



SIGMA ALPHA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2012

Happy New Year! We hope you are enjoying your winter break and some much needed rest between semesters. Now is a good time to get updated on Sigma Alpha and upcoming events and deadlines, which are both highlighted in this newsletter.

This newsletter contains upcoming Sigma Alpha deadlines, announcements and important national updates. For more information, visit the Sigma Alpha website at www.sigmaalpha.org.

Thank you Kelly Jo Osentoski for 10 years of Service, Leadership, Professionalism and Sisterhood to the Sigma Alpha Sorority as the Administrative Assistant and Database Manager. You're "A True Sigma Alpha" who has been a great asset to this organization. "She keeps our records intact, sends reminders, has proven the phrase "sister for life" and helps to remind not just the members but the leadership team when, what, why and how we do things around here. She works hard for the membership, the pillars, the mission and the networks. Without her, the "glue" would not be as strong as it is today. Thank you, Kelly Jo!

NATIONAL SORORITY UPDATES

DEADLINES

- **January 31:** [Leadership Seminar](#) Early Registration Deadline
- **February 1:** Submit *Emerald Times* article to Casey Hushon (publicrelations@sigmaalpha.org)
- **April 1:** National Chapter Guide Suggestions Due to president@sigmaalpha.org
- **May 1:** Bylaws & Policy Suggestions Due to policy@sigmaalpha.org
- Submit [new member form](#) within 10 days of activation
- Submit [new officer form](#) within 10 days of officer changes
- Fill out the [alumni form](#) for recent graduates

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- 2012 Leadership Seminars
 - February 10 – 11: St. Louis, Missouri
 - February 17-18: Atlanta, Georgia
 - February 24-25: Denver, Colorado
 - March 2-3: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- National Ag Day, March 8, 2012
- Ag Leadership Summit, Washington DC, March 6 – 8, 2012
- Ag in the Classroom National Convention, Loveland, CO, June 19 – 21, 2012
- 2012 Sigma Alpha National Convention, Omaha, Nebraska, October 11 – 13, 2012

JOIN US AT 2012 LEADERSHIP SEMINARS!

We would like to invite all sisters, advisors and alumnus members to attend one of the 2012 Leadership Seminars.

February 10-11, 2012	St. Louis, MO
February 17-18, 2012	Atlanta, GA
February 24-25, 2012	Denver, CO
March 2-3, 2012	Pittsburgh, PA

NEW EVENTS AT LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

All Leadership Seminars will begin on Friday, with Registration and **Sigma Alpha Chapter Sharing Lunch beginning at 12pm**. The opening session begins at 1:30 pm. Saturday will start at 8:00 am with Chapter Best Practices and end at 5:30 pm with a **Sigma Alpha & AGR Social**

afterwards. On Saturday, **we will also have an optional Sigma Alpha & AGR Dinner.** It would be best to plan departures for Sunday morning, which will give you additional time to visit and meet sisters from other chapters.

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

This year the Leadership Seminar Steering Committee created a “Needs Assessment” to survey employers, academics, collegiate and alumni members in the agricultural industry. From this assessment, the Steering Committee has created an agenda that will provide you with the utmost professional development opportunity to make you ready for a career in agriculture. Besides an agenda focused on furthering your personal and professional development as a leader in agriculture, Leadership Seminar will also allow you:

- Grow as an individual by focusing on your unique strengths and your ability to “sell” them to others.
- Network with members across the country and learn about what their chapters and schools are doing to excel.
- Have fun while developing new skills you’ll be able to use immediately in your chapter and in your career.
- To become better acquainted with other chapters in your region.
- To strengthen the working relations between members in your chapter.
- To learn new leadership skills and help incorporate those skills back into your personal and professional life as well as in your chapter.
- To meet other collegiate, alumni and advisors from Sigma Alpha and Alpha Gamma Rho who are facing the same issues as you are.

For information on Leadership Seminars including the agenda, registration and hotel information, go to www.sigmaalpha.org/leadership-seminars.

JOIN US IN THE CORN HUSKER STATE FOR 2012 CONVENTION

At the 2011 National Convention, the 2012 National Convention location was unveiled—**Omaha, Nebraska!** Mark your calendars for October 11 – 13, and come learn about what makes the corn husker state so unique! The hotel is the [Ramada Plaza Omaha Hotel & Convention Center](http://www.ramadaplaza.com), 3321 South 72nd Street Omaha, NE 68124. The theme for the convention is “Professional Women: From boots to business suits.” Check www.sigmaalpha.org for more convention information.

