Mr. Beaux Arts

Alpha Mu was thrilled with the success of our first annual College of Fine Arts male pageant, Mr. Beaux Arts. The idea came from one of the Alpha Mu sisters during a fundraising brainstorm, and was inspired after CMU’s “Mr. Fraternity”.

The event took place on April 23rd in Kresge Theater in the College of Fine Arts. Contestants were pulled from all areas of the College of Fine Arts and competed for the title of Mr. Beaux Arts 2011.

There were five contestants in all—art majors Casey Li Brander and Jimmy Krahe, design major Tim Napoli, drama major Luka Glinsky, and music major Sean Pack.

The contestants were judged in the categories of formalwear, talent (outside of their respective major), “wow-wear”, and interview. The contestants with the top three scores in those categories were then given the opportunity to “beg” the audience for money. The winner was based on who collected the most money from the audience, and all collections went to SAI Philanthropies.

Overall, the audience contributed over $120 for SAI Philanthropies. Design major Tim Napoli raised the most as an individual—$80—and became Mr. Beaux Arts 2011.

Nobody was sure what to expect from the event, but everybody was definitely happy with the outcome. Not only did we raise money for a good cause, but it was a fun event that brought together College of Fine Arts students. Jamie Burrows, head of the Mr. Beaux Arts committee, summed up the experience saying that “All the contestants were hilarious and the audience had a really great time, which should really help us get an even bigger turnout next year!”

Note from the Editor

It is really remarkable how much there is to report on Alpha Mu’s accomplishments for the semester. Not only are we active as a chapter, but also as individuals—Alpha Mu members are involved in so many other activities (and are also full time students!). It shows great dedication to SAI and other organizations when we take time out of our day for extracurricular activities.

Mr. Beaux Arts was a very exciting event for us this semester. Alpha Mu took a risk, putting on an event that had never been done before and advertising it to the entire College of Fine Arts. We had no idea how it would be received. Would anybody show up? Would we even get any donations? Of course, its success went beyond our expectations and showed what our chapter can do.

I am so proud to be a part of such a sweet and strong group of girls, and I am already excited for next year’s projects. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and that you see how hard we have worked this semester!

- Rebecca MacNamee, Editor
Doubled Membership!

One of the most exciting accomplishments of the chapter this year was doubling our membership. Next fall we will start with 26 active members! Congratulations to new members Kathleen Bates, Francesca Bonadonna, Martina Caruso, Kahli Dalbow, Bryn Loeffler, and Kati Richer—we are excited to have you as sisters!

Sister Abroad

Three months in Paris probably did more for my personal growth than twenty-one years of real life. Because really, anything you can do in France, in front of Parisians, in your second language, which you haven’t studied since high school, seems a lot easier once you get back home. You get very used to sounding stupid, which is actually kind of liberating.

Of course there are tons of things to love about the city itself. Besides the big-ticket attractions, there’s basically something historic around every corner. My favorite way to spend an afternoon was to get off the Metro somewhere and then just get lost. Which is easy, since all the roads are old and winding and none of them meet at right angles. Even the locals carry maps.

Some of my other favorite memories include stalking Anna Wintour during Paris Fashion week (they wouldn’t let me into any of the shows, but I did get a picture of the back of her head outside Zac Posen…); the first time I successfully dined out by myself; a few memorable evenings at the Theatre des Champs-Elysees (not to name-drop, but the Vienna Philharmonic dropped by and I heard them play all of the Beethoven symphonies over four nights and they were so good I cried). I also got to celebrate my birthday with a river-side picnic with some American friends.

Believe it or not, I also took a few classes last semester. They were taught in French but at a level meant for international students. I lived with another American student (also named Elizabeth) and our host-mom (also named Elizabeth, seriously), who cooked great dinners for us every night and gave us a lot of practice speaking French.

I still wouldn’t say I’m a fluent speaker, but I’d feel very comfortable going back. I have grad school plans in New York for the next several years, but would love to consider a job or a post-doctoral position back in Paris if I had the chance.

-Elizabeth Cutrone

Fun Fact!
Since its re-founding in February 2006, our Alpha Mu chapter has initiated 65 women into the fraternity!
This semester, Alpha Mu was able to finally begin on a long-awaited project. With the help of Sandy Shelley, the SAI Pittsburgh Alumnae Chapter President, we started an outreach program with the Cyert Children's Center on Carnegie Mellon's campus. Sandy works there as an educator with the children, who are all between 2 and 3 years old, and was instrumental in making this partnership happen.

