropies, our service, and our commitment to encourage, nurture, and support the art of music. Every sister adds something meaningful to that pie, and together it becomes something far richer than any single ingredient alone.

Ruth also shared a special moment with this year's host chapter by bestowing her SAI apron to Zeta Rho President Sydney Stalnaker and presenting her with a President's gavel guard for her SAI badge — a meaningful gesture of encouragement and leadership as she continues serving her chapter.

One of the most meaningful moments for me was Hailey Kirksey of Hot Springs Alumnae's presentation on alumnae life, which helped bridge the transition from collegiate membership into lifelong sisterhood. As she said, "the form may change, but the bonds remain the same." That truth has been very real in my own life recently. I felt that deeply this year when several of my SAI sisters came to support me at my father's funeral. Seeing them there meant more than I can put into words and reminded me that this sisterhood truly lasts a lifetime. As Hailey also reminded us, "SAI will be there for every season of life" — a sisterhood that celebrates together, supports one another, and stays connected through music.

The musicale was another highlight of the day and a beautiful reminder of the incredible musical talent we have across our province and state. I especially loved the rendition of "Chasing Pavements" — such a stunning performance.

I also loved connecting with fellow percussionist sisters Mackenzie O'Neal from Zeta Rho and Hailee Jorgensen from Zeta Chi and, of course, spending time with my dear Fayetteville Alumnae sister Lynaire Hartsell.

Days like this remind me that SAI isn't just something we were part of in college — it's a lifelong community rooted in music, friendship, and shared purpose.

Every slice of the pie matters, and I'm grateful for the one we share together.

— *Katey Adams, Fayetteville Alumnae president*

Rho A

This February, the Theta Beta chapter hosted Rho A Province Day. The Rho A Province consists of five chapters: Theta Beta (Jacksonville State University), Theta Delta (University of Alabama), Epsilon Chi (Mississippi State University), Mu Eta (University of Montevallo), and the Huntsville (AL) Alumnae Chapter. This year, Rho A Province Day was held on February 7, in Jacksonville, AL with a special guest as our keynote speaker: National President Dr. Jessica Chichester! Theta Beta had the privilege to have our National President visit us for a day full of music, sisterhood, informational workshops, and a

celebration of Sigma Alpha Iota. In her keynote speech titled, “In Harmony and Leadership: What SAI Gave Me,” Chichester shed light on her personal life and how she made Sigma Alpha Iota a central part of it. She shared tips on how to keep members involved, life lessons she learned from SAI, her top-ten tips for a successful chapter, and more informational advice about both SAI and making a career. Along with the keynote speech, Rho A’s Province Day featured workshops covering a variety of topics, including “Balancing SAI as a Non-Music Major,” “Music and the Brain,” “Building a Village,” “Music in the Media,” and other presentations from Theta Beta members, alumnae, faculty, and community members. It was an honor to have Dr. Jessica Chichester join us for the day!

— *Mallorie Duncan, Theta Beta recording secretary*

Rho B

On Sunday, March 1, the Kappa Phi Chapter of the Rho B Province organized our very first Province Day. The event started with an icebreaker activity, during which participants crafted their own friendship bracelets. Following the icebreaker, attendees engaged in a luncheon where they had the opportunity to interact with fellow sisters from Rho B Province. A musicale was held, allowing sisters from each chapter to display their passion for music. To conclude the day, Rho B gathered to sing a selection of songs from the SAI Songbook. The event was both enjoyable and enriching, providing a wonderful opportunity to connect with sisters across the province. Love and Roses!

— *Caroline Patterson, Kappa Phi editor*

Collegiate Comment

Beta Epsilon University of Evansville, IN

Beta Epsilon began the semester preparing for a musicale in collaboration with the Evansville Alumnae Chapter. Showcasing all women composers, this musicale took place in the University of Evansville’s Wheeler Concert Hall. We were so delighted to connect with our local alumnae chapter and extend our fraternity community beyond our chapter. We chose to promote the love and importance that music serves in our lives and to highlight women in music. The program featured works by Florence Price, Wynn-Anne Ross, Nicole Chamberlain, Ruth Gipps, Katherine Hoover, Ruth Crawford Seeger, and many more. We concluded the program with all sisters singing Rosemary Crow’s “Weave” and the “SAI Chorale,” as well as Sara Bareilles and Ingrid Michaelson’s “Winter Song.” In celebration of Women’s History Month, Beta Epsilon has a display for the entire month of March in the University of Evansville Bower-Suhrheinrich Library, showcasing various women figures in

music history. With a timeline visual, the display features the following women: Hildegard von Bingen, Francesca Caccini, Clara Schumann, Ethel Smyth, Amy Beach, Florence Price, Ruth Crawford Seeger, Ella Fitzgerald, Cass Elliott, Whitney Houston, Selena Quintanilla, and Chappell Roan. Beta Epsilon is also very thrilled to announce that we have five MITs this semester. We are excited to see where this continued growth will lead our chapter next! — *Bri Alley, president and editor*

Iota Chi Ball State University, Muncie, IN

The Iota Chi chapter recently held a Tri-Greek Gala with the assistance of Ball State University's own Phi Mu Alpha and Kappa Kappa Psi chapters. The theme was a masquerade, which brought all three groups together to have an exciting time.

The gala provided the opportunity for all to wear their best attire, enjoy the theme, and have a fun time with each other. The theme was a fantastic addition to the gala, which made the event so special. From the decorations to the overall atmosphere, the gala was an ideal opportunity to have a wonderful time.

The gala was a terrific way to build connections, strengthen friendships, and bring separate groups together on campus. Events like this help build a better sense of community, which is wonderful, because it gives the members the opportunity to make lasting memories.

The Tri-Greek Gala was a successful event, and it was a delightful experience for all involved members. The Iota Chi chapter was proud to have been a part of such an event, and the masquerade theme was truly fun. — *Jocelyn Seward, editor*

Nu Alpha The College of New Jersey

On March 9, Nu Alpha hosted a Beginner Crochet Workshop. The workshop was led by three crochet experts: sisters Amelia Phillips, Maddie Adinolfi, and Ellie Bice. Participants donated \$5 to get a crochet hook and yarn. At the end of the event, participants were able to walk away, knowing three different crochet skills and how to make their own crochet squares! Sisters and participants had fun getting to spend time with one another and learning how to crochet. This fundraiser raised \$65 and went to SAI Philanthropies, Inc!

On March 10, sisters and MITs of Nu Alpha Chapter participated in Sisterly Feud! Sisterly Feud is one of Nu Alpha's favorite fraternity education events. The sisters and MITs create teams and participate in a trivia contest using information that is needed for the MIT exam. There are opportunities to steal points, get double points with double jeopardy, and

even get a prize for being part of the winning team. Sisterly Feud is a fun way to help MITs learn and memorize essential information about SAI. Sisterly bonds develop, and the MITs learn that their sisters are always there to help them with studying. The chapter is excited to see the MITs pass their exam. — *Nikki Hayden, editor*

Nu Theta Texas Tech University

The Nu Theta Chapter is on their way to completing their second semester as an established chapter during the spring of 2026. Since the start of the semester, the chapter has put a tremendous amount of time and effort into recruitment and pushing their visibility at Texas Tech University. Their dedication to growing the chapter has been remarkably successful. As of March 2, the group has 11 MITs!

There were several events in February that made it a memorable month for Nu Theta. A number of chapter members traveled with the Texas Tech University Choir to San Antonio, where they performed a very moving concert at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) convention. On February 19, the chapter initiated the final charter member, Natalie Mata. The group was extremely excited to welcome her after her long-awaited initiation.

