

Ann Connor and the Eta Sigma Phi song

The Eta Sigma Phi song published in the Fall 2004 *NUNTIUS* was first sung on May 14, 1952 at Beta Kappa's last meeting of the 1951-52 academic year. The song was composed by Ann Connor, one of the charter members of Beta Kappa, the first Grammateus and second Prytanis of that chapter. At a meeting in February 1953 members were told that Ann's song was to be submitted to the convention and voted on by members as the fraternity song. The March 15, 1953 issue of the *NUNTIUS* (27.3) gives the words of the song on p. 19, but apparently the topic did not appear on the agenda of the National Convention, which took place at Agnes Scott College in April. Neither the official minutes of that convention nor the report of the Beta

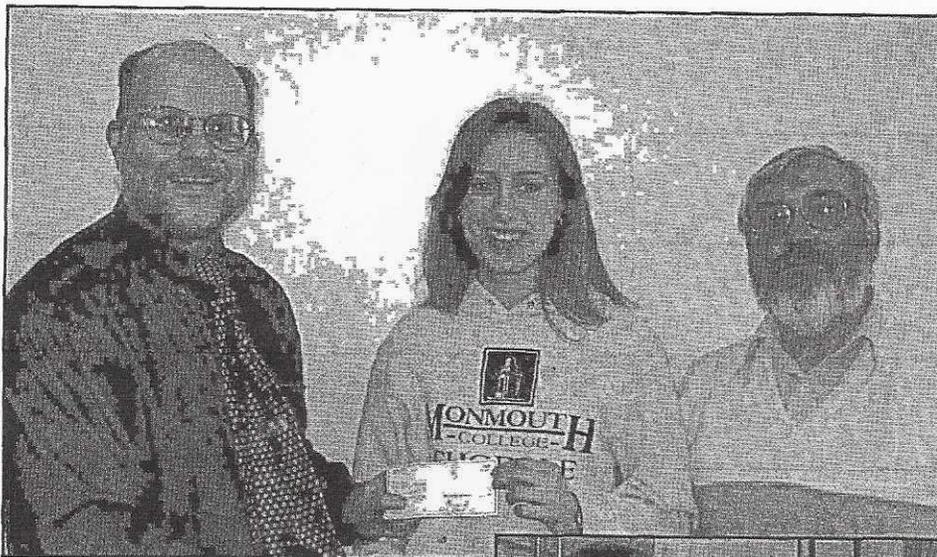


Ann Connor

Kappa delegates to the convention make any mention of the song.

Sr. Therese Marie Dougherty, the faculty advisor of Beta Kappa chapter, recently spoke with two alumnae who were among the first members of Beta Kappa chapter and they remember the debut of the song. In the yearbook Ann's classmates commented on her musical talent. Lucy Vecera, a classmate of Ann and charter member of BK chapter, recently wrote: "Ann was an accomplished pianist and an open, extremely generous, kind, outgoing person. 'Everybody' knew and liked Ann. She was unfailingly cheerful. As I recall she volunteered to write the Eta Sigma Phi song...she also wrote lots of the songs for Sing Song [an annual musical class competition at the College of Notre Dame]." Sr. Therese herself remembers being a frequent accompanist for the Eta Sigma Phi song during her student days.

It is unfortunate that Ann died about a year ago. She would have enjoyed that her song finally received national recognition at this year's convention, where it was sung at the banquet in an a capella arrangement composed by Stacy Heinrich of Monmouth College and at the Sunday business meeting in a trilingual version written by Dr. Anne Groton of St. Olaf College.



Stacey Heinrich, a junior music major at Monmouth College, is here receiving a \$100 prize for the best arrangement of the "Song for Eta Sigma Phi." Pictured with Ms. Heinrich are Thomas J. Sienkewicz, Executive Secretary of Eta Sigma Phi, and James Betts, Professor of Music at Monmouth College. At Prof. Sienkewicz' request, Prof. Betts made the creation of arrangements of this song an assignment in his music composition class. A jury of music faculty chose Ms. Heinrich's a capella arrangement as the best one. Her arrangement was sung at the 77th Annual Convention of Eta Sigma Phi at St. Olaf College in April, 2005.

At right is the singing of the song at the Convention.

