

Sigma Star

Sigma of Alpha Delta Pi Building Corporation | University of Illinois | Fall 2014
www.illiniadpi.com | Alumnae Relations Office | P.O. Box 80828 | Atlanta, Georgia 30366



From the Sigma Housing Corporation



Hello, Sisters!

A little more than a year ago, my husband and I dealt with an incident at our house that involved a broken toilet handle, about five minutes of flooding in a second-floor bathroom, and several weeks of tearing down drywall, running industrial fans to dry it out, and eventually repairing the damage – most of which was caused by the cleanup and not the initial flooding.

Anyone who owns a home has a story like that, and knows those things often happen when you've finally managed to save up the money for another less necessary, but still much needed household project.

Now imagine something like that happening on the scale of a sorority house. That's exactly what your Housing Corporation faced earlier this fall when – just days before the women were moving in – we learned there was a significant water/mold issue in the basement of the house.

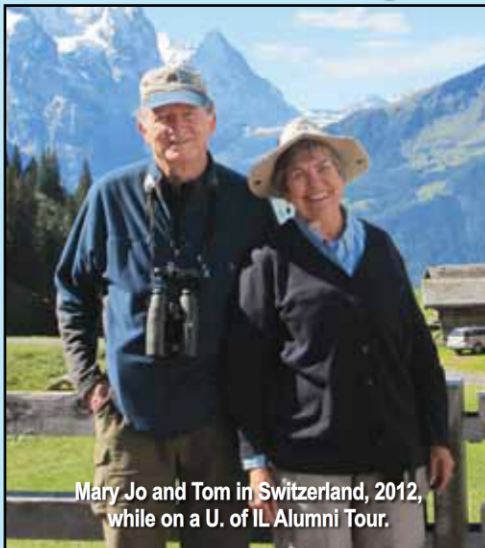
Thankfully, I'm happy to report that the damage has been completely remedied (and in an amazingly short time, I think!) and the immediate crisis is over. Unfortunately, the financial toll is still a bit uncertain and we also need to look for a long term solution for prevention. We've pushed into six figures on

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Sisters Grace Currie and Steph Berardi at Curtis Apple Orchard.

Alumnae Spotlight: *Mary Jo Tews Mulcahy '57*



Mary Jo and Tom in Switzerland, 2012, while on a U. of IL Alumni Tour.

Editor's Note: For this issue of the newsletter we're shining the Spotlight on Sister **Mary Jo Tews Mulcahy '57**. From the hometown of Springfield, IL, Mary Jo graduated from Illinois with a degree in Education. Our past Sigma Chaplain and Scholarship Chairman, Mary Jo was also in the Glee Club. After 20 years of teaching elementary school she continues to share her leadership skills in the community and at her church as a volunteer with the Women's Society, the Green Team, and as a member of the Bell Choir. Mary Jo and her husband Tom, a Delta Tau Delta and fellow Illini Alumnus, have been married now for 53 years. They both enjoy traveling around the world to watch birds in their natural habitat, spending time with their two sons, Tim and John, two granddaughters, Mary and Megan, and their two granddogs.

What was living in the house like while you were in school?

I lived in the house for four full years with about 55 other sisters. It was a great lesson in learning to live with all kinds of personalities and cooperating with each other. My fondest memories are of singing together around the piano after supper, whole house choir rehearsals for Shi-Ai sing, quick grab games of bridge on the floor in someone's room, practicing our dance routines in the dining room for stunt show, weekly devotions after 10:30 in the living room, and studying for tests in a small group. After hours we often gathered in someone's room to gab about boyfriends, or any problems we were having.

Changing rooms twice a year enabled us to adapt and get to know an older sister or two better. At that time, we had hours –10:30 on week nights, 12:00 on weekends, and all outer doors were locked. Once we secretly let a late sister in through the kitchen window! There were two house phones. A pledge was assigned phone duty, and would summon the sister for the call by a buzzer code. Each sister had her own ring, like long, short, short. I fondly remember the anticipation at pinning ceremonies, passing the candle around the circle to see who would blow it out, and wild cheering and hugging afterwards.

