
SISTER TO SISTER

Epsilon Epsilon Chapter

January-February 2008

West Chester University

Volume 1, Issue 5

Editor: Heather Bostic

January/February Events

- January 6:
Nichole Campbell's Birthday
- January 17:
Dawn Sheppard & Felicia Reilly's Birthdays
- January 19:
Katie Capasso, Lauren Dezeuw & Joe Fisher's Senior Recital
- January 20:
Music's Calling: Meg Hokaj and Kelly McConahy's Recital.
- January 21:
First Formal Meeting of the '08!
- January 22:
Britte Schendal's Birthday
Informal Rush 8:30pm
- January 23:
Informal Rush 8:30pm
- January 24:
Jackie Hillengberg's Birthday
Social Rush 8:30pm
- January 26:
Robyn Thompson's Birthday
- January 27:
Margaret Haug's Birthday
- January 29:
Formal Rush 6pm; Meeting to follow!
- February 20:
Jacki Urbas' Birthday

It's all in a Trip to National Headquarters!



Several sisters at Epsilon Epsilon chapter, West Chester University, decided that they wanted to visit SAI National Headquarters and find out more about our fraternity. We had little idea of what to expect beyond a tour of a building and meeting one of our national officers. Seven Epsilon Epsilon sisters and one Eta Rho sister embarked on a ten hour road trip to Asheville, North Carolina.

Upon our arrival we were happily surprised by what we found. Most of us imagined a huge, impersonal office building, but that image could not have been further from the truth. Headquarters looks like a very large house from the outside, and we found that the interior matched. We stepped into a beautiful parlor filled with a mixture of art and SAI history, with not a cubicle in sight.

The eight of us knew about Ruth Sieber Johnson only in regard to having memorized her name as National Executive Director of SAI. None of us actually knew her or what exactly it was that she did. We pictured her as the business leader of the huge corporation that is Sigma Alpha Iota, but we had already dispelled the corporate image. Through our visit to National Headquarters, we began to see that Ruth is heart and soul Sigma Alpha Iota. We learned that the executive director is a hired position with no term limit. We also learned that she must have an overwhelming love for SAI, as the position is typically a very long term commitment. Ruth carries a multitude of responsibilities, and spends all of her days working for SAI chapters like our own.

Ruth was the one who took the time to give us a tour of Headquarters. We were worried that she would be too busy or too important to meet with us, but she spent all day with us! The tour was much more than a showing of rooms; Ruth took the time to personally describe the history and significance of everything in those rooms.

Continued on Page 4

Surprise Graduate!



Stephanie Rucier

Stephanie was initiated into the chapter in Fall 2004. She served as social chair from 2005-2006.

Though not a music major, Stephanie plays the flute. During her time at West Chester she participated in the Marching Band and was also a member of the Concert Band.

As an undergraduate, Steph enjoyed spending time with great people. Her advice to the sisterhood is to make the most out of your time in Sigma Alpha Iota.

Stephanie's future plans are to become a writer and get married to a dreamy man.

Music in the West Chester Area Daycare



On December 4, 2007, Epsilon Epsilon traveled to the West Chester Area Daycare to share music with the children.

Following the idea of an instrument petting zoo, the girls set up stations, divided by types of instruments. The girls demonstrated drums, metals, woods, and shakers to recorded and sung music, and then allowed the children the opportunity to try the different instruments.

Children from ages 2-10 had a blast exploring the different sounds that instruments make, and the sisters had a great time working with them.

Christmas Caroling at Barclay and Beyond

On December 6 the sisters of Epsilon Epsilon chapter returned to Barclay Friends Retirement Home to sing for the residents. The girls performed a multitude of Christmas carols, from the upbeat to the ballad-styles, from sacred to secular. Residents were able to join in and sing along to familiar carols, and it was great to see music bring everyone together.

A director at Barclay and Friends who is a former music educator asked the chapter for a special favor. She led the carolers to a bed-ridden elderly man's room. This resident was not well enough to travel to the recreation room to hear the concert, so she wanted to bring the music to him. The sisters performed several carols for him, and all present understood how much the small gesture meant. The resident's son actually left the room, crying, because he was so happy.

The director, always glad to have us, mentioned that it is truly amazing to see residents who cannot remember their family members begin to sing along to a familiar piece of music. She stated, and the sisters agreed, that music is an amazing thread that ties everyone together.

Following the caroling at Barclay, Epsilon Epsilon headed to the steps of the courthouse in town to continue spreading their songs. All of the girls had a fun (albeit freezing!) experience.

Performances Past

Congratulations are in order for a number of Epsilon Epsilon sisters who had important performances this past month.

Katie Capasso (percussion) and Lauren Dezeuw (French Horn) put on a delightful senior recital, January 19, 2008, at 2pm. These two sisters performed beautifully. Congratulations girls!

Megan Hokaj and Kelly McConahy performed a second senior recital of sorts on January 20, 2008, at the Church of the Loving Shepherd. Their recital, Music's Calling, featured the two vocalists, who did a wonderful job.

Incorporation Day

Rowan University, Kappa Alpha chapter, hosted an Incorporation Day celebration this year on the actual day of incorporation, December 15, 2007. Though SAI was established on June 12, 1903, it was not until December 15 that the fraternity was nationally recognized as a non-profit organization.

The day began with an open ritual that reminded all present of the seven founders and their accomplishments. Next, the guests were treated to a musicale, which opened with a flute quartet, featuring Rachel Klott, Lindsay Shaffer, and Samantha Mcleod, as well as Owen Cunningham, a Phi Mu Alpha brother of Rowan University. Amanda Coburger performed a piece that she wrote herself, titled *Apex of the Sun*. Jen Smollinger of Epsilon Epsilon played a Fauré piece from her senior recital. Carla Destefano played a trumpet etude and vocalist Christina Capuano sang *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*.

Following the musicale was a surprise performance of the Rowan Sinfonians and a luncheon. Sisters were able to eat and chat, exchanging ideas and meeting a few different sisters.

This year has been fantastic for attending functions at other chapters and getting to know girls beyond our university. Thank you to Kappa Alpha for hosting the celebration!



Modern History in the Making

Epsilon Epsilon chapter has collections of scrapbooks and documents dating back to 1968. As we are all aware, that is fast approaching the forty year mark for some of these artifacts. In an effort to help preserve them, we are working to bring our archiving into the digital age.

So far photos from 1974-1984 have been digitalized through use of the Francis Harvey Green Library's scanner and computer. The photos were scanned to convert them into digital images. All of the photos will be stored on CDs with a master file of what each photo is of, the year, etc. This will help to preserve our history, and also enable us to view the photos without damaging them!

Creating digital photos not only helps to ensure their survival, but also allows for easy viewing. These digital photos will be put on display at the fortieth anniversary celebration in April.

In addition, two of the seventies scrapbooks and one scrapbook from the eighties got complete makeovers. These books had loose and torn pages, as well as photos and programs that were falling out of them. These books were placed in new albums with sheet protectors and photos were re-attached.

With the upgrades for the books and the digital back-ups for photos, Epsilon Epsilon's history should be good to go for another forty years or more!

Left: A photo of Epsilon Epsilon taken in front of "Old Swope" in 1977.

Lois Alt, our founding faculty member is at the far right.

Have an article *you* would like to see in *Sister to Sister*? Write it and email it to hb592113@wcupa.edu before the first of the month!

Headquarters from page 1

We saw SAI relics that were one hundred years old, got to try on a ring of excellence, and look through a scrapbook of National Headquarters' opening.

Aside from the tour, we were shown paper records that included our own membership cards. Another room contained every issue of Pan Pipes ever published. Everywhere in the building there hung quilts, comprised of squares that each chapter submitted at the time of the one hundredth anniversary of SAI's founding.

