

December 2010

# New from Alpha Mu



## In this Issue:

Wilkinsburg Visit	2
NATS Winners	2
Relay for Life	3
Short Notes	3
Upcoming Events	4
Birthdays	4



*This Newsletter is the newsletter of Alpha Mu, a chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity for Women.*

## First Issue of “New from Alpha Mu” Released

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 14<sup>th</sup>. On November 20<sup>th</sup> we initiated Betty Anderson, Amelia Cessna, Nicole Gasse, Christine Hedden, Stephanie Johnson, and Elizabeth Kaufman.



Alpha Mu, Fall 2010 Initiation

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

## 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

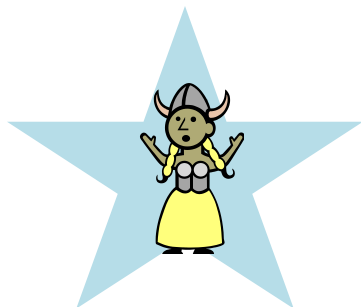
After just one visit, we are more excited than ever to continue our relationship with the Wilkinsburg School District. Ms. Clark is excited for us to come back to teach music classes and grade level assemblies. Carnegie Mellon's School of music has many resources and its students provide hundreds of 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 30<sup>th</sup> at Westminster College. Congratulations to three of our sisters who placed in the competition!



**Emily Burns**  
2<sup>nd</sup> place, Junior Women  
Teacher: Richard Cowan

**Loghan Bazan**  
1<sup>st</sup> place, Senior Women  
Teacher: Laura Knoop Very

**Elizabeth Kaufman**  
1<sup>st</sup> place, Junior Women  
and  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

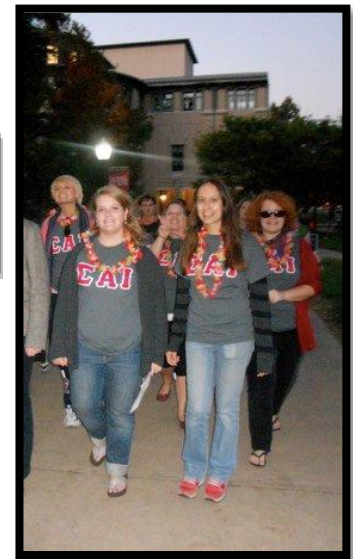
Jamie Burrows, a member of Alpha Mu, was on the board for Relay for Life. She suggested we start a team in honor of Lauren Eshbaugh, a vocal major initiated into Alpha Mu last spring. Lauren lost her battle with cancer in May, just one week after her initiation.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>.
- ♥ **Gillian Hassert** sang in Scotch n' Soda Theatre's Third Annual Charity Cabaret on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ♥ **Christine Hedden danced** and **Kat Brandt choreographed** for Dancer Symposium's Fall 2010 show on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ♥ 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**

**President:** Katherine Blakely

**VP Membership:** Logan Bazan

**VP Ritual:** Claire Mitchell

**Corresponding Secretary:** Fiona Ryder

**Recording Secretary:** Gillian Hassert

**Treasurer:** Meredith Lusardi

**Editor:** Rebecca MacNamee

**Sergeant-At-Arms:** Katherine Russell

**Birthdays!**

Katie Blakely - December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Christine Hedden – December 21<sup>st</sup>

Nina Mohan – January 2<sup>nd</sup>



Corinne Vassallo – January 4<sup>th</sup>

Betty Anderson – January 12<sup>th</sup>

Emily Burns and Amelia Cessna – January 19<sup>th</sup>

**Upcoming Events**

**Alpha Mu and CMU**

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

**December 10<sup>th</sup>, morning/afternoon** – Cyert Meeting/Scrapbooking Event

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

**January 30<sup>th</sup>** – It’s far away but get ready for Nicole Gasse’s Graduate Voice Recital!

**Pittsburgh Music**

**Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>** - Empire Brass concert at CMH

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

**December 10-26<sup>th</sup>** – Pittsburgh Ballet does *The Nutcracker*

**December 11-12<sup>th</sup>** – Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra does *The Nutcracker*



We made it through the semester – now it’s time to relax and eat good food.

Happy holidays everybody!