

SIGMA ALPHA IOTA DENVER ALUMNAE

Xi C Province, Region 1

August 2015

Volume 65 Issue 1



STAFF SIGNALS



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters,

I am so excited to be home from National Convention! I have learned so much that I want to share with you. We had a total of 4 Denver Alumnae members at Convention, as well as two Boulder Alums and 1 sister from each of the collegiate chapters, Alpha Phi and Sigma Upsilon. We even met Lois Badgley, one of our associate members who lives in Vermont, at Convention and got to catch up with her a bit. You'll be excited to hear that our new Province Officer is Patty Krus from the Boulder Alumnae chapter and our new Region 1 Officer is our very own former PO, Anne Kleve. I had the opportunity to attend a couple of workshops from which I gleaned several ideas for recruiting and retaining new affiliates, updating our chapter website and Facebook (social media) page, some of which I have already begun working on. As I ride on the high of attending Convention, I promise to try not to overwhelm all of you with information and enthusiasm. (For more details about National Convention see my article page #7.)

Our first meeting this fall will be much like last year, only this time I will certainly be able to attend. We'll have our usual potluck dinner meeting, and, like last year, will have minimal business and a SAI sing-a-long. Please feel free to bring along family, children, and friends if you so desire. Plan to attend and bring along your songbooks! In the meantime, check out the chapter website and Facebook page (if you don't have a Facebook account, consider creating one, if only to keep up-to-date on SAI goings on). I have a feeling that this year will be one of our best years yet!

SAI Love and Roses,

Kristin L. Rousom, President

Inside This Issue

Recent Meetings	2
Biographies of Award Recipients	4
Convention Reports	7
Central City Opera Report	11
Sigma Upsilon Report	12
Chapter Chatter	13
Upcoming Birthdays	13
A Note From Your Editor	13



UPCOMING EVENTS

September

15th, Tuesday, 6pm

Potluck Dinner

Chapter Sing-A-Long led by Linda Rolf

Host: Atonement Lutheran Church

Co-Hostess: Executive Board

6281 W. Yale Ave, Lakewood, 80227

October

20th, Tuesday, 7pm

John Kuzma: National Arts Associate

Hostess: Mary Hanson

Co-Hostess: Nancy Johnson

7165 E Bayaud Ave, Denver, 80230

November

15th, Sunday, 2:30pm

Flute Four: Flute Quartets, Trio, and Duets, with Rachel Stone, Andrea Wiseman, Debbie Kruckman, and Mary Nichols

Hostess: Nancy Johnson

Co-Hostess: Martha Lobmeyer

1077 Uinta Way, Denver, 80230





RECENT MEETINGS BY DONITA BANKS

Don't Forget!

October 25th:

Materials Due for Winter
Issue of *Staff Signals*



MAY MEETING— MUSIC AND MORE

The May 17 meeting, held at the home of Dee Netzel, was an eclectic mix of music, ritual and business, as the 2014-2015 year drew to a close. Our scholarship winners started the afternoon with interesting offerings: Katerina Therianos, voice, second place, presented a song she composed and another based on Byzantine Chant; Nicole Kobayashi, clarinet, first place, performed two selections by Berio and Caravan. Following the program we enjoyed a delicious array of goodies beautifully arranged on a red, white & blue table. They were prepared by Glenda Powell and Trudy Dierschow.

An affiliation ceremony was then held for Sarah Bencomo, a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and a general music teacher in the Aurora Public Schools. Linda Rolf, V-P, Ritual, led us in singing "SAI Garden." Reports, meeting dates for next year, updates on the National Convention in St. Louis, announcements, and the installation of new officers rounded out the afternoon. Sarah Chastain presented details on the scholarship competition and her experience in the semifinal round of the Met National Auditions in the opera house in New York City.



(Hostess/Co-Hostesses, L to
R: Glenda Powell, Delorus
Netzel, Trudy Dierschow)



(Sarah Chastain)



(Performers, L to R:
Nicole Kobayashi,
Katerina Therianos)



(New Affiliate
Sarah Bencomo)



(New officers installed, L to R:
Linda Rolf, V-P Ritual, Mary Nichols,
V-P Programs, Kristin Rousom, Presi-
dent, Rachel Stone, Editor)



RECENT MEETINGS CONTINUED

BY DONITA BANKS



JUNE MEETING- SONGS AND CELEBRATIONS

As has been our practice for several years, the June meeting was held in two nearby venues. We met at Rockley Music for a delightful program by "Les Divas," Linda Combellick and Janet Wolfer, mezzo-sopranos, and Sarah Chastain, soprano. Each singer offered a solo, Linda and Janet sang Rossini's "Duetto Buffo Di Due Gatti" (that "catty" song), and all three ladies presented Bizet's "Card Trio" from Carmen. It was exquisite!

