

# Zeta Tau Alpha

## SIGMA CHAPTER ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

### LETTER FROM ANITA: HOUSE CORPORATION PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters,

The Sigma House Corporation board has been diligently working to maintain the integrity of our facility while keeping the needs and wants of our chapter members in mind. Several projects are scheduled for the summer to address necessary maintenance and updates.

We are excited to celebrate the milestones of our sisters:

- 75th Anniversary Class: 1950
- White Violet Class: 1975
- 25-Year Class: 2000

The House Corporation and the chapter look forward to honoring YOU.

Upcoming Event: STAG

We look forward to seeing you at the STAG event on Saturday, May 17. This event is a wonderful opportunity to meet the members, get chapter information, tour the house, reminisce, and enjoy a meal together. The chapter members always look forward to alumnae attending and sharing your stories.

ZL,

Anita Miller Hempy, 1968-72

Sigma House Corporation President



## House Corporation Officers

### President

Anita Miller Hempy '69

### Vice-President

Danielle Dingey Costanza '88

### Treasurer

Pat Wooster-Jackson '68

### Recording Secretary

Heather Cooper Fischer '88

### Corresponding Secretary

Shauna Fuller Bartel '94

### House Manager

Pat Wooster-Jackson '68

Carrie Reynolds Rauenzahn '96

### Member-At-Large

Jeannine Bailey '87

Olivia Beins '13

Stephanie Woltkamp

Blaylock '13

Rodna Grimm Helvick '69

Becky Holloway Johns '88

### BAKER U ALUMNI WEEKEND AGENDA SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

**10-11:15AM** GOLDEN MEDALLION CEREMONY Class of 1975; Osborne Chapel

**10-11:30AM** ALUMNI CHOIR REUNION & REHEARSAL; Rice Auditorium

**11:30-1PM** ALUMNI LUNCHEON; the dining hall in Harter Union

**1PM** GOLDEN ALUMNI PHOTO; Parameter Hall Steps

**1:30-2PM** ALUMNI & STUDENT CHOIR CONCERT; Rice Auditorium

**2-3:30PM** ALUMNI SOCIAL STOP; Rice Auditorium

**7-???** ALL BAKER ALUMNI SOCIAL; the Baldwin City Beer Co. 520 High St.

**For more information on what Baker has planned, go to**

**<https://alumni.bakeru.edu/event-calendar/alumni-weekend/>**

**#::~text=Saturday%2C%20May%2017%2C%202025**

## Our Time at OLA

(Officer Leadership Academy)

by: **Carly Youngblood, Chapter President**

As Chapter President, I had the opportunity to travel to OLA in Atlanta, Georgia at the end of January with one of my amazingly talented EC Officers, Nadia Emperley. Throughout the two days that we were there, I feel like I learned enough to begin the semester confidently! I attended workshops with fellow Chapter Presidents from all over the nation, heard Guest Speakers, and completed activities with other officers from various ZTA Chapters. I loved the environment at OLA, everyone was so excited to be there and learn from advisors, previous EC officers, and National Officers.

During the workshops, I learned a lot of details that I was unaware of in my role, delegating techniques, and how to best find information if I don't have the answer. Further, I was able to learn different retention ideas, sisterhood events, and formal recruitment plans! Being able to network with people from different chapters is one of my favorite aspects of ZTA conferences.

Overall, my main takeaway from OLA was how lucky I am to represent my chapter as President. There are so many wonderful and knowledgeable ZTA Presidents, that I feel so blessed to get to know them, learn from them, and be one of their peers. I left OLA knowing so many new sisters, and have their social media/contact information, so I am able to stay in contact with so many of my new friends.

When I returned from OLA, everyone in the house was so ready to start the semester off to an amazing start! We have had many fun sisterhood events, an amazing Mom's Day event, and have begun to plan for Think Pink Week and Greek Week in April. Nadia and I were able to bring back so many new ideas and projects that will benefit the Sigma Chapter greatly. Having the opportunity to travel to a ZTA Conference is one of my favorite parts about being on the Executive Council, and I cannot wait for future EC members to have this opportunity as well!



Nadia Emperley & Carly Youngblood at OLA

## Mya Dunn Wins Prestigious Irene Ryan Award



Zeta Tau Alpha proudly celebrates Mya Dunn, a junior, for winning the esteemed Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. This prestigious honor recognizes outstanding collegiate actors nationwide, and Mya's exceptional talent, dedication, and hard work have distinguished her as a rising star in the theater world.

Many may remember Irene Ryan as "Granny" from The Beverly Hillbillies. A celebrated actress whose career spanned from the 1940s until her passing in 1973, Ryan's legacy continues through this scholarship, which supports excellence in collegiate acting.

Mya earned first place out of 290 competitors, securing a \$500 scholarship. The competition took place in Des Moines, Iowa, where she spent a week in January refining her craft. She delivered a compelling monologue, It's Terrible Being Nice, from Goodbye Charlie by Gabriel Dans, and performed a scene from John Quincy Adams by Aaron Posner alongside her partner, Kian Foster. She was nominated for this prestigious

competition by Trevor Belt, Professor of Theatre at Baker University.