How do you stay in touch with your Sigma sisters today?

Mainly we stay in touch via email. Somehow I have become the "go-to" person when we need to alert our sisters to an event of import. We also exchange Christmas cards and letters. Over the years, I have seen the Christmas photos change from families with infants to young adults to grandchildren. Now, even a few great grandchildren are appearing! That's life in a nutshell!

Why did you become a teacher?

I chose the profession after realizing how much I loved children. I started playing school when I was in third grade, and just kept thinking all through the grades that I was destined to be a teacher. Since my mother and aunt were both teachers, I can't help but think that their example influenced me a great deal.

How do you remain involved with education since retirement?

For about six years after retirement, I did substitute teaching in all grades plus music, art, and P.E. Also, I volunteered as a "grandma" in my church's pre-school for several years. I was a volunteer tutor at an after school program called Caring 4 Kidz in LaGrange for the last four years. Currently, I host sing-alongs at my house with the neighbor children, who range in age from 3 to about 14. I play my 90 year old guitar,

Mulcahy (Continued on Page 4)

Chapter News

From the Chapter President
Sarah Sandberg



Hello Sisters!

I am thrilled to continue serving as the President of Sigma Chapter of Alpha Delta Pi for the next month! I am currently a junior studying Political Science and French at the

University of Illinois. After almost a year of Presidency under my belt, it is bittersweet to think that I will be passing on the baton soon. I have already had an incredibly rewarding experience working with my executive team and look forward to the positive improvements we have begun to implement in our chapter.

Sigma Chapter had a very successful spirit week and Formal Recruitment during the early parts of September! The Panhellenic Council at the University of Illinois saw record-breaking numbers enrolled in Formal Recruitment- just shy of 1400 women! Our entertainment for our Open House round featured a few sisters doing a handclap routine to the tune of Anna Kendrick's Cup Song, featured in the movie Pitch Perfect! Our recruitment chairs learned of this jingle at District Leadership Convention, when they stumbled upon sisters from Drake University singing it in their hotel rooms! The decorations throughout the chapter house reflected our "Garden Party" theme, featuring gold mason jar centerpieces, chalkboard door decorations, and flower garlands made of burlap hanging in the hallways.

On Bid Day, Sigma Chapter welcomed 52 new Alpha members home to Alpha Delta Pi! After waiting an hour in the rain, we finally saw our new Alphas running down Nevada Street, overjoyed to see us waiting outside. With brightly colored diamonds and signs for violet sisters, seeing the look on all of my sisters' faces was priceless! We then served appetizers before decorating homemade cupcakes with frosting. After chapter photos across the street at Krannert Center for Performing Arts, the Xtension Chords, an all-male a cappella group on campus, came to serenade everyone. Ranging from love songs to songs about the University of Illinois, this was definitely the highlight of Bid Day!

My favorite part of the semester so far was our Kairos-inspired sisterhood event. For those of you who don't know what this is, it is a peer-led retreat geared towards building a stronger community. These events feature five speakers who all opened up about the difficulties they have faced in their lives, including family

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Chapter Spotlight: *Tia Harper*



Editor's Note: Representing the chapter as Spotlight is legacy **Tia Harper**. A senior from the hometown of Wentzville, Missouri, Tia is pursuing her degree in Chemical Engineering and is set to graduate this spring. Tia has served the chapter as past Assistant Panhellenic Delegate, and was the ADPi House Manager while at Kansas State University. Tia has worked part-time as a campus lab Student Researcher, and has interned with Monsanto and Sigma-Aldrich. A member of AlChe - a Chemical Engineering group on campus - Tia hopes to use her experience to work in the make-up and fragrance field. Read on to find out more!

What led you to join ADPi?