We then moved to the First Church of the Nazarene for the business meeting. It began with reports and details on National Convention plans, especially a hand bell choir being organized by Anne Kleve and the items we will be selling at Phlea-Phlam. Those include jigsaw puzzles featuring members' instruments as photographed by Kristin Rousom and badge "buddies" made by Donita Banks.

Two other new Board members were installed. Linda Rolf conducted the Founder's Day Ceremony with seven chapter members portraying our seven founders, culminating with the singing of "Our Day to Remember."

The following honors were then presented by the Honors Committee, Donita Banks, chairman, Dee Netzel, and Mary Hanson: a 50-year membership certificate to Mary Nichols, Certificates of Recognition to Mary Hanson and Rita Jo Tensly, a Chapter Recognition Pin to Martha Lobmeyer, a Sword of Honor to Rachel Stone, a Wreath of Achievement to Mary Nichols, and a Rose of Dedication to Nancy Johnson. A 50-year membership certificate to Dr. Janet Williams and a Certificate of Recognition to Emily Kintigh will be presented at a later date.

We then enjoyed a yummy potluck luncheon and had a chance to visit with our chapter members and guests, including Jackie Gessert, newly elected President of Sigma Upsilon Chapter for 2015-2016. Jackie is the winner of the drawing for two tickets to the Central City Opera production of "La Traviata" on August 2.



(Performers, L to R: Delorus Netzel, Linda Combellick, Janet Wolfer, Sarah Chastain)



(Trio playing the chorale, L to R: Martha Lobmeyer, Bassoon, Kristin Rousom, Trumpet, Mary Nichols, Clarinet)



(New Officers Installed, L to R: Brenda Ohlschwager, Secretary, Martha Lobmeyer, Treasurer)



(Founders Day Participants, L to R: Brenda Ohlschwager, Nancy Johnson, Rachel Stone)



(Founder's Day Participants, L to R: Karen Kappler, Dorothy Nelson, Kelly Sowell, Mary Hanson)



(50 Year Certificate recipient, Mary Nichols)



(Recognition Certificate Recipients, L to R: Rita Jo Tensly, Mary Hanson)



(Linda Rolf, VP Ritual conducting the Founder's Day Ceremony)



(Wreath of Achievement recipient, Mary Nichols, Rose of Dedication recipient, Nancy Johnson, Sword of Honor recipient, Rachel Stone)



(Recognition Pin recipient, Martha Lobmeyer)



BIOGRAPHIES OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS

BY DONITA BANKS

RITA JO TENSLY CHAPTER RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE

Rita Jo, a 67-year member of SAI, loves our fraternity and has been serving in many roles since she returned as an active member of our chapter in 1993. Rita Jo was initiated into Sigma Chi Chapter at the University of Miami in Florida in 1948, where she received her Bachelor of Music degree. She later earned a Master of Music degree from DU. Rita Jo has served our chapter as President and as Treasurer, and was the Phlea Phlam chairman for the 1997 Denver National SAI Convention. She has also chaired many committees including the Incorporation Day luncheon and the Roses-in-Winter Dinner. Last year she served as the chairman for the successful Mending Faces benefit concert. Rita Jo holds the Sword of Honor, the Rose of Honor, the Wreath of Achievement, a Chapter Recognition Pin, and 50 and 60-year membership certificates. Rita Jo has performed with the SAI Singers and on many other SAI programs as pianist and singer. She taught in the Denver Public Schools for 28 years, has sung in many choral groups, been a piano accompanist for the Children's Traveling Theater, and taught piano students in her home.

Today we are recognizing Rita Jo for her outstanding work as alumnae advisor to Sigma Upsilon Chapter at DU. She is retiring from that position after nearly ten years of supporting, nurturing and assisting first the colony, then the chapter members in their SAI journey. Even when health issues have tried to sidetrack her, Rita Jo has found ways to make sure her connection with her Sigma Upsilon sisters stays strong. Thank you, Rita Jo, for representing us in such a gracious, steadfast and dedicated manner.

EMILY KINTIGH CHAPTER RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE

Emily Kintigh was initiated in the spring of 2012 by Sigma Upsilon Chapter at the University of Denver, where she received a Bachelor's degree in history and English with a minor in French in 2013. She served as Treasurer of the chapter in 2012-2013 and was very active her Senior year at DU. Since affiliating with our chapter in the fall of 2013, Emily has attended most chapter events and served as our Editor since February of 2014. Today we are honoring Emily with a Chapter Recognition Certificate for her wonderful service in that important position.

Although she doesn't presently play much, Emily started taking piano lessons at the age of 8 and has been singing in choirs all of her life. Her current profession is the Event Assistant at the Office of Alumni Relations at DU. Emily loves to read and would like to work as an archivist and/or an author one day. Emily loves being an SAI, something bigger than herself, and knowing that there is a network of women with similar interests who offer support and encouragement to their fraternity sisters.

