

Chapter Milestones

Ann Arbor Alumni

One Hundred Years of Music, Influence, and Involvement

By Deborah Rebeck Ash, *Gamma Omicron, Ann Arbor Alumni*



The **Ann Arbor Alumni** chapter held two anniversary events in 2013: an April 9 public concert “Music with Ann Arbor Connections: Celebrating 100 Years” and a Gala Luncheon on September 22, the same date as the original chapter installation. The public concert featured music by eleven Michigan composers including eight chapter members.

Heather Huber (*Epsilon Lambda*), **Laurel Federbush** (*Gamma*), and **Gail Jennings** (*Gamma*) performed their own compositions. Also on the program were *Riding Past Grief*, a song cycle set to poems written by chapter president **Deborah Rebeck Ash**, and unique transcriptions for handbells and flute choir. A chapter choir (pictured, top) also performed.



Deborah Ash, Rosemary Ames, Nancy Murphy

chapter members and a stunning centerfold timeline of notable chapter events. Much chapter memorabilia was on display, including a 1940 Cincinnati convention program book autographed by fraternity founders Dr. Winthrop Sterling and Elizabeth Mathias Fuqua.

The chapter has a rich history of community participation through yearly public concerts for area retirement centers and hospitals, and of support for Mu Phi collegiates through scholarship awards. It looks forward to a second century of service through music. Commemorative/concert programs are online at muphiepsilon.org/annarbor.

The luncheon attracted over eighty people. To emphasize the chapter’s connections in the community, honored attendees included representatives from area universities, musical societies, and performing ensembles. International President **Rosemary Ames** also attended as did Pulitzer Prize-winning composer William Bolcom and wife Joan Morris, who as a duo performed music from 1913, and the chapter’s immediate past president **Nancy Murphy** (*Gamma*), who gave a presentation about the group’s history. A commemorative program book honored the chapter’s fifty-year members, with thoughts from many



Seven chapter presidents attended the Gala Luncheon. Seated: Carolyn Austin (l), Chloris Patrick. Standing (l-r): Sue Owen Bissiri, Karen Madsen, Michele Derr, Nancy Murphy, Deborah Rebeck Ash.