The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship is awarded annually through the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), which provides students with national recognition and career advancement opportunities in the performing arts. Many past recipients have gone on to successful careers in theater, television, and film, and Mya is poised to follow in their footsteps.

Looking ahead, Mya will compete in April for the National Irene Ryan Scholarship in Washington, D.C., where she will be one of only eight finalists.

Zeta Tau Alpha is incredibly proud of Mya's remarkable achievement, and we eagerly anticipate all that she will accomplish. Please join us in congratulating her on this outstanding success!

## FINANCIAL REALITIES

The financial picture for the House Corporation has not changed much since a year ago, as the chapter is still small in numbers. For several years, during COVID and since, the House Corporation has done what it can to help by lowering the rent the chapter pays for use of the facility. The normal rent at this point should be more than \$100,000 - as it was in 2019. Since then, the chapter rent has been as low as zero, meaning they've used the facility for free. Currently, chapter rent is \$25,000. With routine operating costs of more than \$65,000 per year, it's easy to see the stress on the House Corporation reserves.

The window replacement project was put on hold during and after COVID. But this summer, for the preservation of the facility, we are moving ahead with replacing 11 windows on the northwest side of the house. Siding, window coverings, collateral damage requiring repair and paint on affected rooms will also be done. Some of the funds necessary for this have been in reserve for some time. This project is in addition to the regular operating expenses of the House Corporation.

For those of you who would like to help with a donation of any size, please use the information at the bottom of the newsletter on where to send your check. Please note the address change! Be sure to indicate whether your non-taxable donation from the heart is to go to the general fund, window fund, or New Member Assistance fund. All are needed. Individual acknowledgement of all financial gifts for this fiscal year will come out in the Fall newsletter - but know that the House Corporation is deeply grateful for each gift now!



### **75 yr members**

Carolyn Hodges Collier  
Dorothy White Barr  
Janet Myers Burns  
Mary Hart Pease  
Ruth Sutterfield Wells

### **50 yr members**

Cheryl Irons Belcher  
Dawn Hughes Cisper  
Katherine Smitson Cook  
Lisa Rader Harman  
Maribeth Ogg Brennaman  
Pamela Sue Smeltzer  
Roberta Cooper Anderson  
Sandra Jean Forth  
Susan Seacat Seifert

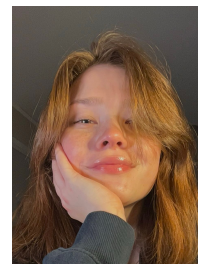
## Graduating Seniors

**Madison Byerley**



From Overland Park, KS  
Major: English  
Madi graduated in December and plans to attend law school in the fall.

**Ann Beall**



From Topeka, KS  
Major: Interdisciplinary Degree of Business and Studio Art  
After graduation Ann plans to take the LSAT and work in a law office over the summer.

**Gracie Childs**



From Clearwater, KS  
Major: Molecular Biology  
She also acquired a Child Development Associates degree as of February 2025.  
After graduation Gracie will be opening a preschool/childcare center in her hometown.

**Kierstyn Harmon**



From Branson, MO  
Major: Exercise Science  
After graduation Kierstyn plans to continue her education, getting a masters degree in sports nutrition.



**25 yr members**

Amanda Michelle Samuelson  
 Angie Heffner Portlock  
 Christy Richards Emperley  
 Diana Folks Campbell  
 Betsi Baldwin Cobb  
 Jamie Michelle Crawl  
 Jen Kristine Sogas  
 Jordan Beam-Ward Boone  
 Katie Radford McGuire  
 Katie Eileen Vancil  
 Kate Badenoch White  
 Megan Dailey Fitzgerald  
 Megan Dunn Banks  
 Nicole Mead Ploger  
 Sara Elisabeth Anderson  
 Sheri Lynn Mitchell  
 Trisha Nichols

**Return Service Requested:**

Danielle Dingey Costanza  
 3403 NE 67th Ter.  
 Gladstone, MO 64119

**ZTA STAG SCHEDULE**

**1-4pm-** Stop by the ZTA House,  
 take a tour and  
 meet current members  
**4pm-** Annual House  
 Corporation Meeting  
**5pm-** White Violet Celebration  
 and recognition of our  
 25 & 75 year members  
**5:30pm-** Dinner and Social

[https://2025-stag-  
zta.eventbrite.com](https://2025-stag-zta.eventbrite.com)

**GO FOR STAG  
TICKETS**

**STAG Registration – May 17, 2025 (Dinner - \$25)**

You can register online and purchase tickets using a credit card at: <https://2025-stag-zta.eventbrite.com>  
 OR Mail completed Registration Form (below) to ZTA Sigma House Corporation, 11308 Fontana St.,  
 Leawood, KS 66211 and enclose a check for \$25 made out to ZTA Sigma House Corporation.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing a donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used toward the \_\_\_\_\_ New Member  
 Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund or \_\_\_\_\_ Window Fund (Donations of \$2200+ to the window fund have the  
 option for a plaque inscription) Window plaque inscription:

Call Steph at 913-940-3310, Pat at 303-888-2899, or email [stag.sigmazta@gmail.com](mailto:stag.sigmazta@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance!