



Happy Fall! As the seasons change across the nation and our collegiate members prepare for exams, I wish you a warm hello on behalf of the [National Sorority Board!](#)

Your NSB has been working behind the scenes since Conclave in August. We have begun planning for next year's convention in Ohio as well as the [2017 Leadership Seminars](#). We have some very exciting things percolating and look forward to keeping you updated throughout the year.

One of the most exciting things happening right now is a rebranding project. We will be looking at our history, our present and where we will be going in the future. This project will take an in-depth look at what Sigma Alpha means to our members and what it means to be a Sigma Alpha sister. We will be reaching out to chapters, members and alumni to help in this important project.

The first-ever Conclave was a wonderful experience for our delegates and their alternates. We had two days of intense committee work, and that work is already taking shape and having an effect.

Look for the article below highlighting [Sigma Alpha merchandise](#). This information was a direct recommendation from the Finance/Ethics Committee. As more action items take off from Conclave, we will be sure to let you know. Conclave met its goal of getting all attendees involved in the business and work of the Sorority. We can't wait until Conclave 2018!

Planning has begun for the [2017 Convention](#), which will be a special kick-off event to our 40th anniversary in 2018! This is the first year of the biennial convention rotation so we hope to see record numbers as we head home to Ohio. We are working on an exciting line up of workshops, special events and speakers. Expect the unexpected...we are planning lots of firsts as we launch our 40th Anniversary celebration!

I am beginning in my fourth month as your President. My main goal this year is to make sure your National Sorority Board is serving you in the best possible way. I hope that as a team we can find new and better ways to serve and provide resources to you.

Looking forward to a great year!



In sisterhood,

Kelly Lawler

Kelly Lawler  
National Sorority Board President  
[president@sigmaalpha.org](mailto:president@sigmaalpha.org)

## Come to the 2017 National Convention... We'll Kick Off our 40th Anniversary!

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**August 10-12, 2017**  
**Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square**

In honor of 40 years of service and sisterhood, Sigma Alpha is proud to announce that our [2017 National Convention](#) will take place in the city where our sorority began--Columbus, Ohio!

In 1978, five women (Ann Huling Mathews, Cindie Davis, Marilyn Burns, Jennifer McMillan and Amy Mathews) founded Sigma Alpha at the Ohio State University. Since then, Sigma Alpha has proudly grown to over 14,000 members spanning across 62 collegiate chapters.

This year's National Convention is sure to be the don't-miss event of the year, with guest speakers, special recognitions and all the National Convention fun in a jam-packed weekend. For all the latest information, visit [sigmaalpha.org/Convention17](http://sigmaalpha.org/Convention17).

### Shop for Sigma Alpha Gear

Sigma Alpha Sorority is pleased to offer a large selection of Sigma Alpha items to its members. These make great gifts for your Sigma Alpha sisters and yourself! [Shop Now](#)

Sigma Alpha is the exclusive owner of its trademarks. In order to safeguard the appropriate use of our federally registered trademarks and to guarantee quality products, Sigma Alpha has entered into a trademark licensing agreement with Affinity Consultants. All commercial use of Sigma Alpha's trademarks must be administered through a license agreement with Sigma Alpha.

You can shop for officially licensed Sigma Alpha products using any device. Visit [findgreek.com/sigmaalpha](http://findgreek.com/sigmaalpha) to find your new favorite Sigma Alpha swag! Here you can access our national network of vendors and get multiple quotes for your custom order needs.

When shopping for Sigma Alpha merchandise, look for this logo:



If you have a favorite local vendor who's not licensed, don't worry. It's as easy as 1-2-3 for them to become an approved vendor...[learn how](#).

### What You Missed at the FFA Convention



Outreach Director Jordan Bonham,  
Renae Tockah (Upsilon Chapter)  
and Vice President Kim Stassen

In October, members of our National Leadership Team and staff attended the National [FFA](#) Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Angelle Bujol (Executive Director), Kim Stassen (Vice President) and Jordan Bonham (Outreach Director) met with many talented, professional women over the course of three days.

There was a steady pace of traffic through the booth at all times between alumni stopping by to reconnect and get their swag bag, actives swinging through to introduce themselves, membership candidates sharing their excitement over membership education and high school students looking for ways to become involved when they get on their college campuses.



Kim Stassen and  
Michelle Wagner  
(Omega Chapter alum)

The future of our industry is bright, and it was definitely confirmed while interacting with those proudly supporting the blue and gold corduroy.

A sincere thank you to all of those who stopped by! We hope all who attended were able to thoroughly enjoy the 89th National [FFA](#) Convention.

## Attend a Leadership Seminar!

By partnering with Alpha Gamma Rho to present the [2017 Leadership Seminars](#), Sigma Alpha provides its members an opportunity to develop personally and professionally and to network with other young professionals dedicated to the agriculture industry.

Start making plans with other members from your chapter to attend one of these programs:

**February 3-4, 2017 (Nashville TN)**  
**February 10-11, 2017 (Reno NV)**  
**February 17-18, 2017 (Washington D.C.)**  
**February 24-25, 2017 (Milwaukee WI)**

Learn more at [sigmaalpha.org/LeadershipSeminars](http://sigmaalpha.org/LeadershipSeminars).

## Chapter Spotlights: Recruitment News

Sisters at Psi Chapter (Middle Tennessee State University) welcomed new MCs by hosting an Alice in Wonderland-themed recruitment, where sisters played croquet, watched movies and enjoyed a tea party.

Member recruitment spread to new platforms this fall, as two chapters created recruitment videos to be used around campus and reach more MCs! Check out the videos by [Alpha Omicron Chapter](#) (University of Georgia) (need link) and [Nu Chapter](#) (Colorado State).

## Apply for these Scholarships!

### *AFBF FUSION Conference Scholarships*

The [American Farm Bureau Federation FUSION Conference](#) will be held February 10 through 13, 2017, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.  **AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION\***

The FUSION (Farmers United: Skills, Inspiration, Outreach and Networking) Conference will bring together from across the country leaders who are involved with the Women's Leadership, Young Farmers & Ranchers and Promotion & Education programs. The conference will allow members to increase their knowledge and skills in the areas of leadership development, agriculture issues and professional and personal growth and will provide an opportunity to build a network.

The [American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Program](#) is offering two scholarships for Sigma Alpha Sorority members to attend the conference. Each scholarship award is valued at a total of \$1,000 (\$765 to help defray travel, meal and lodging expenses and a complimentary registration of \$235).

Applicant must be a Sigma Alpha Sorority member in good standing

and a Farm Bureau member, either individually or as a family member.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

**Application Deadline: December 7, 2016**

### **ADM Scholarships**

The [Sigma Alpha Sorority Educational Foundation](#) is excited to announce its newest sponsor partner, [Archer Daniels Midland Company](#) (ADM).



For more than a century, the people of ADM have transformed crops into products that serve the vital needs of a growing world. Today, they're one of the world's largest agricultural processors and food ingredient providers, with more than 32,300 employees serving customers in more than 160 countries. With a global value chain, ADM connects the harvest to the home, making products for food, animal feed, industrial and energy uses. Learn more about [job and internship opportunities](#) with ADM.

**ADM is awarding \$1,000 Ag Operations Scholarships** to select college students entering careers in ag operations. Ag services operations include: ADM International, American River Transportation (ARTCO), Animal Nutrition, Edible Beans, Environmental, Health & Safety, Export, Golden Peanut and Tree Nuts, Grain Elevators, Milling, Railcar Repair, Terminal Services, & Trucking. [Learn more and apply.](#)

**Application Deadline: February 1, 2017**

### **Support the Foundation through Amazon Smile**

The holidays are right around the corner, and we know you'll be doing some shopping through Amazon. So why not support the [Sigma Alpha Educational Foundation](#) at the same time?



[AmazonSmile](#) is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. But through [AmazonSmile](#), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to charitable organizations, such as the [Sigma Alpha Sorority Educational Foundation](#).

Start shopping [AmazonSmile](#) now...and start making a difference for the [Sigma Alpha Sorority Educational Foundation](#)!

### **Thank You, Educational Foundation Sponsors**

Thanks to corporate sponsors, the Sigma Alpha Educational Foundation is able to support women pursuing careers in agriculture and related fields, increase agricultural literacy, and cultivate strong leaders for the food and fiber industry. We appreciate your support!





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