



## Noble L. DeVotie Excellence in Ritual Award

The Noble L. DeVotie Award is given each summer by Sigma Alpha Epsilon to the chapter that best displays the values and ideals expressed in the Ritual, and demonstrates excellence in performing ritual. The following two examples are from 2003's winner, Kansas Delta (Fort Hayes State University.)

### Formal Ritual Team

At the beginning of each semester, members express their interest in parts. If two members are interested in the same part, the chapter holds auditions. After the ritual team is selected, members can check out Ritual books and begin memorizing their parts for initiation.

After several weeks the Eminent Herald coordinates ritual practice. This practice happens several times during the semester. Additionally, a mock initiation is held at a chapter meeting at least once during the semester.

### Post-Initiation Training

A post-initiation training session is held for new initiates, either immediately following the ceremony or the day after. The Eminent Preceptor, with the help of the chapter, explains the different parts of the ceremony, the meaning of the insignia, pronunciations, the grip, and the salute. Ritual equipment is used as a visual aid during his lesson. Once they are finished with training, new members are allowed to check out ritual books for further education.

### Ritual Tips and Suggestions from Other Chapters

#### Wichita State University (KSGA)

- Places all ritual equipment in a locked closet – respect and attention to detail are the first steps for success.
- Recruits alumni to participate in the chapter's ritual ceremonies.
- Sends out invitations to all parents inviting them to attend the Formal Pledging Ceremony.

#### Colorado School of Mines (COLA)

- Enforces an attendance policy at all ritual ceremonies.
- Enforces proper dress attire to all ritual ceremonies.
- Sings "Friends" and recites the "SAE Grace" at meal times.

#### Middle Tennessee State University (TNBE)

- Secures all ritual robes with garment bags.
- Performs the graduation ceremony for all of the chapter's graduates at the end of each semester.
- Participates in the ritual ceremonies at other chapters.

#### Sonoma State University (CAA-A)

- Invites university officials, family members, and sorority sweethearts to attend the formal pledging ceremony. This is the only ritual ceremony open to the public.