

December 2010

New from Alpha Mu



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I am very excited to release the very first issue of "New from Alpha Mu". Our chapter and its individuals are involved in so many activities. This newsletter will be a great way to share our activity with other members of our chapter, other sisters, advisors, alumnae, and officers at the national level.

But I will need your help – **send me stories!** Let me know if you have received awards (music and non-music), had a concert or recital, done community service, danced in Dancers

Symposium, performed in Scotch n' Soda – anything!

Send me photos from events to include in the newsletter.

Let me know if you have **upcoming events** - recitals, concerts, or anything sisters might want to attend. This could also include music events and concerts in the Pittsburgh area. It could also be an event from home you were part of, or outside the music school, or through other organizations.

Or – did you read a really good book or article about music? Write a poem? Draw a picture? Tell me!

Initially I wanted to do this because we could share our chapter news. In compiling this first newsletter I was happy to find how much our chapter has accomplished this semester. I am so proud to be part of such an amazing group of girls!

I hope you enjoy this issue, and look forward to many more!

Rebecca MacNamee, Editor

Alpha Mu Welcomes Seven New Sisters

Alpha Mu is excited to add seven new girls to our chapter this fall. Ashely Williams, previously affiliated with Kappa Beta at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, affiliated with Alpha Mu on November 14th. On November 20th we initiated Betty Anderson, Amelia Cessna, Nicole Gasse, Christine Hedden, Stephanie Johnson, and Elizabeth Kaufman.

Congratulations to all our new members – we are looking forward to having them as part of our chapter!



Alpha Mu, Fall 2010 Initiation

Visit to Wilkinsburg

Last spring Alpha Mu decided to further our efforts in reaching out into the Pittsburgh community. To do this we decided to assist the music program of a specific school district in the area.

After consideration and research, we picked the Wilkinsburg school district. The school district is within ten minutes from Carnegie Mellon's campus, making it accessible for visiting and close to home.

Our goal was to assist their music program, possibly in areas where there currently were not resources already in place. We also wanted the students to be exposed to and get excited about many different genres of music. To do this, we decided to give our time and talents to the kids by visiting the school and giving them presentations.

We came in contact with Lois Clark, the K-6 music teacher as well as the Art and Music Department Chair at Kelly Elementary School. She was very enthusiastic about whatever we would bring to her students, and said that she would love for us to visit her music class.

After the scheduling battle was over, we were able to make a visit to Kelly Elementary School on November 16th, 2010. Four sisters – Fiona Ryder, Ashlinn Dowling, Corinne Vassallo, and Rebecca MacNamee, went to the school to give a presentation to a fourth grade music class. We taught the students about the instrument families – why they are families, what the instruments sound like, and how they all work together in the orchestra.

With two instrumentalists along, we were able to demonstrate instruments for the class. Rebecca played a movement from a Bach cello suite on her viola, and Corinne played the theme from Super Mario on her clarinet.

"It was really fun to play for the kids – their excitement and applause after we played was more than I expected." says Rebecca. All presenters agreed that it was inspiring to see such appreciation of Classical music from the students throughout our visit and presentation. It really made all the planning and scheduling worth it.

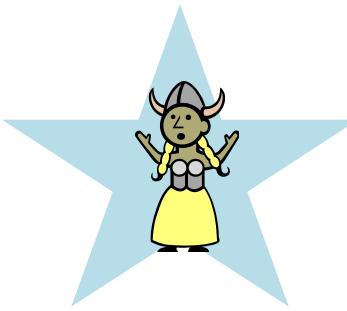
After just one visit, we are more excited than ever to continue our relationship with the Wilkinsburg School District. Ms. Clark is excited for us to come back to teach music classes and grade level assemblies. Carnegie Mellon's School of music has many resources and its students provide hundreds of recitals every year. We cannot wait to bring these resources to the Wilkinsburg School District to further the students' music education.



Rebecca talks about the string family to fourth graders at Kelly Elementary School.

NATS Winners include Alpha Mu Members

The NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) Competition was held on Saturday, October 30th at Westminster College. Congratulations to three of our sisters who placed in the competition!



