



SIGMA ALPHA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2011

We hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving holiday to reflect on the things we should be most thankful for. Good luck to our collegiate members as they prepare for exams prior to the holiday break!

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

TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE 2011 NATIONAL CONVENTION

If you attended National Convention, give us your feedback! We are always looking to improve, so your input is valuable for planning next year's meeting:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SAConvention>

NATIONAL UPDATES

DEADLINES

- **December 15:** [Agriculture Advocate Award Applications](#) due
- **December 15:** [Monsanto Leadership Seminar Scholarship Application](#) due
- **January 31:** [Leadership Seminar](#) Early Registration Deadline

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
- 2012 Sigma Alpha National Convention, Omaha, Nebraska, October 11 – 13, 2012

NOMINATIONS DUE FOR 2012 AGRICULTURE ADVOCATE AWARD

Do you know an outstanding alumni or advisor of Sigma Alpha Sorority that deserve to be recognized for their dedication to agriculture by making an outstanding contribution congruent with Sigma Alpha's Objectives? If so please nominate her for the Sigma Alpha Agriculture Advocate Award. . One recipient will be recognized at each of the 2012 Leadership Seminar location. Applications can be found online at www.sigmaalpha.org. **The application deadline is December 15, 2011.**

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](#), 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.

SIGMA ALPHA CHALLENGE - MATCH PROGRAM

At National Convention, the National Sorority Board donated \$500 in honor of the National Alumni Association and National Alumni Board the Cindie Davis Holub Scholarship Fund. We want to challenge each Sigma Alpha Sorority alumni and collegiate member to donate to the Cindie Davis Holub Scholarship Fund. With each donation, the

National Sorority Board will match your contribution. For example, if you donate \$20, we will donate \$20 so you will have contributed \$40 to the Fund. We will match your contributions until our \$500 match is utilized. So members we would like to challenge you to donate to the Cindie Davis Holub Scholarship Fund today! Please visit sigmaalphafoundation.com for payment by credit card or mail a check to:

Sigma Alpha Educational Foundation
c/o Cortney Duncanson
25856 Co. Rd. 25
Lewiston, MN 55952

UPDATES TO THE SIGMA ALPHA WEBSITE

In an effort to provide alumni and active sisters with the latest information, we are continually updating the website. In 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 the dates, locations, costs, scholarship information and attire.
- **National Convention.** Listed under opportunities details about the 2012 National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. 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.

IDEAS WANTED FOR SIGMA ALPHA CONFERENCE CALLS

Sigma Alpha Sorority would like to offer a series of conference calls dedicated to enhancing your personal, professional and chapter development. We want to hear your ideas and suggestions for topics so these calls can be tailored to your needs. Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SAConferenceCall> to provide your suggestions.

MONSANTO LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available to collegiate members of the Sigma Alpha Sorority to attend the Sigma Alpha/Alpha Gamma Rho Leadership Seminars in the spring of 2012. The ten scholarships, sponsored by Monsanto, are for \$300 each. For more information and to apply, download the Leadership Seminar Scholarship Application. Scholarship applications must be submitted electronically in .pdf format to foundation@sigmaalpha.com on or before **December 15, 2011**, to be eligible for consideration. Scholarship winners will be notified by **January 31, 2012**, with awards being issued during registration at the Leadership Seminar. Applications are available at sigmaalphafoundation.com under the "Grant and Scholarship Opportunities" tab.

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!