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A Publication of the Winchester Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota



Iota A Province

Patty Eitemiller, Editor

Important Iota A Contact Information

Winchester Alums

Tracey Wygal, President
TEW377@aol.com

Gamma Gamma

Shenandoah University
Honi Bergman, President
honihive@hotmail.com

Eta Tau

Shepherd College
Liz Beck, President
itizliz@hotmail.com

Iota A P.O.

Dr. Deborah Volker
Drvolker7@aol.com

NVP, Alum Chapters

Suzanne Floyd
licstiksue@aol.com

Letter from the President

Dear Sisters,

A visit from Hurricane Isabel can't hamper our SAI spirit! Our September meeting was a huge success, even in the wake of such a storm. The business went very smoothly. But the real fun was after the meeting when we had our fraternity sing and a lunch out with the girls. What a great time! I look forward to our October meeting when we look into the life of Edward MacDowell, a great American composer. We will be having a short lecture on the life of MacDowell, a look into the MacDowell Colony, and a

mini-musical by Linda Yonteff. If you couldn't make the September meeting, be sure to put October 18th on your calendar.

I am so happy to work with you all, for SAI and for music. Music has had such a big impact on all of our lives in one way or the other. Our chapter is working hard to support the love of music. I would like to end with a quote by Berthold Auerbach, a nineteenth century contributor to German theater. He writes, "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." We are so



Chapter members and guests join together to sing SAI songs following the first meeting of the year.

lucky to have music and SAI in our lives. Thank you for your support of our chapter.

Love in Sigma Alpha Iota,
Tracey

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From the Editor's Desk...



A shot of the Potomac River in Harper's Ferry, WV not far from flood stage. For those that don't know you can usually see many large rocks in the river.

Hello ladies,

Can you believe the fall is in full swing already? And in with a lion it roared with Hurricane Isabel bringing havoc on many of our lives for several days. Fortunately, as Tracey mentioned, Isabel didn't keep us from our first meeting of the year!

As always, I have enjoying putting together this newsletter. And as always, this issue is full of news and happen-

ings of the Winchester Alumnae, including the return of our Member Spotlight column featuring our newest member, Larissa Elliott.

You'll also get the scoop on what you missed at the first meeting of the year, including the sisterly bonding activities that followed with a sister deciding to make a dramatic change to her appearance!

And you'll also get to

learn a little about our newly "adopted" college chapter, Epsilon Pi, of Truman State University in Missouri!

Lastly, thanks to those members who contributed to this issue of the newsletter! Your help is ALWAYS appreciated! Remember, if there is anything you want included, please send it along!!!

Til Next Month....

Patty

A Sisterly bond over.....HAIR???

Editor's note: This story is a little different from what I normally include, but I had several requests to make sure event made the newsletter! It shows how strong the bond of SAI sisterhood can be!

Following our September meeting and fraternity sing, members and guests in attendance gathered at Ruby Tuesday's for lunch, allowing new friendships to be formed and others to catch up after a busy summer.

It was during this lunch that prospective member Beth Herr, and Eta Tau graduate struck up a conversation with Erin Hocking, a current Gamma Gamma chapter who attended the festivities as the college chapters' newly appointed alumnae liaison. The conversation led to one of the many things women love to talk

about, HAIR! You see, for quite some time, Beth had been thinking of cutting her hair into a shorter, more "easy to manage" style. And it was Erin's hair style she had her eye on.

Sensing the necessity for some sisterly support for this potentially nerve-wrecking experience, several sisters decided to accompany Beth and Erin to the local Regis

Hairstylists in the Apple Blossom Mall. The others waited and watched through the windows of the salon as Erin modeled and Beth locks were quickly shorn.

The end result was quite positive- as you can see! Beth seemed very pleased with her new cut, and those who joined her wholeheartedly agreed! Little did she know when she traveled from Gettysburg, PA to attend our meeting that she would leave with a whole new look!



Prospective member Beth Herr, models her new haircut!



Beth puts on a brave smile as her hair gets much shorter!



The before shot: Beth's long locks are on the left and Erin's desired do on the right.



Member Spotlight: Larissa Elliott



Winchester Alumnae's newest member, Larissa Elliott.

Editor's note: I'm pleased to bring back our member spotlight feature, which has been a part of our newsletter since the beginning! This month, our featured member is Larissa Elliott, the newest SAI to join our chapter. Read below to learn all about her!

A recent graduate with a degree in Music Education from Shepherd College, Larissa Elliott was initiated into Sigma Alpha Iota during the spring semester of 1999. She attributes her reasoning

for joining the fraternity to fellow sister, Stacey Winter. Elliott states, "Stacey forced me to go to information night. Though I was reluctant, I received such a warm welcome that I couldn't resist." She goes on, "I wanted that type of sisterhood."