Emily Burns
2nd place, Junior Women
Teacher: Richard Cowan

Loghan Bazan
1st place, Senior Women
Teacher: Laura Knoop Very

Elizabeth Kaufman
1st place, Junior Women
and
2nd place, Upper Division
Music Theatre Women
Teacher: Douglas Ahlstedt

Relay for Life

One of our highlights from last semester was our participation in Relay for Life, which took place on Carnegie Mellon's campus October 1st-2nd, 2010. Relay for Life is a fundraising event of the American Cancer Society. It is a 12-hour event in which at least one member from each team is always walking around the designated track.

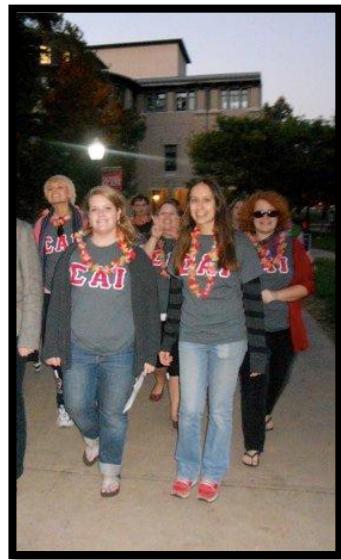
Jamie Burrows, a member of Alpha Mu, was on the board for Relay for Life. She suggested we start a team in honor of Lauren Eshbaugh, a vocal major initiated into Alpha Mu last spring. Lauren lost her battle with cancer in May, just one week after her initiation.

Alpha Mu's team for Relay for Life raised over \$3,000, making us the second top fundraising team. Our team, along with other student organizations from Carnegie Mellon University raised over \$34,000 for the American Cancer Society. Alpha Mu member Katie Blakely was the third top individual fundraiser.

Not only did we raise money for a good cause, but the event was a very special experience. We took time to think and reflect, and to laugh and celebrate. We are looking forward to participating in Relay for Life next fall.



Alpha Mu at
Relay for Life
2010



♥ Short Notes ♥

- ♥ Friday, December 3rd the Carnegie Mellon School of Music had their holiday concert. **Congratulations to soloists Gillian Hassert and Liz Kaufman** who sang with the CMU Philharmonic and Choir. Gillian Hassert sang *Chanukah Lights* by Marvin Hamlisch, and Liz Kaufman sang *Laudate Dominum* and *Magnificat* from *Solemn Vespers* by Mozart. Great job to the soloists and to all other members involved in the concert!
- ♥ **Global Heartstrings is now in Heinz Hall**, home of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra! Honorary member and principal cellist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Anne Martindale Williams put a box and an envelope to collect strings and materials from the symphony musicians.
- ♥ We had a great **official visit** with our province officer Rebecca Lingenfelter. It was a fun weekend, including an ice cream sundae and movie night!
- ♥ New member **Betty Anderson** played in her studio recital on Saturday, December 4th.
- ♥ **Gillian Hassert** sang in Scotch n' Soda Theatre's Third Annual Charity Cabaret on Thursday, December 2nd.
- ♥ **Christine Hedden danced** and **Kat Brandt choreographed** for Dancer Symposium's Fall 2010 show on December 4th and 5th.
- ♥ We are all excited for **Liz Cutrone's** return from her semester abroad in Paris - we miss her!

Alpha Mu

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Alpha Mu Executive Board

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VP Membership: Logan Bazan

VP Ritual: Claire Mitchell

Corresponding Secretary:
Fiona Ryder

Recording Secretary: Gillian Hassert

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Editor: Rebecca MacNamee

Sergeant-At-Arms: Katherine Russell

Katie Blakely - December 8th.

Christine Hedden – December 21st

Nina Mohan – January 2nd

Birthdays!



Corinne Vassallo – January 4th

Betty Anderson – January 12th

Emily Burns and Amelia Cessna – January 19th

Upcoming Events

Alpha Mu and CMU

December 6th – Come see Katie Blakely and other CMU students play Terry Riley's *In C*, conducted by Matt Zurcher, at 10pm in Kresge Theatre

December 10th, morning/afternoon – Cyert Meeting/Scrapbooking Event

January 2011 – Lecture by Honorary Member and Principal Cellist of the Pittsburgh Symphony, Anne Martindale Williams

January 30th – It's far away but get ready for Nicole Gasse's Graduate Voice Recital!

Pittsburgh Music

Monday December 13th - Empire Brass concert at CMH

January 29; Feb. 1, 4, 6 2011 – Pittsburgh Opera does Handel's *Rinaldo*

December 10-26th – Pittsburgh Ballet does *The Nutcracker*

December 11-12th – Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra does *The Nutcracker*