MARY STROMER HANSON CHAPTER RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE

Before Mary Hanson affiliated with us in 2000, she had been a member of chapters in Tacoma, Washington, Baltimore and Washington, D. C. She has become an integral part of our chapter, serving as Secretary, Vice-President, Programs, and on several committees. In quiet ways she has made many contributions that are noteworthy: Mary organized the making of the ritual robes for Sigma Upsilon Chapter in 2009, prepares "goody" bags for Sigma Upsilon members at the end of each school year, and assists her SAI sisters in numerous ways. She holds the Sword of Honor and the Rose of Honor.

A native of Iowa, Mary Stromer Hanson was initiated in 1970 by Beta Beta Chapter at the University of Kansas, where she earned a music education degree. She taught school in rural Kansas and for Douglas County, and Denver Public schools, and has taught special education. Most recently, Mary graduated with a second Master's degree from Denver Seminary and has become a published author of two books. Mary started playing the saxophone in fifth grade and performed on that instrument for many years. She now sings with the Montview Presbyterian Church choir and plays in a hand bell choir there. Mary loves to travel and has taken some very interesting journeys in recent years. Mary loves SAI for the musical connections and values the friendships with her SAI sisters. We value her dedication and service to our chapter and are pleased to be able to honor her today with this Recognition Certificate.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS CONTINUED



MARTHA ANN PERRY LOBMEYER RECOGNITION PIN

Martha Ann Lobmeyer is a 58-year member of SAI. Since she affiliated with our chapter in 1986, she has been an outstanding and dedicated member, serving in numerous local and national roles. Martha has served twice as our President, six years as Editor, as well as Chaplain (now V-P, Ritual), Secretary, Vice-President, Programs, and currently is in her third year as Treasurer. She has also served on numerous committees, including Yearbook Editor, and was the Registration, Program and Publicity Coordinator for the 1997 Denver National SAI Convention. Martha has been responsible for printing countless programs for SAI events including the annual Roses-in-Winter Dinner and our 70th Anniversary celebration in 2010. For six years she served as National "Tempo" director, was on the committee to nominate national officers, has presented a workshop at national convention, and has had an article on composition published in *Pan Pipes*. Her original song, "Celebrate SAI", was a contest winner and was included in the Centennial Supplement to the Songs of SAI, published in our 2003 Centennial year. Martha holds the Sword of Honor, the Rose of Honor, the Wreath of Achievement, the Rose of Dedication and a 50-year membership certificate.

A Kansas native, Martha was initiated by Alpha Kappa Chapter in 1957 at Kansas State College of Pittsburg, KS. She earned a BME with a woodwind major at Kansas State University. She plays the bassoon and oboe, and has performed prolifically on those instruments throughout her life. Martha also maintained a studio for piano and woodwind students in her home for many years, and is a published composer of many teaching pieces for piano. Martha is principal bassoonist with the Denver Concert Band, the Golden Eagle Band, the Show & Tell Band and a woodwind quartet. She has been very active in the Colorado State Music Teachers' Association and the Foothills Music Teachers' Association.

Martha loves SAI and is being recognized today for her devotion to our chapter even while she was undergoing treatment for cancer in 2014. She continued to fulfill her duties as Treasurer and attend most SAI events during a period of several months. Thank you, dear sister, for demonstrating what it means to be an SAI. You are an inspiration to us all.

RACHEL SARAH SILVERMAN STONE SWORD OF HONOR

Since affiliating with our chapter in 2012, Rachel has been an active participant in chapter activities and has also worked quietly behind the scenes. She served as Vice-President, Membership, from 2013-2015, during which time nine members were affiliated. One of Rachel's most notable achievements was helping to develop the "Sister-of-the-Month" program with interesting profiles of chapter members included in *Staff Signals*. She also published Noteworthy events from 2012-2014. Rachel will serve as our Editor for the year 2015-2016.

A graduate of the University of Redlands, Rachel was initiated by Sigma Eta Chapter in 2002. A flutist, she taught private lessons for several years. In college, Rachel was President of her Hillel group. She has been an elementary school music teacher and is an active member of an Orff Schulwerk group. At her wedding on July 21, 2013, Rachel and husband Eric Stone played and recorded their own music on flute and guitar for the ceremony.

Rachel's optimism, enthusiasm and involvement in SAI, despite serious health challenges, has been an inspiration to all of her sisters in Denver Alumnae Chapter.





BIOGRAPHIES OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS CONTINUED

MARY ROEBUCK NICHOLS 50-YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE WREATH OF ACHEIVEMENT

Instead of “I could have danced all night,” Mary Nichols’ motto might be “I could have played all night, the clarinet, that is!” She is an accomplished and prolific performer, and has generously shared her time and talent on SAI and community programs for many years, and continues to do so on a regular basis. Mary has been principal clarinetist for both the Lone Tree and Parker Symphony orchestras since 2012. As a free-lance musician, she performs for Symphony Guild units, the Hebrew Chorale, churches, and other community organizations.