Looking ahead to the end of the spring semester, the chapter has several members who are traveling to New York at the end of March to perform at Carnegie Hall. Nu Theta is looking forward to guiding our MITs towards their initiation in May, their upcoming philanthropy project, and the chapter's first anniversary on May 14! — *Sophia Hernandez, editor*

Alumnae Comment

Boulder (CO)

The last few months have been full of service and sisterhood. The Boulder Alumnae Chapter's February musicale featured four sisters and was held at COGIR Assisted Living in Broomfield, CO, to share the joy of music with their residents. Five sisters attend Province Day in Colorado Springs on March 7. Three of our sisters served as ambassadors at the Thornton Community Band concert on International Women's Day (March 8) for their "Herstory" concert. The program featured works by living female composers and included female guest conductors. Three SAI sisters are also members of the band!

The Boulder Alumnae Chapter is celebrating our 25th anniversary of re-chartering on June 7th. Sisters Dr. Jamie Reimer Seaman (soprano, Richard H. Larson Distinguished Professor of Music, University of Nebraska, Lincoln) and Katilyn Rittner (adjunct faculty and

collaborative pianist, University of Northern Colorado) will be featured in a concert raising money for SAI Philanthropies, Inc., the charitable arm of Sigma Alpha Iota. Tickets for the afternoon cover concert attendance and a donation to SAI Philanthropies, Inc.! Register by May 15 at <https://saiboulder.weebly.com/25th-anniversary.html>. — *Patty Stanfield, secretary, editor*

Buffalo (NY)

For the chilly and snowy month of February, the Buffalo Alumnae Chapter conducted an online meeting on Feb. 17. This was an excellent way to keep our members up to date on chapter events and projects. There were fourteen members in attendance, plus our guest for the evening, Michelle Werner, SAI National Vice President for Development. The business portion of the meeting included updates on the process for two affiliations and our Friend of The Arts nominee. The announcement of October 8, 2026, as the date for our fall fundraising project, “Burgers and Brews,” was enthusiastically received by members in attendance. This project was a tremendous success in 2025. We also shared information on a new Google document for helping keep track of local performances by our members. We even had the chance to enjoy some fun online with a SAI Trivia Quiz presented by Michelle Werner. This fun activity was trickier than anticipated, which kept all members thinking and sharing all things SAI both past and present.

We are anxiously looking forward to some wonderful activities in April, including an exclusive tour of Buffalo’s historic Shea’s Theater on April 4th and the Province Day gathering on April 18th at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. — *Louise Schwarz, editor*

Central New Jersey (NJ)

The Central New Jersey Alumnae Chapter (CNJAC) hosted a Girl Scout Music Badge Workshop in Plainsboro, NJ on Feb. 28. Eight chapter members shared their lifelong love of music with 25 Junior Girl Scouts and their leaders. Participants crafted rain sticks and used them to create a musical rainstorm set to the “Raindrop Round.” Workshop presenters demonstrated instruments from the four traditional families and illustrated each family’s role using the 1960s folk-rock Brothers Four tune “A Symphonic Variation.” The role of female composers across the centuries and the challenges they faced was discussed. The scouts also viewed video excerpts of works by Hildegard of Bingen, Fanny Mendelssohn, and Florence Price. The event concluded with a musicale featuring performances by Eleanor Dishong (violin), Laura Dishong (harp), Sarah Vogler Fabiano (flute), and Lorena Zachariades (viola).

CNJAC gratefully acknowledges a 2025 Mini-Grant from SAI Philanthropies, Inc., which helped offset expenses for this workshop after more than a year of planning.

— *Susan VanderKam, secretary*

Fort Wayne (IN)

The Fort Wayne Alumnae Chapter is preparing to present our spring coffee house entitled “Espresso Yourself.” The event features light music as well as refreshments. Our talented sisters will be providing a variety of music, including Irish Folk tunes for flute, a bluegrass quartet, a song from the Sound of Music performed by flute and accordion, and other musical delights. Also, back by popular demand, The Three Husbands (piano, oboe and bassoon) will perform for us. Not only are our sisters talented, but so are our husbands! Proceeds from this event support our charitable donations to music programs in our community.