Ruth explained to us that besides herself, there are approximately six others who work at National Headquarters. All of them are SAIs, and they all do as much as they can. Even still, there is more work to do than what those six can accomplish. In order to get everything done, Ruth also relies on local and visiting chapters, like us. We spent part of the afternoon addressing envelopes, packing graduation cords, and inspecting badges. After lunch we had tea in the parlor and listened as one of our sisters played piano. We fell into easy conversation and covered many subjects, from SAI to global warming. Ruth took over at the piano and we all gathered around to sing from the SAI Songbook. We shared some of the songs that we learned as a chapter and Ruth taught us several more. All of us were impressed with her beautiful voice and graceful accompaniment.

Of course, it was not SAI without food. Ruth did not stop trying to feed us from the moment we got there. She brought us cookies while we worked and made a platter of goodies while we took tea. Ruth even prepared goodie-bags for us to eat on our way home. It must be true that when SAIs meet, SAIs eat!

Visiting National Headquarters proved to be an amazing experience. All of us left Asheville with a new love and appreciation for our sisterhood and what a few dedicated souls do to make it run. Our visit helped us to see that there is much more to SAI beyond individual chapters. It made the national leadership much more personal, and we came to realize that we have extremely dedicated leaders, like Ruth, who have nothing but the best interests of the sisterhood in mind.

Most importantly, we saw Ruth Sieber Johnson, an impressive, memorized fact until our visit, as a sister. It seems all too easy to forget or simply not realize that our national officers are our sisters as well as our leaders. They are our equals in love and dedication to the fraternity. Ruth looked at all of us shortly after we arrived and said, "I am not truly above any of you because we are all sisters." She told us that spending time with visiting sisters is her favorite and best part of her job, and she truly made us feel welcome.

The best part of our visit overall was feeling immediate sisterly love from someone we had just met. It really helped us to see how powerful this sisterhood is, and how very precious.

We hope that more sisters will elect to visit National Headquarters and have the chance to meet Ruth Sieber Johnson and her staff. It truly was a wonderful experience.

Photos from Headquarters



All of us at the piano with Ruth Sieber Johnson



Ruth and her daughter Beth are in the middle



All of us on the porch with the crest above us!

**Sister to Sister* is also available on our website: <http://geocities.com/epsilonepsilonsai/>

SISTER TO SISTER

Epsilon Epsilon Chapter

January-February 2008

West Chester University

Volume 1, Issue 5

Editor: Heather Bostic

January/February Events

- January 6:
Nichole Campbell's Birthday
- January 17:
Dawn Sheppard & Felicia Reilly's Birthdays
- January 19:
Katie Capasso, Lauren Dezeuw & Joe Fisher's Senior Recital
- January 20:
Music's Calling: Meg Hokaj and Kelly McConahy's Recital.
- January 21:
First Formal Meeting of the '08!
- January 22:
Britte Schendal's Birthday
Informal Rush 8:30pm
- January 23:
Informal Rush 8:30pm
- January 24:
Jackie Hillengberg's Birthday
Social Rush 8:30pm
- January 26:
Robyn Thompson's Birthday
- January 27:
Margaret Haug's Birthday
- January 29:
Formal Rush 6pm; Meeting to follow!
- February 3:
Hickman Service Project

It's all in a Trip to National Headquarters!



Several sisters at Epsilon Epsilon chapter, West Chester University, decided that they wanted to visit SAI National Headquarters and find out more about our fraternity. We had little idea of what to expect beyond a tour of a building and meeting one of our national officers. Seven Epsilon Epsilon sisters and one Eta Rho sister embarked on a ten hour road trip to Asheville, North Carolina.

Upon our arrival we were happily surprised by what we found. Most of us imagined a huge, impersonal office building, but that image could not have been further from the truth. Headquarters looks like a very large house from the outside, and we found that the interior matched. We stepped into a beautiful parlor filled with a mixture of art and SAI history, with not a cubicle in sight.

The eight of us knew about Ruth Sieber Johnson only in regard to having memorized her name as National Executive Director of SAI. None of us actually knew her or what exactly it was that she did. We pictured her as the business leader of the huge corporation that is Sigma Alpha Iota, but we had already dispelled the corporate image. Through our visit to National Headquarters, we began to see that Ruth is heart and soul Sigma Alpha Iota. We learned that the executive director is a hired position with no term limit. We also learned that she must have an overwhelming love for SAI, as the position is typically a very long term commitment. Ruth carries a multitude of responsibilities, and spends all of her days working for SAI chapters like our own.