A small group of our sisters were able to plan presentations for the children in Sandy’s classroom, with the dual purpose of having fun and getting the children excited about music. Through songs, dance, basic eurhythmics, and instrumental performances by sisters, we brought music to the children in an interactive manner that was fun and educational for all involved.

Our primary mission through visiting the Cyert Daycare Center was simply to introduce basic music lessons to children. Through these interactive lesson plans and musical games, we wanted to encourage music as a communicative, collaborative activity while also exploring our own roles in music education and outreach.

Amelia Cessna, one of the sisters who attended, told us how exciting it was to work with them: “We tried to foresee different scenarios when working with such young children. At our first visit, we were surprised to find out that the children were more engaged, aware, and excited to learn through music then we were expecting.” Two of our sisters who are instrumentalists brought along their instruments: the presence of these created quite a stir among the children! They were all thrilled to learn and hear music. Sometimes they were a little too excited, which created quite a distraction in the classroom. But the second visit went much more smoothly, because everyone involved was more familiar and comfortable.

While it is sometimes difficult to stick to a strict lesson plan with such young children, the initial lesson plan was to teach the children about programmatic music. Once again Amelia describes the experience as thrilling: “we played The Ride of The Valkyries and multiple kids could hear the stampede of horses we described to them that the music was trying to depict. We used other excerpts to talk about music and emotion, and the “happier” pieces were definitely a hit.”

Katie Blakely, our chapter’s former president and the chair of the Cyert Committee, in discussing Cyert, stated: “This is a long-term project that we intend to continue for many years. I cannot wait to see how it grows!” For now, only three of our sisters, Elizabeth Kaufmann, soprano, Amelia Cessna, oboe, and Katherine Blakely, trombone, visit the center, but we will be integrating other sisters and hopefully establishing a rotation that will enable many more sisters to be able to visit, interact with, and share with these children. We hope that these children are now more aware of basic music theory, different musical genres, and music as a career choice.

-Ashlin Dowling

The Cyert Center For Early Education

AND PROGRAM FOR COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Donate for Relay

Support Alpha Mu’s team at Relay for Life this year! Last year Alpha Mu formed a team in honor of Lauren Eshbaugh, an Alpha Mu sister who lost her battle to cancer in May of 2010. Our team raised $3,226 for the American Cancer Society. We are excited to support this great cause again this fall!

To donate go to www.relayforlife.org/pacmu. Click on “Donate”, “Donate to a Team”, and search for the team “Sigma Alpha Iota”.

GoodSearch for SAI

Did you know you could support Sigma Alpha Iota every time you search on the internet? Go to www.goodsearch.com and select “Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies (Asheville, NC)” as ‘who you GoodSearch for’.

Fifty percent of the revenue generated from the sponsored search advertisers is shared with Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies!
Global Heartstrings Donation

Thanks to donations collected from the Carnegie Mellon School of Music, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and the String Workshop in Southside, Alpha Mu was able to donate over 350 items to Global Heartstrings this May!

Global Heartstrings supports Classical musicians in developing countries who cannot afford basic supplies for their instruments. Their instruments often become unplayable due to lack of maintenance. Global Heartstrings is dedicated to supporting these musicians, and collects old strings and instrument accessories to distribute to those who cannot buy them new. Currently, Global Heartstrings is sending materials to Haiti, Kenya, Ghana, and Nigeria.

In the future, Global Heartstrings would like to sponsor residencies for teachers from America, and provide scholarships for musicians to study performance, pedagogy, and instrument repair in the United States.

Items we received this year (pictured; top, right) included violin, viola, cello, and bass strings, music books, a shoulder rest, tailpieces, bridges, tuners, a metronome, a chinrest, a rockstop, rosins, sound posts, trombone mouthpieces, a practice mute, fine tuners, and many other items.

Thank you so much to everybody who put items in our folders and boxes! A special thanks to Anne Martindale Williams, an Honorary Member of SAI as well as the Principal Cellist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Her efforts made it possible for us to collect from other Pittsburgh Symphony members in Heinz Hall. We would also like to thank Craig Schaeffer, owner of The String Workshop in Southside, who made a considerable contribution and was very excited about donating to the cause.

We are very happy to be able to send so many items, and looking forward to continued collections!

Follow us online!

Checkout our Facebook and Twitter pages, to get updates, hear about events, and see photos.

Join the Facebook group “Sigma Alpha Iota—Alpha Mu Chapter” and follow “SAIAlphaMu” on Twitter.