We recently conducted scholarship auditions for our Youth Orchestra camp. Scholarships are awarded to one Junior Strings participant and one Youth Orchestra student. Winners may use their prize money to attend a music camp of their choice. Hearing these students perform shows a promising future for orchestral music.

We are saddened to share the passing of one of our sisters, Sara Davis (Zeta Psi, 1980). Music was a second career for Sara, as she spent the first part of her career as an English teacher. Sara took an active role in our chapter, and she will be missed. — *Sue Jehl, editor*

Huntsville (AL)

Each February, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra welcomes families from across North Alabama to its annual Free Family Day. This event is a celebration of music, creativity, and community. Designed to introduce families to the magic of orchestral music, the event welcomes families for a morning filled with creativity, hands-on discovery, and a concert. More than 1,000 attendees responded this year, reflecting strong enthusiasm for the arts. Before the first note is played, families are invited to visit activity stations that introduce musical concepts in fun and engaging ways. Popular stations include the egg-shaker craft table and the instrument “petting zoo.” Movement stations—hula hoops and musical chairs—encourage kids to feel rhythm in motion, turning music into something both visible and tangible.

Behind the scenes, the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter has been an essential partner in making the day possible. For the past decade, chapter members have volunteered their time to set up activities, guide families through the stations, and help the event run from

start to finish. The orchestra honored the chapter's decade of extraordinary partnership and dedicated volunteer service in support of the event. They also recognized the chapter for their enduring commitment to music education and community engagement.

— *Kayla Green, corresponding secretary and Nicole Angeline, vice president, membership*

Kansas City (MO)

The Kansas City Alumnae Chapter had a wonderful musicale at our Saturday morning chapter meeting on Valentine's Day. The Heartland Handful, a featured trio of Heartland Ringers, shared some beautiful handbell music with us! Coleen Parnell, Becky Butler, and Deidre Eilts perform as the Heartland Handful. Our chapter member, Marilyn Lake, is the founder and director of Heartland Ringers, a community handbell choir. Marilyn gave us some useful information about the different handbell manufacturers and playing techniques, including playing with two handbells in each hand. Following the meeting we went to an area restaurant for brunch and enjoyed talking about our adventures in December and January.

On Feb. 21, we joined with the Kansas City Music Foundation and the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists to conduct scholarship auditions for college-level music students. Twenty-nine applicants from seven area universities competed for scholarships and ten scholarships were awarded. The scholarship winners will perform in a public concert on April 27th.

We welcomed Mikaela Lange as a new affiliate to our chapter at our March 9 chapter meeting. — *Vicki Hedger, editor*

Las Vegas (NV)

The Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter initiated our first Patroness with Training, Jody Porter, in November 2025. We are excited to welcome her as an active participant in our chapter activities. In December, we hosted both a service project and a social event. Members spread holiday cheer by caroling at a local hospital and later gathered for a festive cookie exchange and craft night, which was fun for everyone involved.

On March 8, we held our second annual Women Composers Concert, featuring fifteen performers. The eclectic program included voice, saxophone, piano, guitar, marimba, a jazz quartet, and a poetry reading. The evening concluded with a beautiful performance of our Sigma Alpha Iota Chorale by SAls in attendance. To show our appreciation, we hosted a light reception afterward for performers and their families.

— *Kimberly Philips, treasurer*

Lincoln (NE)

The Lincoln Alumnae Chapter celebrated some milestones in 2025. Our award-winning service project – SAIL CAMP – celebrated forty years! This summer program, a collaborative effort with Lincoln Public Schools, provides instruction and performance opportunities for strings players from fourth grade through high school.

In December, we presented a 70th anniversary in SAI certificate to our dear sister Sue Roberts. She served on the SAIL board for many years, and her granddaughter created a T-shirt quilt full of colorful memories. — *Hannah Jo Smith, historian*

Minneapolis/St. Paul (MN)

Some weekends help us appreciate why sisterhood—and music—matter so much. Due to the unrest in Minneapolis, the Minneapolis/St. Paul Alumnae Chapter switched our February meeting to Zoom. Sheridan Zuther shared songs from her solo video album, *Songs from the Silo*, which beautifully blended a wide variety of genres drawn from her successful singing career. Her stories had their beginning in an empty grain silo on the family farm in North Dakota, where she first discovered the joy of singing. Melitta Drechsler brought a different kind of musical storytelling with Scott Joplin's lyrical piano work, *Solace: A Mexican Serenade*, known for its habanera/tango influences. A trained pianist with degrees in music and law, Melitta balances her legal career and musical life with being a mom of two elementary-aged boys.

After the February meeting, five Minneapolis/St. Paul alumnae members piled into a car and headed to Winona State University to support Kappa Sigma collegiate chapter sisters at their annual variety show and fundraiser. The carpool was full of song and lively conversation the whole way! Their show was delightful, but the most meaningful moment came at evening's end when alumnae and collegiate sisters joined in singing the Sigma Alpha Iota Chorale. The next day, all gathered for lunch—a perfect example of how music links us across generations. — *Helen Roberts Franczyk, editor*

Northern New Jersey (NJ)

In December of 2025, Psi A Province Officer, Sarah Saxton, made her Carnegie Hall debut! Northern New Jersey Alumnae sisters Priscilla Casco, Priscilla Cordero, Elizabeth Porco, and Jamie Ruggiero joined her in the city for dinner and enjoyed her performance. The concert program consisted of a variety of Christmas hymns and carols composed, arranged, and conducted by Mary McDonald. The program ended with selections from the

Messiah with the groups surrounding the audience for the big *Hallelujah Chorus* finale. Our sisters had a fantastic night of music and loved catching up with a fellow sister.

— *Jamie Ruggiero, secretary*

Pasadena (CA)

The Pasadena Alumnae Chapter recently held our annual Scholarship Competition for music students in the Los Angeles area. Selected by a panel of Pasadena Alumna Chapter judges, our first-place winners were awarded \$1,500, and second-place winners received \$750. Congratulations to the following winners! In the voice category, first-place went to Camila Lima (CSUN), and second place to Madee Raymundo (CSULB). In the piano/harp category, first-place was awarded to Oliver Corro (UCLA, piano), and second place to Nina Zipnick (UCLA, harp). In the instrument category, the first-place winner was Max Kaminsky (UCLA, clarinet), and second place was Olivia Phaneuf (UCLA, saxophone). The winners performed a wonderful recital put on by the chapter several weeks later in March. Thanks to the committee, led by chairwoman Tia Annis, for running this event!

— *Kristen Hirlinger, editor*

San Francisco Peninsula (CA)

The San Francisco Peninsula Alumnae Chapter's February musicale featured tapes of soprano Anna Blice-Baum singing with a band. For Fraternity Education, Sue Larson shared Ruth Sieber Johnson's convention speech, Siteria Gregory's biography (National Vice President, Alumnae), and former member Edie Marshall's receipt of the National Alumnae Leadership Award.

The March meeting included a memorial ceremony for Elaine Coombs and election of officers for 2026-27. Alice Preston led Fraternity Education about Honorary Member Rachel Barton Pine. Plans were made for our upcoming Public Musicale and Delta B Province Day. We also enjoyed a performance of Mozart's *String Quartet K. 157* by violinists Cary Koh and Terry Merchant, violist Noriko Iwamoto, and cellist Sue Larson.