Mary was initiated in 1965 by the Iota Lambda Chapter of the University of Missouri, where she earned Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in clarinet performance. Since affiliating with our chapter in 1980, she has wholeheartedly served with dedication in many roles: President, Vice-President, Ritual, Vice-President, Programs, Secretary, and on many committees. She was Display chairman for the 1997 Denver SAI National Convention and regularly participates in Province Day events. She holds the Sword of Honor and the Rose of Honor.

Mary taught music in public schools in Missouri and Colorado for 32 years. During her tenure in the Sheridan School District she received a “Teacher of the Year” award, and retired as Supervisor and Coordinator of Music for the district. Presently, she teaches woodwind students in her private studio and at the Music and Arts Store.

Mary loves SAI and cherishes the opportunities to make beautiful music together, and nurture friendships that last a life-time. Today she is receiving not only her 50-year membership certificate, but the Wreath of Achievement in recognition of her love for SAI, and her untiring service to our beloved fraternity.

NANCY PICKELL JOHNSON ROSE OF DEDICATION

When Nancy Johnson affiliated with our chapter in 2010, she brought with her a wealth of SAI experiences and achievements. As a member of the St. Louis Alumnae Chapter, Nancy served as President, Vice-President, Programs, Vice-President, Ritual, and Treasurer. She was Pi B Province Officer in Missouri from 1993-2000, and currently serves on the selection committee for National Arts Associate nominees. As a Denver alumnae member, Nancy served as Vice-President, Programs, from 2013-2014, and Recording Secretary from 2014-2015, as well as chairman of two successful fund-raising projects, and on the Honors Board. Nancy holds the Sword of Honor, the Rose of Honor, the Wreath of Dedication and a chapter Certificate of Recognition.

Nancy was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and attended the University of Tulsa where she was initiated in 1966 by Sigma Gamma Chapter. She is a pianist and flutist, she performed in the St. Louis area, and taught from her private studio before retiring in May, 2010. Nancy and her husband, Jerry, a retired musician and teacher, moved to Denver in 2010 to be near their daughter, SAI Monica Hanulik, and her family. They are actively involved in raising/grand parenting their two grandsons, James, 10, and William, 7. Nancy cherishes her SAI friendships and is always willing to assist her SAI sisters, and provide ideas that will help our chapter thrive. Her dedication to, and love of SAI for nearly 50 years certainly make her a worthy recipient of this award.



SIGMA ALPHA IOTA NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORTS

JULY 23-27, 2015 AT THE ST. LOUIS UNION STATION HOTEL



REPORT BY LINDA ROLF

My claim to fame is that I was the only Xi C convention goer who drove to St. Louis. I did a sightseeing road trip through Kansas and Missouri, ending in St. Louis. I also transported all the picture puzzles and badge buddies the Denver Alumnae chapter would sell for Phlea Phlam. All the driving and sitting in the car ended up giving me rather severe lower back pain, so a Dr. in St. Joseph gave me some meds for it. The pain plagued me all through the convention and limited some of my participation. I would like to share the highlights for me at the convention. This was the first time I have attended an SAI national convention.

We were treated to marvelous vocal and instrumental music at every general session, at the Welcome Luncheon, and at the Dinner of Honors. We also heard a wonderful piano concert by Elaine Fukunaga on Saturday evening. Each performer was an SAI and an excellent musician in her craft. The Strolling SAIs sang "Grace" at the two dinners and sounded very harmonious.

Another highlight for me was playing in the Region I Handbell Choir directed by Tessique Houston, a Province Officer from California. We performed many familiar SAI songs such as "The Whistle Song," "Pan Canon," "SAI Philanthropies, Ink," and several other tunes. We performed at the Sunday morning session and were enthusiastically received. Four of us, Anne Kleve, Kristin Rousom, Tula Roberge and myself were from Xi C. Edie Marshall, Regional Officer, played beside me and directed our final piece, the "Chorale." This was the first time an all SAI handbell choir has performed at convention.

Phlea Phlam was quite an experience for me. I was amazed at the quantity, variety and creativity of the items offered for sale by all the different chapters. Kristin and I set up our things and took turns minding the table and shopping. Sigma Upsilon shared a table with us and sold a cookbook they had created.

It was a thrill to have our Province Officer, Anne Kleve, elected as the new Region I Officer. Because of a snafu with the new electronic voting system, the announcement wasn't made until the Dinner of Honors on Sunday evening, so we had a long wait for the news but are very thrilled for Anne. Newly elected Province Officers were also announced and Patricia Krus is now our Xi C Province Officer.