UPDATES TO THE SIGMA ALPHA WEBSITE

In an effort to provide alumni and collegiate sisters with the latest information, we are continually updating the website. In our monthly newsletters, we will provide information on new or updated information so you know where to access critical information on the website, and use it for your chapter:

- **Leadership Seminars.** Details about the 2012 Leadership Seminars are on the website under “Opportunities.” This includes information on registering, dates, locations, costs, agenda and attire.
- **National Convention.** Details about the 2012 National

We continue to look for new materials for the Sigma Alpha newsletter, social media and website. If you have information to share about your chapter, please send it to Casey Hushon at publicrelations@sigmaalpha.org

Convention in Omaha, Nebraska are on the website under "Opportunities." Additional information will be added to this page as National Convention approaches.

- **Forums.** Once logged in on the Sigma Alpha website, visit the Forums, which allows for conversation among members. This includes discussions about Leadership Seminar, Jobs and Internships and the Merchandise chapters have for sale.
- **Officer Portal.** The one-stop page for all forms and deadlines can be accessed from the homepage under "Officer Portal." Check this page frequently for important deadlines.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

POINT OF CONTACT REQUESTED FOR AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN ORGANIZATION

One of the goals the America Agri-Women (AAW) organization had this year was to identify a "point of contact" in each state where AAW does not have a state affiliate. This is intended to be a person we can send information to about meetings or issues who would like to receive it and possibly to pass it on to other women in agriculture in her state. There are no requirements; just a willingness to be a point of contact for AAW.

The states where a Point of Contact is needed include the following:

Alabama	North Carolina
Arizona	Rhode Island
Connecticut	South Carolina
Georgia	South Dakota
Indiana	Tennessee
Louisiana	Utah
Massachusetts	Vermont
Mississippi	Virginia
New Hampshire	West Virginia

If you are located in one of these states and would be willing to serve as a point of contact, please contact Chris Wilson at chris@americanagriwomen.org.

CHAPTERCORE OFFERS SIGMA ALPHA WEBSITE DISCOUNTS

Chaptercore, the organization which has developed the National Sigma Alpha Sorority website, is offering a discounted rate to all Sigma Alpha chapters for designing a new website. Chaptercore typically charges \$500 for design/setup fee, and is offering Sigma Alpha chapters a discounted rate of \$399. If the up-front cost is a concern, Chaptercore is willing to work with individual chapters to setup a payment plan. The hosting fee is \$25/month. Here are two examples of websites Chaptercore is offering:

The Theta design: <http://previews.chaptercore.com/sigma-alpha/theta.png>

The Beta Zeta design: <http://previews.chaptercore.com/sigma-alpha/beta-zeta.png>

For more information, contact Jay Strybis at 773-888-2673 or jay@chaptercore.com.

BE SOCIAL WITH SIGMA ALPHA

Looking to connect with Sigma Alpha?

- Become a fan of the Sigma Alpha Sorority Facebook page to get the latest updates and news about sisters throughout the country! <http://www.facebook.com/sigmaalpha>.
- You can also stay in touch with Sigma Alpha on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/sigmaalpha>.
- Are you looking for a new job? Want to connect with your sisters on a professional level? Join the Sigma Alpha group on LinkedIn to get the inside scoop: <http://www.linkedin.com>.

OFFICIAL JEWELRY

Herff Jones supplies everything from our official Sigma Alpha membership badge to lavalieres, rings, bracelets, officer dangles and lapel pins! Jewelry may be worn by Sigma Alpha members in good standing. Prices vary. Place your order by calling 1-800-422-4348 or [check their website at Herff Jones](#). Don't forget your big sisters as they graduate. An alumni anchor is a great gift!

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHELLEY (DAWSON) HENDERSHOT!

Shelley Hendershot, the Sigma Alpha National Sorority Board Alumni Treasurer, gave birth to son Robert Charles Hendershot on December 16th, weighing eight pounds, twelve ounces. Congratulations to Shelley and her family, and welcome to the world Charles!