My sister is an ADPi alumna from St. Louis University and growing up I loved hearing her stories and seeing the pictures of her and her sorority sisters. When I chose to go to the University of Illinois, I knew going through recruitment was a must as I didn't know anyone initially and leaving my five siblings was a big adjustment. I kept a very open mind during the process, but was very excited to see ADPi on my bid card and can't imagine my home away from home anywhere else.

Have you enjoyed any special excursions with your sisters?

Yes, one memory sticks out in particular. My big diamond sister, Katie Haigh, did the Disney Internship program at Disney World her second semester of her junior year. When it was bitterly cold in February, Jenna Josephs and I decided to go visit her. We were able to get stand-by passes, got on a flight Friday, and came back that Monday. It was so fun to escape the cold, fly for the first time, see Disney World, and be reunited with my sisters in an impromptu mini vacation.

What are you looking forward to most this year?

I actually transferred to Kansas State University my junior year, spent a year there, and returned this fall. I was and am still so elated to be back with my sisters again and make more fun memories. Senior year is bitter sweet, but I'm definitely most excited about being able to spend time with all of them before we graduate and are not in such close quarters anymore.

What type of work have you done during your internships?

The most interesting thing I've been a

part of is the research I did here on campus. I am a chemical engineer and worked in a biochemical lab dealing with lantibiotics, which is a type of antibiotic not used in the United States currently. Bacteria have not been found to become resistant against it yet, so I did various tests at different conditions to see if this was in fact the case and how the certain type of lantibiotic we worked with functioned best.

What are your career aspirations?

I want to work in cosmetic engineering. This unfortunately is a hard market to break into, but I'm hoping to eventually get there. I find industry dealing with food and household products incredibly interesting as well. I've always enjoyed that side of chemical engineering and as a child I would even take my mom and older sisters' perfumes and mix them together to create my own scent!



Tia and big diamond sister, Katie Haigh watching the "Wishes" fireworks show on the last night in Disney.



Tia with Two classmates during the Engineering Open House.

Alumnae News



Patricia Schroth '54 has six grandchildren that have graduated from college. One just finished high school and is off to Indiana University. Two of her granddaughters were ADPi's at Michigan.

Sharon Milley '68 shared that Kate, the daughter of **Sally Harryman Mueller '84**, will be a sophomore at WMU. She was tapped by Alpha Lambda Alpha, and is on the Dean's List and honors college for her first year in psych. Allison, the daughter of **Wendy Harryman Ayers '82**, will start at Southeast Mo. State this fall and can hardly

wait for rush. If she pledges ADPi, she will be a 4th generation in the family!

Jean Schlinkmann '75 is now a volunteer docent for the Chicago Architecture Foundation and is giving tours in downtown Chicago!

Judith Cantrill '80 is officially retired from teaching after 30 years - most of that in her favorite grade, kindergarten. Judith recently celebrated her 29th wedding anniversary with her husband on June 29th. They reside in Phoenix and have a son.



Visit the new Sigma Alumnae Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/ADPi-Sigma-Alum/551806534952730>

Save the Date



Founders Day 2015
Details TBA

Have Alumnae News?

We want to hear from you! Send your personal updates, accomplishments, adventures, and photos to our Account Manager Kasey Breedlove at kbreedlove@thelaurusgroup.net, or simply fill out the tear-away form at the bottom of your cover letter and return it in the mail. We want to share it in the next issue of *The Sigma Star*!

Housing (Continued from Page 1)

this incident and insurance reimbursement is still unknown. Fortunately, our corporation is in good financial shape right now but it goes without saying that this will put a big dent in our reserves and we'll have to re-evaluate before we can move forward with any big projects like the bathroom renovations we were hoping to complete next summer.

You know that phrase "never a dull moment," right? Well it certainly applies to life on the Housing Corporation!

There are some happy things to report too though. Many of you may remember the university parking lot located behind the house - where we would sometimes take a parking lot gamble for a few hours (or minutes!) The university was no longer using the lot and after a lot of hard work from our former Corp. President **Katie Meyer '99** and our attorney, we're happy to say that we've been able to lease the space for use by our members. We're really excited about this development. It's an additional five parking spots (when we only had two before!)

Several other smaller projects have also recently been completed at the house - including re-painting the basement chapter room (a beautiful shade of light blue) and yesterday we approved leasing a very fancy coffee machine for the girls to use (another one of those "wish we had had this back in the day" kinds of things).

We recently held our annual meeting and while most of our membership and officeholders will remain the same, we are excited to have **Stephanie Grassel Skelton**

'10 as our new Interim President and we will be welcoming **Kaylee Barron '11** to the board.

Earlier this summer, I attended the Alpha Delta Pi Leadership Seminar in Atlanta. It was the first time they've held separate training sessions specifically for Housing Corporation members and I learned so much!

One of the presenters said this, and it really stuck with me.

"House Corporation folks are the bravest volunteers in the world. You are basically landlords providing housing to 18-21 year old women, in an environment where there are also a lot of 18-21 year old men. What could possibly go wrong?"

It makes me laugh because I know how much my perspective has changed since I've joined the Housing Corporation. After years spent in a chapter advisory role, the Housing Corporation really is the other side of the coin. But I can't begin to tell you how much I am enjoying it. It feels like an awesome responsibility, being the stewards of this beautiful facility so many of us still call "home." We are ALWAYS in need of more volunteers on the Housing Corporation. The time commitment is minimal (I wouldn't lie to you, sisters!) but the rewards are immeasurable. If you're interested in volunteering please contact me at shannonsandoval@mac.com.

Love and Violets,

Shannon

Shannon Sandoval '94

Sister Passings

- Isabel Donahue Buckley '31**
- Eleanor Gates Parsons '32**
- Alice Flagg Feutz '34**
- Marilyn Scanzoni Collins '58**
- Marilyn Lemke '63**



Isabel Donahue Buckley '31

died peacefully at home with her daughter, Mary Pat, by her side. Isabel was born in Bloomington, Illinois on December 30, 1911. She attended the University of Illinois and was elected prom queen in the fall of 1932. Isabel went on to receive her Masters in Social Work from Loyola University in 1949. She married Cornelius Vincent Buckley, November 10, 1951. They moved to Wilmette in 1955. Isabel had a long career in social work and has been described by her colleagues as a kind, understanding, and true professional with a great sense of humor who was dedicated to serving others. She will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.



and we have fun doing a lot of camp songs and motion songs.

When did you become such an avid bird watcher?

I have always been a lover of nature. After my husband, Tom, retired, he took courses at Morton Arboretum and became a certified ornithologist. I took a few courses there, too. Then we started going to bird festivals in Texas, California, Utah, and Louisiana. That led to birding tours to other countries. We started with a trip to Costa Rica, followed by Ecuador, Belize, Kenya, Peru, Australia, Thailand, India, and many others.



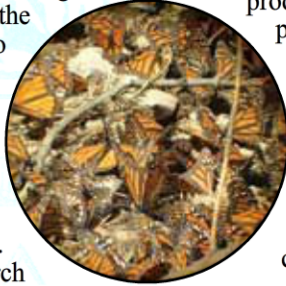
"The canopy walk was reached by about 200 steps. That was great fun being above the trees and being a part of the birds' world. We became quite used to canopy walks after several different trips."

What has been the most exciting trip?

Probably the most exciting was our South Africa trip two years ago. As we sat in our van, a huge bull elephant with broken tusks plodded down the road toward us, persisted in coming closer and closer, and forced us to back up to give him access to a path through the jungle. We were very unsure of his intentions! Being in a hide at a water hole and watching a parade of different animals (kudus, zebras, rhinos, warthogs, hornbills, water buffalo, etc.) interacting was a spectacular experience. We are going to experience the beauties of New Zealand on a bird tour very soon.

Why is the monarch butterfly also a special interest to you?