The Union Station Hotel was an amazing venue for the convention and handled the large number of participants very well. The customer service was exceptional and the rooms very comfortable. The lobby which was the former waiting room for trains has a high arched ceiling, and in the evening a light show was performed on the ceiling with accompanying music. It was fun to sit and watch the show.

Because I missed the first part of every general session and didn't go to any sessions on Monday, I will let others share about those. Non delegates had to sit in the back of the huge ballroom and sometimes it was difficult to see and hear what was going on. I missed the workshops because we had handbell rehearsals, so can't really comment on those. I did enjoy visiting with fellow SAIs, as well as the highlights described above, and am glad to have experienced a national convention.



(The Convention Hall during elections on Sunday morning)



(Members from Xi C Province at Convention, L to R: Tula Roberge, Michal Garner, Jaclyn Gessert, Sonora Dolce, Janet Williams, Stina Branson, Rita Jo Tensly, Lois Badgley, Anne Kleve, Kristin Rousom, not pictured: Linda Rolf)

* Photos courtesy of Anne Kleve

SIGMA ALPHA IOTA NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORTS CONTINUED

JULY 23-27, 2015 AT THE ST. LOUIS UNION STATION HOTEL

REPORT BY KRISTIN ROUSOM, DENVER ALUMNAE DELEGATE

The 2015 SAI National Convention was held July 23-27 at the St. Louis Union Station DoubleTree Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. There were nine SAIs from Xi C Province, including four Denver Alumnae members: me, (Kristin Rousom, president and delegate), Linda Rolf, VP-Ritual, and Rita Jo Tensly and Janet Williams, former presidents. Other attendees included Anne Kleve, Xi C Province Officer, Jackie Gessert, Sigma Upsilon president and delegate, Michal Garner, Alpha Phi president and delegate, Tula Roberge, Boulder Alumnae president and delegate, and Stina Branson, Boulder VP-Membership.

The hotel itself is worth mentioning, as it is the St. Louis Union Train Station that has been renovated and upgraded into a spectacular hotel, a DoubleTree by Hilton. The main lobby was once the original train waiting area and now contains a full-service bar, a small market place with a Starbucks (of course!), and the ceiling has lights installed around the edges which change color throughout the day. The hotel had the lights set to red all day Thursday, just to welcome the SAI Convention attendees. Every night from 5pm to 11pm on the hour there are computer generated light/movie shows that leave the lobby packed with guests who come out to have a drink or bite to eat and stare up at the ceiling. It was fabulous!

Most of the attendees arrived on Thursday, but those who checked in earlier in the week, were blessed with not having to wait for an hour or more to check in. A computer glitch prevented the hotel from checking anyone in until around 1pm, and the line grew rapidly. Convention registration, as always, went very smoothly. The fraternity's official jeweler and the new official merchandising company, The Whistle Shop, were open all day and throughout the weekend for SAIs to buy guards, jewelry, clothing, and pretty much anything SAI you can possibly imagine (you can follow The Whistle Shop on Facebook, if you'd like to keep up with their products).

Initiation took place Thursday evening, with a pledge class of 9. Following the initiation ceremony, a local dance band provided a grand reception for all SAIs along with cookies provided by the hotel.

Friday morning was the official start to the Convention, kicked off by a trumpet fanfare, written by Friend of the Arts, Michael Braz, and organized by me (Denver Alumna delegate Kristin Rousom). There were a total of 7 trumpeters from chapters all over the country, mostly non-delegates. The theme for the Convention, Voices of Experience, Voices of the Future, permeated the proceedings, particularly in keynote addresses and musical performances, which were spread throughout the general sessions. The first general session was comprised mostly of formalities and election business, including roll calls, introductions, rules adoptions, and nominations from the floor. Following the first general session, the Welcome Luncheon introduced the Convention Honoree, Former National President Virginia (Ginny) Johnson. The remainder of the day consisted of the second general session, candidate introductions for the National Executive Board, and the Inter-American Music Awards Concert in the evening.

Saturday was basically SAI Philanthropies, Inc. day, starting off with Phlea-Phlam. Denver Alumnae was situated right next to Sigma Upsilon and only one table down from the Boulder Alumnae chapter's table. Denver's table had quite a few visitors, but sadly only sold a dozen puzzles. Badge holders, on the other hand, sold like hot-cakes and few of the small and large sizes remained when it was time to total up the earnings. The chapter donated \$21 to Philanthropies, and brought home \$121 to the chapter.

The third general session opened with a brief sing-a-long by the Strolling SAIs, a Fraternity Education "Fun-damental", and the daily credentials report. The first keynote speaker of the day was John Christopher, one of the Fraternity's lawyers. He spoke on the history of the 1972 Title IX statute, the amendment added in 1974, and SAI's history with them. (For a summary of his presentation, please plan to attend the September chapter meeting and potluck dinner.)