Campus SuperStar

Alpha Mu sister Gillian Hassert was named Campus SuperStar on April 3rd at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland. The competition was modeled after American Idol, and results were based on audience votes. Campus SuperStar is sponsored by the Edward and Rose Berman Hillel Jewish University Center.

Out of 150 total contestants, Gillian won the $5,000 first prize singing Barbara Streisand’s “Down with Love”. Congratulations Gillian!
Awards and Honors

Jamie Burrows received the Lauren Eshbaugh Memorial Award.

Katherine Blakely and Rebecca MacNamee were awarded with Sigma Alpha Iota’s Sword of Honor.

Elizabeth Kaufman received the Judith Resnik Memorial Scholarship.

Loghan Bazan received the Sigma Alpha Iota Collegiate Honor Award and the Sigma Alpha Iota Scholastic Award.

Claire Mitchell received the Charlotte Black Memorial Scholarship in Voice.

Gillian Hassert and Fiona Ryder received the Derdeyn Awards in Voice, and were also initiated into Pi Kappa Lambda, an honorary music fraternity.

Corinna Vassallo was awarded $3,500 for a SURF grant (Small Undergraduate Research Fellowship). She will be exploring optical orbit determination. Ultimately, she would like to determine the orbit of a lunar lander based on images received from a digital camera.

Summer

Katherine Russell will be attending ARIA International Summer Academy at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts.

Ashlinn Dowling will be attending the CCM Spoleto summer festival in Spoleto, Italy.

Betty Anderson will be an intern with the Education Department at the North Carolina Symphony.

Rebecca MacNamee will be an intern with the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society.

Jamie Burrows will be a camp counselor for the Oh My Glee! summer music theater camp in Tucson, as well as attend the Lyrique-en-Mer Opera Festival in Belle-Ile-en-Mer, France.

Gillian Hassert will be performing this summer with CLOC (College Light Opera Company), in Falmouth, Cape Cod.

Loghan Bazan will be performing the role of Cherubino in The Marriage of Figaro with Undercroft Opera.

Short Notes

Performances

Congratulations to those who gave recitals this semester—Katherine Russell, Elizabeth Kaufman, Jamie Burrows, Ashley Williams, Katherine Blakely, Rebecca MacNamee, Loghan Bazan, Claire Mitchell, Katherine Brandt, Emily Burns, Gillian Hassert, Fiona Ryder, Christine Hedden, Nicole Gasse, and Betty Anderson.

SAI members also performed in over 30 large ensemble concerts including Orchestra, Choir, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Opera, Baroque Ensemble, and the Jazz Vocal Ensemble. A special recognition goes to chorus soloists Loghan Bazan in Copland’s “The Golden Willow Tree”, and soprano Ashlinn Dowling in Fauré’s Requiem.

Alpha Mu graduate Melissa Johnson (’10) performed Poulenc’s Dialogues of the Carmelites with the Pittsburgh Opera.

Christine Hedden, Loghan Bazan, and Gillian Hassert were all part of Scotch n Soda’s spring carnival show, Cabaret.

Loghan Bazan, Katherine Brandt, and Christine Hedden danced and choreographed for Dancer’s Symposium.

Jamie Burrows performed with the Pittsburgh Pops as a member of the All-Star College Chorus under Marvin Hamlisch.

Loghan Bazan and Gillian Hassert were part of “Zombie College Musical”, a web series started by Carnegie Mellon students.
About Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity

Sigma Alpha Iota was founded in Ann Arbor Michigan in 1903 at the University School of Music. The Mission of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity is to encourage, nurture and support the art of music.

Sigma Alpha Iota promotes interaction among those who share a commitment to music. Members of SAI are active in all areas of campus music and campus life, working closely with faculty, administration, campus and community groups, music professionals and patrons. In addition to personal encouragement and support, members may receive scholarships, loans and awards in many areas and at all levels of music-related study. Sigma Alpha Iota has long been recognized as a leader in the field of music and provides a lifetime of fraternity contact.

The Alpha Mu Chapter at Carnegie Mellon was installed May 16th, 1930, and reinstalled February 12th, 2006. Alpha Mu currently has twenty-six members.

For more information about Sigma Alpha Iota visit: www.sai-national.org

Good-bye Seniors

Our seniors have been outstanding members of the chapter, serving as officers and receiving honors. We will miss them all, and wish them the best next year!

Pictured above: Loghan Bazan (Sword of Honor, SAI Collegiate Honor Award, SAI Scholastic Award), Meredith Lusardi, Elizabeth Cutrone (Sword of Honor), and Amanda Dinsmore.