The monarch is an absolutely beautiful and amazing creature! It needs our help! The population of monarchs this year is down ninety percent. Without a major cooperative effort to create, conserve, and protect monarch habitats, it will continue to decline. Each fall, hundreds of thousands of monarchs migrate from the U. S. and Canada to the mountains of Michoacan, Mexico where they wait out the winter until conditions favor a return flight in the spring. Seeing thousands of them clustered on the oyamel trees in the El Rosario Preserve was one of the most spine-tingling sights of my life. The monarch is truly one of the world's greatest natural wonders, yet it is threatened by habitat loss and breeding areas in the U.S. and Canada. We can help by creating monarch waystations in home gardens, school yards, and on unused plots of land: plant milkweed that is native to your area (that is the only plant on which they will lay their eggs), and put in nectaring plants like purple coneflower, liatris, and other native species. In the Northeast states plant common milkweed, swamp milkweed, butterfly milkweed, or poke milkweed. Hopefully, my grandchildren and their children will be able to enjoy the monarchs' beauty for many years, but it will take diligence on all of our parts.



"Monarchs that we saw in Michoacan, Mexico several years ago. We walked up the mountain quite a ways to about 10,000 ft. elevation in order to see their habitat in the oyamel fir trees. This was one of our most memorable and cherished adventures." - Mary Jo

What advice can you give the alumnae and young actives about living green?

Conserve, reuse, and recycle. Turn off lights when you aren't using them. Eliminate plastic

bags. Take your own bags to the grocery/drug/hardware store. Plant native flowers, shrubs, and trees. Compost your coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable scraps. Do not use styrofoam products. Do not use herbicides and pesticides. Don't throw old or unused prescriptions in the garbage or toilet. (Local police stations have drug return events.) Take used computers, TVs, printers, etc. to a recycling center rather than putting them in the trash. THINK about what you are putting in your trash can. Will it stay in the earth forever? Recycle paper, glass, aluminum, plastic, metal cans, and all boxes. Turn your thermostat down a few degrees to save energy. Take shorter showers. Plan and consolidate your errands to conserve fuel. Share rides to your workplace or to social events.

Why do you feel it is important to stay involved with the chapter as an Al alumna?

We are sisters, and we have a special bond that reaches across generations. I think that we can learn from each other. When I was a student, I remember the generosity of several alumnae, who made contributions of time and money to enhance our experience as ADPis. I'm looking forward to having a Sigma Class of 60 reunion sometime next year! We're now in our late 70's and must "seize the day!"



"Our two precious granddaughters Mary, 15, and Megan, 11 from University Park, TX in front of our Western Springs home last August."

Chapter (Continued from Page 2)



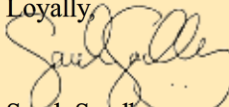
Sisters Sarah Sandberg, Betty Harryman '56, and Kaitlyn Schwarz during Homecoming.

relations, eating disorders, and depression. After each speaker, the chapter broke up into small groups to discuss what was said and to journal privately. We also included letter writing; each sister had an envelope and during the small group portion, women wrote personal letters to give to a sister. Some were anonymous and some were signed, but each letter impacted our sisters. The vulnerability shown during these Kairos events is heart-warming and has brought our chapter, specifically our newest Delta Class, together in unspeakable ways by connecting women through similar difficulties we have faced in our lives.

This past weekend was Homecoming Weekend at the University of Illinois. It was so wonderful to see alumnae, old and new, around the chapter house again. I had the pleasure of meeting one of our alumnae, **Betty Harryman '56**, at Block

on Saturday. After seeking the ADPi's out in the crowded venue, Betty shared some of her memories from Sigma Chapter with our current Delta members. Her relatives have been in ADPi for over 100 years! Betty was an inspiration to us all with her love and fondness of Alpha Delta Pi.

Sigma Chapter is also pleased to announce that we completed all six of our goals in our Panhellenic Pride initiative, a program that helps chapters exemplify National Panhellenic Conference's values. As one of four member organizations to receive this award, this gives us just another reason to wear our letters with pride within the Greek community!

Loyally

 Sarah Sandberg