SIGMA ALPHA IOTA NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORTS CONTINUED

JULY 23-27, 2015 AT THE ST. LOUIS UNION STATION HOTEL

CONVENTION REPORT BY KRISTIN ROUSOM CONTINUED

The remainder of the session bestowed National Alumnae and Collegiate Chapter Service Awards, the National Advisor Award, and National Treasurer Awards. The Chairman of SAI Philanthropies, Inc., Sharon Doty, gave a report and introduced the Symphony Society's Circle of Pearls and Pan's Legacy. The Circle of Pearls recognizes those members who have contributed \$5000 or more to SAI Philanthropies.

Lunch was to be on one's own, however, many members of Xi C Province had a very brief meal, and went to rehearsal for the Region 1 handbell choir that was to perform on Sunday. Having had only one short rehearsal on Friday evening between general session two and NEB candidate speeches, the choir had a longer rehearsal. Some members had to choose between attending a workshop and rehearsing a little later on.

Workshop: Growing an Alumnae Chapter

I had the opportunity to attend a workshop presented by Lindsey Hales and Johanna Wolf of the Raleigh/Durham Alumnae Chapter. This chapter was installed in 2012 and had seen tremendous growth during the triennium, affiliating 8 SAIs in the 2014-15 year alone. They shared with us what they did to get their chapter off the ground, which included quite a bit of information surrounding their website and how to effectively use it as a tool to reach SAIs in the area. Using this information, I have already begun updating our website, and hope to implement some of their suggestions, including allowing all Executive Board members to have log-in ability, an interest form for potential affiliates to fill out, and a means to sell our fundraising items (puzzles, any-one?) that did not sell in person.

Saturday evening members had a chance to meet their Region and Province Officer candidates. Our Xi C Province Officer, Anne Kleve, had the opportunity to present her vision for Region 1 and what she sees as her responsibility as Regional Officer. There was one other candidate for Region 1 officer, who also presented her vision for the position.

After dinner was the SAI Philanthropies, Inc. Benefit Concert featuring Elaine Fukunaga, concert pianist and SAI member. All present were stunned by her performance, which included pieces by well-known composers, such as Chopin and Beethoven, but also lesser-known composer Joaquín Rodrigo.

Elections were held Sunday morning and, for the first time, were conducted electronically. After a few hiccups, which turned out to be due primarily to the available internet access, all delegates were able to vote. Results were not available until the end of the fourth general session for the NEB, and near the end of the Dinner of Honors that evening for Region and Province Officers (See results at the bottom of the page). The remainder of general session four was dedicated to music, SAI Philanthropies' People-to-People Project report, and the presentation of Diamond Swords of Honor. It was during this session that the Region 1 Handbell Choir performed, directed by Tessique Houston with guest conductor Region 1 Officer Edie Marshall for the SAI Chorale. It was the first time that the group had played together with all choir members present, and they did a fantastic job (if I do say so myself). That afternoon attendees had free time until the Dinner of Honors. Presentations during the Dinner included recognition of National Award recipients during the interim years, National Alumnae Chapter Achievement Award, National Alumnae Leadership Award, National Collegiate Chapter Achievement Award, National Collegiate Leadership Award, and the Dorothy Whinery Special Leadership Award, which was awarded to Former National President and Convention Honoree Ginny Johnson. The Boulder Alumnae chapter was awarded the Annelle Chandler McAdams Alumnae Service Project Award.

New NEB Officers: (NVP = National Vice President)	NVP Extension: Beth Lopez	Region 1 Officer: Anne Kleve
National President: Leslie Odom Miller	NVP Finance: Jennifer Zerangue	Xi C PO: Patricia (Patty) Krus
NVP Alumnae Chapters: Sue Bermann	NVP Fraternity Development: Joyce Garcia	
NVP College Chapters: Jessica Chichester	NVP Ritual and Fraternity Education: Tracey Wygal Withrow	

SIGMA ALPHA IOTA NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORTS CONTINUED

JULY 23-27, 2015 AT THE ST. LOUIS UNION STATION HOTEL

CONVENTION REPORT BY KRISTIN ROUSOM CONTINUED

Monday morning began with the final workshop session, followed by the final general session. The musicale for the session was presented by the Strolling SAls as a short fraternity sing. The SAI Memorial Ceremony was presented by outgoing National Vice-President for Ritual and Fraternity Education (NVP-RFE), Deborah Volker, who also played a brief violin piece in memoriam of those members lost during the past triennium. The new National Objectives for 2015-18 were presented by Michelle Ingram, chairman of the National Objectives Committee. The Resolutions Committee made its report before the new National, Regional, and Province Officers were installed and the Convention was adjourned, possibly for the first time ever, an hour ahead of schedule.