Ruth was the one who took the time to give us a tour of Headquarters. We were worried that she would be too busy or too important to meet with us, but she spent all day with us! The tour was much more than a showing of rooms; Ruth took the time to personally describe the history and significance of everything in those rooms.

Continued on Page 4

Surprise Graduate!



Stephanie Rucier

Stephanie was initiated into the chapter in Fall 2004. She served as social chair from 2005-2006.

Though not a music major, Stephanie plays the flute. During her time at West Chester she participated in the Marching Band and was also a member of the Concert Band.

As an undergraduate, Steph enjoyed spending time with great people. Her advice to the sisterhood is to make the most out of your time in Sigma Alpha Iota.

Stephanie's future plans are to become a writer and get married to a dreamy man.

Music in the West Chester Area Daycare



On December 4, 2007, Epsilon Epsilon traveled to the West Chester Area Daycare to share music with the children.

Following the idea of an instrument petting zoo, the girls set up stations, divided by types of instruments. The girls demonstrated drums, metals, woods, and shakers to recorded and sung music, and then allowed the children the opportunity to try the different instruments.

Children from ages 2-10 had a blast exploring the different sounds that instruments make, and the sisters had a great time working with them.

Christmas Caroling at Barclay and Beyond

On December 6 the sisters of Epsilon Epsilon chapter returned to Barclay Friends Retirement Home to sing for the residents. The girls performed a multitude of Christmas carols, from the upbeat to the ballad-styles, from sacred to secular. Residents were able to join in and sing along to familiar carols, and it was great to see music bring everyone together.

A director at Barclay and Friends who is a former music educator asked the chapter for a special favor. She led the carolers to a bed-ridden elderly man's room. This resident was not well enough to travel to the recreation room to hear the concert, so she wanted to bring the music to him. The sisters performed several carols for him, and all present understood how much the small gesture meant. The resident's son actually left the room, crying, because he was so happy.

The director, always glad to have us, mentioned that it is truly amazing to see residents who cannot remember their family members begin to sing along to a familiar piece of music. She stated, and the sisters agreed, that music is an amazing thread that ties everyone together.

Following the caroling at Barclay, Epsilon Epsilon headed to the steps of the courthouse in town to continue spreading their songs. All of the girls had a fun (albeit freezing!) experience.

Performances Past

Congratulations are in order for a number of Epsilon Epsilon sisters who had important performances this past month.

Katie Capasso (percussion) and Lauren Dezeuw (French Horn) put on a delightful senior recital, January 19, 2008, at 2pm. These two sisters performed beautifully. Congratulations girls!

Megan Hokaj and Kelly McConahy performed a second senior recital of sorts on January 20, 2008, at the Church of the Loving Shepherd. Their recital, Music's Calling, featured the two vocalists, who did a wonderful job.

Incorporation Day

Rowan University, Kappa Alpha chapter, hosted an Incorporation Day celebration this year on the actual day of incorporation, December 15, 2007. Though SAI was established on June 12, 1903, it was not until December 15 that the fraternity was nationally recognized as a non-profit organization.

The day began with an open ritual that reminded all present of the seven founders and their accomplishments. Next, the guests were treated to a musicale, which opened with a flute quartet, featuring Rachel Klott, Lindsay Shaffer, and Samantha Mcleod, as well as Owen Cunningham, a Phi Mu Alpha brother of Rowan University. Amanda Coburger performed a piece that she wrote herself, titled *Apex of the Sun*. Jen Smollinger of Epsilon Epsilon played a Fauré piece from her senior recital. Carla Destefano played a trumpet etude and vocalist Christina Capuano sang *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*.

Following the musicale was a surprise performance of the Rowan Sinfonians and a luncheon. Sisters were able to eat and chat, exchanging ideas and meeting a few different sisters.

This year has been fantastic for attending functions at other chapters and getting to know girls beyond our university. Thank you to Kappa Alpha for hosting the celebration!



Modern History in the Making

Epsilon Epsilon chapter has collections of scrapbooks and documents dating back to 1968. As we are all aware, that is fast approaching the forty year mark for some of these artifacts. In an effort to help preserve them, we are working to bring our archiving into the digital age.

So far photos from 1974-1984 have been digitalized through use of the Francis Harvey Green Library's scanner and computer. The photos were scanned to convert them into digital images. All of the photos will be stored on CDs with a master file of what each photo is of, the year, etc. This will help to preserve our history, and also enable us to view the photos without damaging them!

Creating digital photos not only helps to ensure their survival, but also allows for easy viewing. These digital photos will be put on display at the fortieth anniversary celebration in April.

In addition, two of the seventies scrapbooks and one scrapbook from the eighties got complete makeovers. These books had loose and torn pages, as well as photos and programs that were falling out of them. These books were placed in new albums with sheet protectors and photos were re-attached.

With the upgrades for the books and the digital back-ups for photos, Epsilon Epsilon's history should be good to go for another forty years or more!

Left: A photo of Epsilon Epsilon taken in front of "Old Swope" in 1977.

Lois Alt, our founding faculty member is at the far right.

Have an article *you* would like to see in *Sister to Sister*? Write it and email it to hb592113@wcupa.edu before the first of the month!

Headquarters from page 1

We saw SAI relics that were one hundred years old, got to try on a ring of excellence, and look through a scrapbook of National Headquarters' opening.

Aside from the tour, we were shown paper records that included our own membership cards. Another room contained every issue of Pan Pipes ever published. Everywhere in the building there hung quilts, comprised of squares that each chapter submitted at the time of the one hundredth anniversary of SAI's founding.

Ruth explained to us that besides herself, there are approximately six others who work at National Headquarters. All of them are SAIs, and they all do as much as they can. Even still, there is more work to do than what those six can accomplish. In order to get everything done, Ruth also relies on local and visiting chapters, like us. We spent part of the afternoon addressing envelopes, packing graduation cords, and inspecting badges. After lunch we had tea in the parlor and listened as one of our sisters played piano. We fell into easy conversation and covered many subjects, from SAI to global warming. Ruth took over at the piano and we all gathered around to sing from the SAI Songbook. We shared some of the songs that we learned as a chapter and Ruth taught us several more. All of us were impressed with her beautiful voice and graceful accompaniment.

Of course, it was not SAI without food. Ruth did not stop trying to feed us from the moment we got there. She brought us cookies while we worked and made a platter of goodies while we took tea. Ruth even prepared goodie-bags for us to eat on our way home. It must be true that when SAIs meet, SAIs eat!

Visiting National Headquarters proved to be an amazing experience. All of us left Asheville with a new love and appreciation for our sisterhood and what a few dedicated souls do to make it run. Our visit helped us to see that there is much more to SAI beyond individual chapters. It made the national leadership much more personal, and we came to realize that we have extremely dedicated leaders, like Ruth, who have nothing but the best interests of the sisterhood in mind.

Most importantly, we saw Ruth Sieber Johnson, an impressive, memorized fact until our visit, as a sister. It seems all too easy to forget or simply not realize that our national officers are our sisters as well as our leaders. They are our equals in love and dedication to the fraternity. Ruth looked at all of us shortly after we arrived and said, "I am not truly above any of you because we are all sisters." She told us that spending time with visiting sisters is her favorite and best part of her job, and she truly made us feel welcome.

The best part of our visit overall was feeling immediate sisterly love from someone we had just met. It really helped us to see how powerful this sisterhood is, and how very precious.

We hope that more sisters will elect to visit National Headquarters and have the chance to meet Ruth Sieber Johnson and her staff. It truly was a wonderful experience.

Photos from Headquarters



All of us at the piano with Ruth Sieber Johnson



Ruth and her daughter Beth are in the middle



All of us on the porch with the crest above us!

**Sister to Sister* is also available on our website: <http://geocities.com/epsilonepsilonsai/>