— *Laurel Brobst-Gilbert, secretary*

Terre Haute (IN)

The Terre Haute Alumnae Chapter was pleased to sponsor the Fifth Annual David Gibbs Memorial Hymn Sing at Memorial United Methodist Church in Terre Haute on November 15, 2025. This sponsorship was made possible by a Chapter Outreach Grant of \$50 from SAI Philanthropies, Inc. Shirley Martin, Ways and Means Committee Chair, and

Julie Edwards, Chapter President, applied for the matching grant, and the money went to the Memorial Music Series to help cover the costs of this and future performances. This music performance series of varied styles and genres attracts an audience of community members from diverse backgrounds and ages. The event took place at Memorial United Methodist Church in Terre Haute, Indiana, where we often hold our chapter meetings. By sponsoring an event, our chapter promoted music in the community, and this helped us become more visible to potential members.

This was the fifth annual hymn sing honoring organist David Gibbs, who passed away in 2019, after serving many years as Memorial United Methodist Church's music director. David was a highly respected music educator in the area, and after retiring from teaching, he served as an accompanist for local school groups, voice students at the Indiana State University School of Music, and the Farrington Grove Chorale, Terre Haute's semi-professional chamber choir. The evening featured a sing-along of several hymns, led by chapter members and the church's music director, Logan Williams, and accompanist Jinhee Kim. Several SAI sisters were part of the performance, including Susan Farris on organ, playing "On Jorden's Stormy Banks I Stand," and Christa Allen and Amanda Perkins on flute with "Give Thanks/ Now Thank We All Our God."

Shirley Martin, Julie Edwards, and Madison Horner sang, "Hymn of Promise" with Susan Farris accompanying on piano. Shirley and Julie also added a duet, "Deep River/Shall We Gather at the River," which was also accompanied by Susan Farris on piano. The SAI sisters who were present led the audience in singing "Be Thou My Vision." The contribution by the chapter rounded out the 90-minute performance, which was enjoyed by all who attended. The SAI sisters passed out programs before the concert and provided a punch and cookie reception following the concert. We are a small chapter with limited resources, but with the help of the Chapter Outreach Grant we could impact the community with the power of music. We were pleased to be a part of this amazing concert and look forward to partnering with the Memorial Music Series in the future.

— Julie Bontjes, editor

Topeka (KS)

The Topeka Alumnae Chapter welcomed the new year at our January meeting with a delightful musicale program by vocalist Elizabeth Johnson. In February, our All-American Band Concert brought together sixty musicians from community bands across northeast and central Kansas. This annual tradition provides scholarship opportunities for Theta Chapter, celebrates American music and composers, reunites longtime band friends, and offers our community a meaningful musical experience. We enjoyed a beautiful piano musicale program at our February chapter meeting, presented by Patroness Member Kristi Baker-Lampe. For our service project in February, we shared the joy of music with Brownies

and Junior Girl Scouts to help them earn their dance and music badges. It was a lively, hands-on event filled with rhythm, creativity, and encouragement.

In March, we hosted the “Prelude to Spring, A Musicale,” a public musicale featuring the talented Deo Gloria Ensemble, a select high school choir directed by alumnae member Dorothy Iliff. Their performance highlighted the power of young voices and the importance of nurturing musical growth in our community. — *Ginger Patterson, president*

Sigma Alpha Iota is Growing and Expanding!

We are excited to announce the following petitioning groups are moving forward with installation plans this spring:

1. Millersville University in Millersville, PA
2. Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD
3. Texas Southern University in Houston, TX
4. University of Wisconsin Stevens Point in Stevens Point, WI

If you or an SAI member you know live nearby and are willing to assist with the installation and initiation ceremonies, OR if you want to start an alumnae chapter or recommend a college campus, please contact NVP Extension Jennifer Mistretta directly at: nvp.extension@sai-national.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

JAN. 30 MARCH 15 JULY 15 OCT. 1

Gregory Dickens, Publications Manager

Send photo submissions to gregory@sai-national.org

Christine Bruns, Executive Director

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Marci Kraus, Collegiate Comment Editor

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Rev. Dr. Michelle Whitlock, Alumnae Comment Editor

Submit alumnae chapter comments to alumnaecomment@sai-national.org

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