Workshop: History of the SAI Ritual

Outgoing NVP-RFE Deborah Volker presented a brief history of the SAI Ritual to a completely packed room. A closed workshop, Deb and former NVP-RFE Leslie Nelson took the handclasp and password from all entering. Deb began with a disclaimer and reminder that while we were about to see pictures of older editions of our beloved Ritual, no copying was permitted and only those ceremonies found in the current edition were to be used by chapters. This fascinating workshop more or less chronicled Deb's research while she was updating the most recent edition of our Ritual. She showed us how so many of the quotes we know from Ritual today were included by the Founders in the earliest *handwritten* Ritual, likely penned by Elizabeth Campbell herself. She went on to show us pictures of other editions, equipment no longer used, and described certain set-ups that are also no longer used, but many members do still remember from their own initiations. It was suggested by Leslie Nelson that for Fraternity Education chapters could hold "pretend initiations" using older forms of the Ritual, so that current members could experience what some of our older sisters did when they were initiated. Deb also told attendees about a thought that she had come up with while searching through all the old Ritual materials at National Headquarters. Her idea was to create a "Members Only" room at NH where visiting sisters could, with the handclasp and password, view these old documents and items. While budgeting options did not allow for its creation, many sisters present eagerly asked if there was a way that chapters and members could help to raise money to have this room created. Deb said that she would pass the request along to the NEB and we should wait to see what comes out of it. Hopefully, there will be an initiative within the next three years to begin raising money for this room. I am certain that many, many sisters would go out of their way to visit NH, if only to see such a room and the treasures which it would contain. I know I would.



(Xi C Delegates,
L to R: Jaclyn
Gessert, Michal
Garner, Tula
Roberge, Kristin
Rousom)



(The swing band,
The Sentamental
Journey, a St. Lou-
is band, played for
the fraternity and
taught them danc-
es after the Thurs-
day night initia-
tion)

* Photos
courtesy
of Anne
Kleve

(The C4 Handbell,
the largest one,
other Handbells
and music that the
Region 1 Handbell
Choir played)



(Members at the
Dinner of Honors, L
to R: Linda Rolf, Kris-
tin Rousom, Lois
Badgley, Rita Jo
Tensly)





CENTRAL CITY OPERA REPORT BY DONITA BANKS

ONE OF THE TOP TEN AT THE CENTRAL CITY OPERA

Our annual Central City Opera Day, came full circle on August 2, as 15 members and friends attended a glorious production of Verdi's "La Traviata." The first Opera Day in 1983 featured a performance of this "top ten" favorite with eight members meeting Artistic Director and NAA John Moriarty for the first time. We attended subsequent performances in 1990 and 2007, also conducted by John, and followed by a reception. SAI Janice Hall, a CWC Epsilon Sigma initiate, graced the stage in 1990 as a wonderful Violetta. We then initiated Janice as a National Honorary Member (now a Member Laureate).

Before the performance, we gathered at the Ameristar Casino in Blackhawk for the fabulous Centennial Buffet, lively conversation and photos. Our special guest, Sigma Upsilon President-elect Jackie Gessert, and her friend, Teleri Gee, was thrilled to be the winner of the drawing for two complementary tickets from our chapter. They thoroughly enjoyed their day in Central City. Other SAI attendees were Donita Banks, Ardice Garrels, Cindy Garrels, Cindy Hammel-Knipe, Debbie Kruckman, Martha Lobmeyer, Dee Netzel, Dick Netzel, Liz Netzel, Belinda Smiley and Phyllis Taylor. Ardice and Dee were also in attendance at the first Opera Day in 1983.

As we emerged from the Ameristar, the welcome aftermath of a refreshing rainstorm greeted us as we made our way up the hill to the Opera House. Once again we are grateful to Dorothy Nelson for acting as chairman of the event, even though she was far away in beautiful Hawaii! Thanks, dear SAI sister, for helping us enjoy this unique mid-summer event for the 33rd time!



(L to R: Barbara Satorius, Cindi Hammel-Knipe)



(L to R: Cindy Garrels, Ardice Garrels)



(L to R: Hank Hahne, Martha Lobmeyer)



(L to R: Belinda Smiley, Lizabeth Netzel)



(L to R: DeLorus Netzel, Dick Netzel)



(L to R: Donita Banks, R. Phyllis Taylor)



(L to R: Teleri Gee, Jaclyn Gessert)



(L to R: Robyn Sager, R. Debbie Kruckman)



(Central City Opera Ushers singing on the steps of the Opera House before it starts)



NEWS FROM SIGMA UPSILON
BY RETIRED SIGMA UPSILON ADVISORS
RITA JO TENSLY AND DELORUS NETZEL



THE HISTORY OF SIGMA UPSILON CHAPTER

During the fall quarter of 2006, several music students at the Lamont School of Music decided that they would like to be part of Sigma Alpha Iota. At that point in time, they had to become a colony first. They had to meet several other qualifications, and finally they had to have 15 members who would be willing to go through training, pass the test, and go through the initiation ceremony to become an SAI chapter, as well as for the members of the colony to become members of Sigma Alpha Iota. That happened in May of 2009. The last president of the colony was present alumnae member Kelly Sowell. The members had a choice to become a brand new chapter with a new name, or to have the Sigma Upsilon chapter re-installed. It was decided to re-install Sigma Upsilon, which had been a chapter at the Lamont School of Music some years ago and had gone inactive. When it was decided to reinstall Sigma Upsilon, the original Charter was sent to Denver and it is now in the possession of the present chapter.