Upon reflecting on the role SAI played during her college years, Elliott reports that aside from her academics, "SAI was number one." She goes on to add that SAI served as her source of friendship and support. "Without it, I probably would have never left the house."

While a member of Eta Tau chapter, Elliott served as chapter President and devoted much time to the chapter. Most recently, she coordinated the efforts to pull together the Iota A Province flag for the Sigma Alpha Iota Centennial National Convention this past August. Her devotion and work for her college chapter earned Elliott the Ruby Sword of

Honor, of which she was presented at convention this summer.

Though her life after college just began a few short months ago, Elliott already sees that the leadership experience she gained in college has helped her to prepare for her job and "adult responsibilities." Elliott is currently working as a Middle School Performing Arts teacher as Northern Middle in Hagerstown, MD. "This means I teach theater, music and dance."

Elliott sees SAI as a prominent part of her future. "I don't think I could survive without SAI," she states.

In her spare time, Elliott enjoys drawing and doing various arts and crafts.

She also recently got married in June 2002. She and her husband are excited to be building a home in Falling Waters, WV.

WELCOME LARISSA!!!!

"I received such a warm welcome that I couldn't resist [joining SAI]" -Larissa Elliott



Larissa joined several sisters after the September meeting as fellow Eta Tau alum Beth Herr, got her hair cut. L-R: Lesley Sherrer, Erin Hocking, Beth Herr, Tracey Wygal and Elliott.

Shenandoah Conservatory Choir at Kennedy Center

The Shenandoah Conservatory choir is set to perform with the Washington Chorus on Sunday, October 19, 2003 at 3pm. Winchester Alum members Angela Brown and Jennifer Sharp, along with several members of the Gamma Gamma chapter will be singing. For ticket information, contact the Washington Chorus office at (202) 342-6221.





Sharp Marries over Memorial Day Weekend



Written and Submitted by Angela Brown

After much planning, planning and more planning, Jennifer Sharp, Jeff Smith and their families created a magical weekend for the two to wed. The entire weekend leading to the wedding ceremony on May 25th was a celebration of the values the couple holds dear: family, friends and most importantly love.

Prior to the wedding Jen and Jeff were not only planning the wedding but, with much help from Jen's mother, were adding finishing touches to their home. Their wedding guest list included guests from all over the United States and multiple other countries. They wanted to be able to share their home with family and friends that they do not frequently get a chance to see. Their hard work paid off and by Thursday evening the house looked charming!

For the women in the wedding party the festivities began on Friday with a luncheon at The Exchange in Old Town Winchester. This event marked the beginning of an extremely exhausted Jen being able to start to relax and enjoy one of the most memorable weekends of her life. After lunch the ladies went to get manicures and finalize some wedding day details.

The wedding rehearsal on Friday evening was the first chance some of the wedding party had to see all of the special touches Jen and Jeff added to the usual wedding ceremony. They included many of the people that are special to them as attendants, readers and musicians. Jen's brother, Jonathan, would have the challenge of singing *There is Love* without being overwhelmed by the emotions of the day as Jen was at his wedding (though she still sang as beautifully as ever!).

Following the rehearsal the wedding party went to a beautiful dinner at the Wayside Inn. The evening gave Jen and Jeff time to express their appreciation for all of those that were helping to make their wedding day special. It also gave the wedding party a chance to share their memories of Jen and Jeff.

A Welcome Party for all of the wedding guests that had arrived was also held Friday night at the Wayside Inn. Jen and Jeff were able to spend the evening visiting with their guests, many whom they had not seen in quite some time.

Saturday was another day full of festivities. A group of the men joined Jen's father for a day of golf, while others joined Jen and Jeff at their home for an open house. The house looked beautiful and smelled of delicious chocolate chip cookies. The cookies were part of the favors for the wedding, a few helping hands were finishing up the baking. The guests at the open house just loved the 'mistakes'! On Saturday evening the guests gathered at Strasburg Town Park for a Barbecue. One last time for everyone to get together and share in Jen and Jeff's love for each other before the 'big day'!



The newlyweds, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Smith enjoy the festivities of their weekend.

"The wedding on Sunday was absolutely magical. Jen arrived looking like a queen."

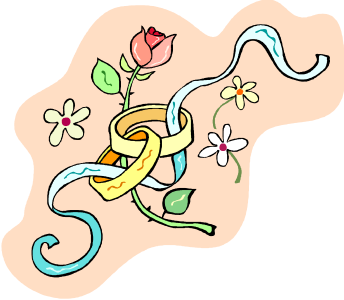
-Angela Brown

The wedding on Sunday was absolutely magical. Jen arrived at First Presbyterian Church in a classic car looking like a queen in her strapless wedding gown with a contemporary floral pattern (the most observant of the guests would recognize how the pattern had been customized into the wedding invitations). Jeff awaited her inside with his groomsmen, the rest of the wedding party and all of their guests. The couple had chosen songs to be performed before the service with themes of love, devotion, and companionship. Jen and Jeff were simply glowing as they met each other at the altar and listened to the words of the readings they had chosen. The emotions that filled the church that day could not be described as anything other than love, joy and happiness. If there were any dry eyes it didn't last long because Jonathan sang a beautiful rendition of *There is Love*, his eyes filling with tears as he looked at his sister during the last verse. The performance was beautiful and those that attended Jonathan's wedding would remark later how he was moved to tears at almost the same moment Jen had been at his wedding. Other special moments included a blessing of the wedding rings, when the rings were passed through their wedding party and their immediate family for a blessing prior to being exchanged by Jen and Jeff.