Since the reinstallation of Sigma Upsilon there have been six presidents in the last 6 years, 2009 through 2015: Erica Erivas, Rebecca Wilson, Sarah Cambridge, Kelsey Popovich, Theresa Kesser, and Sonora Dolce. There have been 56 members initiated into the chapter in the last 6 years.

There have been 6 initiations during the last 6 years. This spring, on April 1, nine new members were brought into the chapter. On April 8, a musicale was held, featuring several members as well as several of the brand new Sigma Upsilon. On May 29, the Honors Convocation was held. Dr. Kristin Taavola, the new faculty advisor to the chapter gave out the 2 Sigma Alpha Iota awards, the Honors Award, and the Scholarship Award. As Dr. Taavola said, it is a rare occurrence when the same person wins both awards, but it happened this year. Chapter President, Sonora Dolce won both awards. Sonora also won the award for Outstanding Performance of a student of composition, as did Jackie Gessert. Sonora also won the Frank Toth Memorial award which came with a check for \$250.

Theresa Kesser won the Dorothe Garrett Carrillo Award for the Outstanding Graduating Female Vocalist which came with a check for \$1,000. We are all very proud of all these wonderful winners.

On May 31, the Senior Commitment Ceremony was held, at which time the Denver Alumnae Chapter gave graduation cords to the 4 graduating seniors: Sonora Dolce, Theresa Kesser, Katerina Therianos, and Haley Zulkowski. Three of the four graduates will be back: Sonora Dolce and Katerina Therianos will be in Graduate School and Theresa Kesser will be in a Certificate Program.

July 23–July 27 was the Sigma Alpha Iota National Triennial Convention in St. Louis. The new President of Sigma Upsilon, Jackie Gessert, was the delegate from Sigma Upsilon, and Sonora Dolce also attended the convention. August 2 was the Denver Alumnae's outing to the Central City Opera. This year, Jackie Gessert won the drawing for 2 free tickets to the opera.

We know that Sigma Upsilon will continue to flourish and we hope that they and the Denver Alumnae Chapter will continue to have a real connection.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

The following sisters have birthdays coming up! May you all have a wonderful new year.

8/14: Dorothy Nelson
8/17: Louanne Shelton
8/30: Cynthia Hammel-Knipe
8/31: Mary Hanson
9/2: JoAnne Kyhl
9/6: Marcia Whitcomb
10/14: Delorus Netzel
11/5: Felicia Behm
11/11: Janet Williams

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Hi Sisters,

I am so excited to be the new editor. I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Thank you so much to those of you who wrote articles. Please continue to send me articles and information, including pictures to put in the newsletters. I would appreciate it if you could send me your information for Staff Signals by the deadlines. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Rachel Stone

Love and Roses ♡

CHAPTER CHATTER PERFORMANCES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND ITEMS OF NOTE

DAVID ALLEN WEHR PERFORMANCE BY DELORUS NETZEL

David Allen Wehr, one of our outstanding SAI National Arts Associates, shared the Hamilton Hall Stage of the Newman Center on February 7, 2015 with Linda Wang, violinist. Linda is a member of the Denver University Lamont School faculty.

Rita Jo Tensly and Dee Netzel met David in the Green Room prior to the recital where they presented him with a red rose. He was most gracious and sent his affection and appreciation to our chapter. David was the National Artist featured at the SAI national convention here in Denver in 1997. He now teaches at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and tours with Linda Wang.

ROSE SISTERS REPORT BY DONITA BANKS

The first year of our Rose Sisters project saw pairings of new and "old" members that have resulted in new friendships and better communication. They include: Brenda Ohlschwager and Mary Hanson, Kelly Sowell and Donita Banks, Caryn Sowder and Dee Netzel, Cassidy Boone and Rita Jo Tensly, Danni Snyder and Donita Banks, and Sarah Bencomo and Nancy Johnson. Many thanks to those "old" members who have stepped forward to befriend and welcome our new affiliates. If you would like to be a Rose Sister to future affiliates, please contact me. It's a fun and rewarding way to be involved and active.



Staff Signals is the Official publication of the Denver Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota and is published quarterly.

Editor: Rachel Stone
rsilverman713@yahoo.com

Visit us online at: <https://sites.google.com/site/saidenveralumnae/>

*Support the fraternity's Purpose,
Adhere to the Fraternity's Mission Statement,
Invest in the fraternity's Vision of SAI*