(Continued on page 5)



Sharp Wedding



(Continued from page 4) Their vows that they created together are captured in a Quaker Marriage Certificate, which was signed by all of their guests as witnesses.

The reception was held at the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club. The room was decorated beautifully and the food was exquisite. Of course there was plenty of dancing but the highlight of the evening was when everyone gathered around the wedding cake for toasts. (Again, the most observant of the guests would notice Jen and Jeff's monogram from their stationary was incorporated into the wedding cake as well as the flower pattern from Jen's dress.) Jen and Jeff were both surprised when there seemed to be an endless line of guests wanting to share something with them and toast to their future, including a surprise toast from Jeff's sister and a serenade by friends of Jeff's father. They gathered and sang a version of the Irish Blessing, a

song very close to Jen's heart. Again their were plenty of happy tears in the room! Jen also surprised Jeff with a special gift she had been working on, a football signed by Joe Paterno. Jeff is one of the biggest Penn State Football fans you will ever find and he was certainly surprised! At the end of the evening, the couple left arm in arm elated to be beginning the rest of their lives together.

But, wait the celebration was not quite over. Before heading to sunny Saint John for the honeymoon, Jen and Jeff joined their guests one more time on Monday morning for a farewell brunch. Jeff's standing as one of the biggest Penn State Fans ever was upheld as he had managed to have Grilled Stickies from the Penn State Diner and Peachy Paterno and Alumni Swirl ice cream from the creamery at the brunch!

It was a beautiful weekend and an incredible start to a marriage. Jen, Jeff and all of their guests may still be recovering from all of the excitement. However, there is something no one can dispute everyone had a fantastic time and there could have been no better way to celebrate the love a couple has for each other and those close to them.

Meet our Adopted Chapter: Epsilon Pi

Greetings from the Epsilon Pi chapter of SAI at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO!

We write with excitement to thank you for adopting us!! One unfortunate part of living in the northeast corner of Missouri is that the closest active and alumnae chapters are ninety miles away. Our perspective of post-college SAI needs some strengthening and we are excited to obtain some of your wisdom!

The Epsilon Pi Chapter was founded in 1969 and currently has 43 active members. We have won the National Chapter Achievement Award five times to date, most recently this past school year. Some of our activities each year include a Girl Scout Day where brownies come and earn their music and other related patches, performing and singing at local nursing homes, helping sponsor a New Music Festival on campus, and holding a mock contest for high school students before state competitions. With weekly performances, fraternity education, and inspiration, we fund raise faithfully and host at least two musicales a year featuring women composers, American composers, or living composers, two large sisterhood events a year such as a video scavenger hunt, and initiate nearly 20 excited members in training every spring. This year we have applied for a Chapter Seed Money Grant and are hoping to have a SAI strings day in late January. We are also planning dutifully to host province day!

We hope to be in touch with you soon. Thank you all for your support!!

Love in SAI,
Katie Ramsey

President, Epsilon Pi
Truman State University, Kirksville, MO



Sitting together on the National Objectives Committee at convention allowed Kaite and Patty to meet and come up with the "Adopt a Chapter" idea to increase the importance of alumnae chapter membership on a local, province and national level!

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Just a Note
Patty Eitemiller, Editor
1611 Harvest Green Ct.
Reston, VA 20194

We're on the Web!!!

[Www.saiwincalum.org](http://www.saiwincalum.org)

Next Meeting!!!

**Join us on October
18, 2003 for a
program on
Edward MacDowell
and a mini-
musicale by Linda
Yonteff.**

Winchester Alumnae Calendar 2003-2004

Meeting Date & Time	Meeting Type	Program
October 18, 2003; 11am	Business Mtg., Casual	MacDowell Colony Lecture and
November 15, 2003; 11am	Formal Mtg. Dress to pin.	Affiliation and Musicale
December 6, 2003; TBA	Service Project	Gift Wrap for Red Cross
January 17, 2004; 11am	Business Mtg., Casual	Music in the White House
February 21, 2004; 11am	Business Mtg., Casual	Desert Party with Gamma Gamma and Eta Tau;
March 20, 2004; 11am	Fundraiser	Weekenders
April (TBA) 2004; TBA	Province Day	Iota A Province Day/Affiliation

*** Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings will be held at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA***