

Volume 103, Issue 2 Summer 2009

THE TRIANGLE

of MU PHI EPSILON

Summertime
And the Mu Phis Are Busy



Volume 103, Issue 2
Summer 2009

IN THIS ISSUE: CHAPTER MILESTONES

President's Message



*Over his keys the musing organist,
Beginning doubtfully and far away,
First lets his fingers wander as they list,
And build a bridge from
Dreamland for his lay ...
And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days.
Then Heaven tries earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays.*

The theme of summertime brings thoughts of this famous poem by James R. Lowell. For musicians, the first phrase of George Gershwin's stunning song *Summertime* elicits a sigh of pleasure. We relax with the welcome change of routine, thoughts of that rare day in June, and the "easy livin'." While Mu Phi members are indeed busy – collegiates with summer jobs and music camps, alumni with teaching or taking workshops to increase their skills – I hope that you will all partake of the season's beauty. Most of all, spread the word about the pleasures of music. You are the living examples of how music affects our world and why our profession is important.

Music, Friendship and Harmony will always be the guide.
Best wishes for a beautiful Summer.

With Mu Phi Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frances Irwin".

Frances Irwin, Ed.D.
International President

Fraternity Mission Statement

Mu Phi Epsilon International Professional Music Fraternity is a coeducational fraternity whose aim is the advancement of music in the community, nation and world through the promotion of musicianship, scholarship, and music education, with emphasis on service through music.

EDITOR

Melissa Eddy
editor@muphiepsilon.org

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Corinne Lattimer
thetriangle@muphiepsilon.org

ADVERTISING

Jan Scott, 314/997-6262
advertising@muphiepsilon.org

CONTRIBUTORS

ACME Carolyn Hoover
BOOKSHELF Rona Commins
FINAL NOTES Wynona Lipsett
INTERNATIONAL CORNER Keith Ford
INTERVIEWS Marcus Wyche
UPON LISTENING Sherry Kloss

Send all material for publication to:

Melissa Eddy, editor@muphiepsilon.org
Fax 325/388-0914 or by mail to:
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Mu Phi Epsilon
International Executive Office
4705 N. Sonora Avenue, Suite 114
Fresno, CA 93722-3947
toll free: 888/259-1471
fax: 559/277-2825
email: executiveoffice@muphiepsilon.org

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CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES

Lambda Celebrates 100 Years

On April 4, Lambda chapter celebrated one hundred years since its founding at the Ithaca Conservatory of Music in 1909. Although the Conservatory is now known as Ithaca College, the zeal of the Lambda chapter members has been a constant in this unique New York area. The Centennial Weekend included a meet-and-greet for traveling alumni and a formal recital by the current members, and concluded with an on-campus reception led by Lambda president **William Gunn**. The reception featured speeches by Dr. **Gregory Woodward**, Dean of the School of Music, as well as EGL1 District Director **Signe Zale** and International President Dr. **Frances Irwin**.

A Mu Phi Epsilon celebration would not have been complete without musical performances, and Lambda chapter provided its audience with a wide array of musical styles.

At Lambda's founding, the new initiates performed as a women's chorus. One hundred years later, the sisters of Lambda performed two choral arrangements under the direction of senior member **Melanie Wade**. Another senior member, **Justin Falvo**, conducted a chamber wind ensemble almost solely comprised of Lambda members. The audience also enjoyed some jazz standards performed by sophomore member **Michaela Bushey** and senior member **Ben Russo**, as well as selections from Lambda's own finalists in the Ithaca College Concerto Competition, **Adrienne Fedorchuk** and **Melanie Wade**. At the reception, Lambda proudly inducted **Robert Zale** as a patron.



Standing (l-r): International President Fran Irwin, Lambda vice president Laurel Stinson, treasurer Adrienne Fedorchuk, president Will Gunn, and EGL1 District Director Signe Zale. Kneeling: Lambda recording secretary Rachel Walker and corresponding secretary Anthony Coppola.



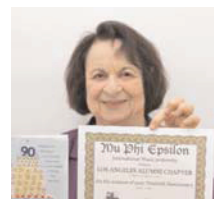
merged with Los Angeles within the last ten years. A congratulatory letter from International President **Fran Irwin** was read and a beautiful certificate from the Fraternity was shown, then given to **Marcia Weiss** (pictured right) for the chapter's scrapbook. Co-president **Deon Nielsen Price** read the names of all deceased past chapter presidents, after which former chapter president and international president **Marian Davidson** accompanied singing of the Mu Phi Epsilon song and Chorister **Spaffy Hull** led a special rendition of "Happy Birthday to Us." A pot luck lunch and celebratory cake concluded the occasion.

St. Louis Alumni Enjoy 95 Years

The St. Louis Alumni chapter held a gala luncheon on April 24 to celebrate its 95th year. Following the meal, some chapter members (pictured left) went to a fabulous display of musical instruments at the Sheldon Galleries.

Los Angeles Alumni Mark 90 Years

On March 20, 1919, beloved chapter founder Charlotte Andrus Brown held the first meeting of the Los Angeles Alumni. Ninety years later on March 20, 2009, the chapter marked the occasion. Co-president **Marie Brown Curea** acknowledged the anniversary and explained that the San Fernando chapter



Atlanta Alumni Celebrate 50 Years

Atlanta Alumni president **Julia Torbert** reports that the chapter gathered on May 30th for a gala celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. A musical program was presented by former Atlanta Alumni Chapter scholarship winners **Margie Deer** (*Atlanta Alumni*), **You Ju Lee** (*Atlanta Alumni*), **Ashley Riley Whelchel** (*Mu*), **Rebekah Healan Jones** (*Gamma Pi*), and Portia Hawkins (*Atlanta Alumni*). All former presidents were honored, eight of whom were in attendance including **Bette Chambless**, who has served four terms. Three chapter members who have served as international officers were also recognized, along with the chapter's patrons and its six ACME members.



Front (l-r): Bette Chambless, Portia Hawkins, Margie Deer, You Ju Lee, Jane Murray, LaNelle Nash, Jo Ann Haden-Miller. Back: Kurt-Alexander Zeller, Jean Astrop, Susan Folger O'Leary, Arietha Lockhart, Julia Torbert, Marilyn Dietrichs. Not pictured but in attendance was Ruth Allen, the chapter's only surviving charter member.

Applause & Encore

The Triangle welcomes news about members' and chapters' activities and accomplishments, to be considered for inclusion in "Applause & Encore." We also appreciate photos (color, high resolution) to go with your item. Electronic transmittal is preferred; email to editor@muphiepsilon.org. Hard copy and photo prints are acceptable; send to Triangle Editor, P.O. Box 10042, Austin, Texas 78766.

Applause news from members

Ann Clark (*Omega*) is presently based in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where she and husband Craig teach English and music at The Royal Prince's College. She writes that there is desperate need for a small, used pipe organ at the school, because there is only one such instrument in all of Thailand, and that's in Bangkok. If an organ can be obtained, they will also need an organist to serve a residency in Chiang Mai to help set up the instrument and train Thai musicians to play it. *Triangle* readers who know of an available, low-priced pipe organ and/or an adventurous organ teacher are invited to contact Ann at cacbeth@yahoo.com.

After winning the *San José Alumni Chapter's* annual competition, appearing in two operas at San José State (see *Phi Mu* item in "Encore," below), and graduating, soprano **Katie Dukes** (*Phi Mu*) is spending the summer in Novafeltria, Italy, as a participant in the Musica Lirica young artist program. Upon her return she will begin graduate study at the University of Northern Colorado.

Arts administrator **Melissa Eddy** (*Mu Theta, Austin Alumni, International Editor*) has been appointed interim managing director of Austin-based choral organization Conspirare, for which she has worked as development manager since July 2008. She is serving over the summer until a new permanent executive director is named. Conspirare (www.conspirare.org) includes a four-time Grammy®-nominated professional chamber choir, a symphonic choir (with which Melissa sings), and two children's ensembles.

Pianist **Keith Ford** (*Alpha Kappa, Allied, International Committee Chair*) has been working with colleague Attab Haddad to compose new works for piano and oud (a Middle Eastern stringed instrument, predecessor to the Western lute). They gave a concert of the new pieces, as well as music by J.S. Bach, Somei Satoh, Olivier Messiaen, Munir Bashir, and others, on June 5 in London

Soprano **Linda Jackson** (*Mu Nu, Los Angeles Alumni*) has established the Los Angeles Metropolitan Opera Company and mounted its premiere production of *La Boheme*. According to an article in the *Palisadian-Post* about Linda and the new company, Jackson "moves seamlessly from popular music and gospel to classical and opera." Devoted to grand opera and dreaming of

her own company, she took a leap of faith, set a date, and found a venue right in her home church, which had just remodeled its all-purpose hall, adding a five-foot thrust apron to the raised stage, upgraded lighting, and a state-of-the-art sound system. The debut production ran for two performances in late May. Oh yes, Linda also sang the lead role of Mimi.

See http://www.palisadespost.com/content/index.cfm?Story_ID=4866 for the whole story.

Pianist **Lei Weng** (*Alpha Alpha, Allied*), a finalist in the 2007 Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition, performed several exciting programs earlier this year in Greeley, Colorado, where he is on the faculty of the University of Northern Colorado. In February he played in the world premiere of the reconstructed Mendelssohn/Moscheles Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra. After more local concerts in March and April, he embarked on a tour of several cities in Taiwan.

Encore news from chapters

Ann Arbor Alumni presented a public concert on April 14 entitled "Germans in Ann Arbor – Music and History." Many alumni members performed, including organists **Barbara Foster**, **Gail Jennings**, and **Alan Knight**, and members of the chamber orchestra **Dora Reader**, clarinet, **Deborah Ash**, flute, **Barbara Foster**, **Martha Froseth**, and **Gail Jennings**, violin, along with **Karen Madsen**, organ, **Lori Gould**, soprano, **Joan Starkey**, conductor. Announcer was **Michelle Derr**. The audience of almost 130 enjoyed works by Pachelbel, J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Schroeder, and Luther. As part of the event, the annual Ann Arbor Awards were presented to organist **Andrew Meagher** (*Gamma*), who also performed, and trombonist **John Gonthier** (*Epsilon Lambda*).

In late January, **Delta Rho** at the University of Colorado at Boulder hosted cellist **Ruslan Biryukov** (2007 International Competition winner) and pianist **Mary Au**. The duo played a well-attended concert at the College of Music, followed by a reception hosted by the **Denver Alumni** chapter. Delta Rho members collected donations for the chapter at the free concert, inviting the highest donors to attend a private concert by Biryukov and Au the next day. In addition, Biryukov gave a master class.

- Submitted by Amanda Setlik, Delta Rho president.

The **Kansas City Alumni** chapter's spring service project was hosting post-recital receptions for *Alpha Kappa* members at University of Missouri-Kansas City. Several are international students who had no family in attendance at their performances, and KC Alumni wanted to provide hospitality that would create some recital after-glow. **Dorothy Brandwein** (*Gamma*) noted in the chapter newsletter that she remembered "the delicious treats provided by the *Ann Arbor Alumni* when I was a student at the University of Michigan, and how impressed I was that total strangers would do this for the collegiates. Well, the fact is, none of us are total strangers, because we have chosen to make Mu Phi Epsilon our home."

Topping off gripping melodrama with frothy social satire, the San Jose State University Opera Theater presented Giacomo Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and Mona Lyn Reese's *The Three Fat Women of Antibes* in May. Many **Phi Mu** members performed in the productions: singers **Katie Dukes, Michelle Hennessy, Yumi Mor, Melissa Rukstalis,** and **Nathalie Reginster** (who also was stage manager), and instrumentalists **Mike Walker** and **Chris Brown**.

Phi Tau at University of North Texas recently received kudos from Darhyl Ramsey, UNT music faculty member and past national president of Phi Mu Alpha. He wrote, "I appreciate the Mu Phi Epsilon chapter at UNT for its help with my Start Up the Band program. The program is designed to provide instruments and instruction for fifth graders who are from economically challenged schools in the Denton area. [Phi Tau members] volunteered to be some of my helpers on Saturday mornings. They sat in with the youngsters and took small groups out when they hit a snag in their learning. While I have several lead teachers, the program is greatly enhanced by the work of the Mu Phi volunteers."



CONCERT REVIEW

The Tiger is Awake

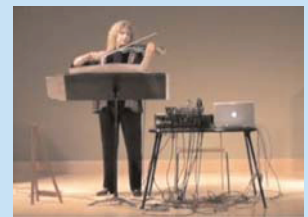
By Deon Nielsen Price, *Gamma*,
Los Angeles Alumni (Co-President), ACME

"The Tiger is Awake," a concert of music and poetry written and performed by electric violinist/composer/poet **Mary Lou Newmark** (*Mu Chi, Los Angeles Alumni, ACME*), lived up to my expectations of innovation, creativity, and artistry that genuinely move audiences. Sponsored by the Los Angeles Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, the concert was February 8, 2009.

The first two selections, "Prayer" and "Meditation," extol enhanced but traditional harmonies, two-part counterpoint, and electronic echo effects. They were played warmly by Ms. Newmark on her green, spectacularly glowing electric violin.

Next was the world premiere of *Bed, Bath and Beyond Suite*, a satire with foreboding themes of speed, consumerism, and environmental destruction. The rhythms and motives of the first movement, "New American Creed," based on clever word phrases, end in a climactic, humorous fugue. The second, "Black Friday at Walmart, An Elegy" features poignant, electronically extended, overlapping sounds. Finally, in "The Bed, Bath and Beyond Experience," Ms. Newmark spoke live while she sat at a console and electronically manipulated repetitive poetic phrases. Highly rhythmic, with percussive sounds that express an overwhelming shopping jaunt, the movement ends, "The Bed, Bath and Beyond experience ... just thinking about it gives me a headache!"

Another stunning world premiere was *The Tiger is Awake*. The first movement, "Restless Tiger," comes alive with electronic noise and roaring sounds, with recorded poetry. "Awake, Alert, Alive" features live poetry with electronic manipulation of vocal sounds, clarinet, and wooden flute, ending with the words, "Listen to the light." The third movement, "Ready to Run," features the electric violin in motives based on circular motion and the words "East, south, west, north."



See *The Tiger is Awake* performed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ACfm2Lzark>. The concert concluded with *Three from 3 on the Green*. It featured virtuosic playing on the electric violin, beginning with an attention-getting fast tremolo on the low C string.

Mary Lou Newmark's multimedia art is creative and sophisticated in many dimensions: music composition, virtuosity on the instrument(s), manipulation of computerized sounds, and poetry. She brings these together in works that speak to the social concerns of our society.

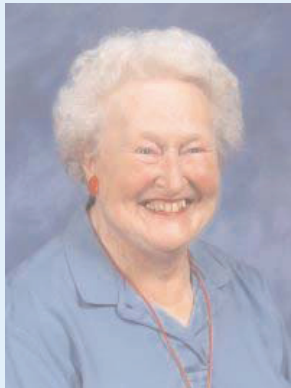
Reviewer Deon Nielsen Price, DMA, is a composer, pianist, and author.

Final Notes

Wynona Wieting Lipsett, *Mu Chi*, Immediate Past President

148 LCR Cedar B-1, Mexia, TX, 76667 phone: 254/562-9397 email: wyndon@nctv.com

Members Remembered



Virginia Ruth Hoogenakker

Epsilon Gamma, April 9, 1948; *Jackson Alumni Chapter*
National Fifth Vice President/Eligibility Advisor, 1962-68
Died March 3, 2009

Violinist, singer, organist, music educator. Virginia was a charter member of the Jackson (Mississippi) Symphony Orchestra and its principal second violin. She also performed with the Jackson Opera Guild Orchestra and was a member of the Jackson Symphony Association Board of Governors and the Jackson Opera Guild Board. As a church musician, she served her church as organist and choir director. Also a vocalist, she sang in the Art Choir for the 1960 season at Chautauqua, NY. She held life memberships in the American String Teachers Association and the Choristers Guild. A longtime faculty member at Belhaven College in Jackson, she taught violin and music theory and served as chair

of the music department. She also served as president of the Belhaven Faculty Club and the Jackson Music Teachers Association. She was honored by Belhaven as the 1963 Alumnus of the Year and later with an honorary doctorate of music. Virginia's leadership abilities were well used in *Mu Phi Epsilon*. Initiated into *Epsilon Gamma* at Belhaven (just a year after it was installed, the first MPE collegiate chapter in Mississippi), "Hogie" served for many years as its faculty advisor. She then was elected to several terms as National Fifth Vice President/Eligibility Advisor. More recently, she was an adviser to *Delta Nu* before its 1998 installation at Millsaps College. She will be remembered for her smile, vivacious and bubbly personality, and true love of music.



Genevieve Davisson Fritter-Bieber

Phi Omicron, June 17, 1945; *Washington D.C. Alumni, ACME*
Died March 18, 2009

Composer, educator, violinist. While teaching public school music in Alabama, Genevieve appeared as soloist with the Birmingham Symphony after winning a state young artists' contest, and later joined the orchestra's first violin section. Later she was concertmaster for the National Ballet Orchestra. Her career as a violinist included many solo recitals, chamber music programs, and orchestral concerts. Later she began to follow her interest in composition. From 1960 to 1980 she was music director and composer-in-residence of the Montgomery Ballet Company and wrote six full-length ballets based on traditional children's stories. She also composed vocal, chamber, and orchestral music; her *Theme and Variations for String Orchestra* was performed at the Kennedy Center in the 1976 D.C.

Bicentennial Concert. An ACME honoree, Genevieve is listed in the MPE Composers and Authors publications and performed at the 1970 convention. One of Genevieve's daughters, flutist Priscilla Fritter Peterson (*Phi Psi*), is a former president of the Washington D.C. Alumni.

Gail Fuller Andrews

Phi Upsilon, April 29, 1963
Dayton Alumni
Died April 6, 2009

Singer. A performer for weddings and other events, she also was a Mary Kay sales director.

Eileen Antoinette Coggin Daniels Britton

Mu Eta, January 7, 1937
Died January 19, 2008

Organist, music teacher. Eileen concertized in the U.S., Europe, and Australia; a career highlight was a 1970 solo appearance with Arthur Fiedler and the San Francisco Pops. She specialized in the organ music

of Johannes Brahms, giving many performances and master classes. An Associate of the American Guild of Organists, she twice served as Dean of the San Francisco AGO chapter. Eileen and her husband taught full-time in their home studio, complete with a full pipe organ, two other organs, and three pianos.



Vera Scammon Broughton

Epsilon Omicron, May 13, 1962
Died March 12, 2008

Singer, music educator. Vera toured with the National Opera Company of North Carolina, the New York City Opera Company, and the Boris Goldovsky Opera Theatre, and was soloist with the Belles of Indiana. She was a professor of voice at Indiana University, where many of her students went on to win competitions and opera roles around the world.

Flora Ann Bunker

Mu Delta, February 9, 1937
Died January 22, 2009
Violinist and educator.

Frances K. Freudenberg Carlsten

Omega, November 10, 1943
Died February 4, 2007
Pianist. Frances taught at the Drake University Community School of Music.

Ethel Vinson Croft

Phi Nu, April 12, 1938
Phoenix Area Alumni
Died May 1, 2009
Educator and librarian.



Mary Helen Parker Hale

Epsilon Psi, October 30, 1963; *ACME*
Died October 12, 2007

Music educator, administrator. Mary taught high school music and was past director of the Anchorage Community Chorus, founder of the Alaska Festival of Music, and a charter member of the Alaska State Council of the Arts. She later worked as an administrator at Anchorage Community College and University of Alaska, where she founded and directed a popular arts fair. She was nominated several times as Alaskan of the Year and received an honorary doctorate of

fine arts from the University of Alaska in recognition of her service to the arts.

Ruth M. Burest Heinen

Mu Upsilon, May 17, 1943
Greater Minneapolis Area Evening Alumni

Died June 14, 2007
Organist and piano teacher.

Marjorie H. Woebel Lantz

Sigma, April 7, 1953
Greater Chicago Area Alumni
Died April 18, 2009

Pianist. A private piano instructor, Marge was accompanist for several area vocal groups.

Karen Eleanor Lippmann

Lambda, April 14, 1990
Died April 19, 1994

Cellist. She was preparing her master's recital at Boston University.

Martha Murray McFarland

Epsilon, May 5, 1968
Toledo Alumni

Died October 29, 2008
Keyboard artist. Martha was a piano teacher, church organist and choir director, and active in the Monday Musicale.

Dolores Young Owen

Mu Beta, April 18, 1945
Died August 28, 2008
Orchestral musician. She played in the Oregon symphony and worked as a medical secretary.

Helen Van Dyke Price

Xi, April 16, 1941
Palo Alto Alumni
Died December 21, 2008
Oboist, organist. Helen taught public school music and math and served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps during World War II, where she played oboe in the Concert Band and organ as the chaplain's assistant. She played in orchestras in Cedar Rapids, San Fernando Valley, and Peninsula

(CA). She served *Palo Alto Alumni* in many capacities, including president, and had also been affiliated with the *Cedar Rapids*, *San Francisco* and *San Jose* alumni chapters. She was a District Director(1969-1974) in the Pacific Northwest Province.



June Brown Tighe

Mu Chi, February 14, 1944
Dallas Alumni
Died May 3, 2009
Pianist, music

teacher. Granddaughter of a co-founder of Southern Methodist University, from which she received her music degrees, June taught individual lessons in Dallas public schools, SMU, and her home.



Wanda Helen Harasimowicz Wilk

Phi Kappa, June 7, 1942
Los Angeles Alumni
Died February 18, 2009

Pianist, musicologist, philanthropist. A concert pianist, Wanda was a devoted champion of Polish classical music. She co-founded the Polish Music Center at USC in Los Angeles and directed it for ten years, initiating its now-extensive manuscript collection. (Look in an upcoming *Triangle* for an article about Ms. Wilk and the Polish Music Center.)



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Click on Alumni Update Form at www.MuPhiEpsilon.org

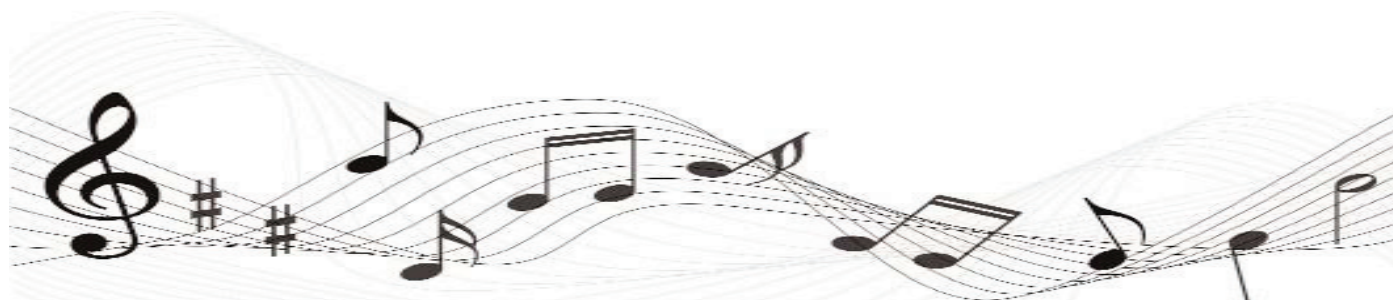


Mu Phi Epsilon

International Executive Office
4705 N. Sonora Ave., Suite 114
Fresno, CA 93722-3947

executiveoffice@muphiepsilon.org
1-888-259-1471

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Mu Phi for Life The Violet Award



Mu Phi Epsilon members are familiar with the Orah Ashley Lamke Award, given annually to one member who has many years of loyal and faithful service to the Fraternity at the local level. The Lamke winner is selected each year by the International Executive Board except in convention years, when the host province makes the selection. Less familiar is the Violet Award.

The Violet Award is an alumni chapter honor, given to a member who has not held a national or international position with the Fraternity. Any alumni chapter can bestow the Violet Award on a distinguished member to recognize exemplary service. Every chapter has members who give generously of time and talent, always working for the benefit of the chapter, but for various reasons may not ever serve on the national level. The Violet Award was designed for them. It's a great way to reward a member who exemplifies "Mu Phi for Life."

Would your chapter like to recognize one of its own with the Violet Award? Simply decide on the honoree, contact the International Executive Office to order a violet pin, and compose your own words to honor the special person.

Board And Never Bored

Do you (or other Mu Phis you know) serve on the board of directors of a non-profit music organization other than Mu Phi? The *Triangle* would like to hear about your most interesting board experiences for possible future articles. Please email your stories to the *Triangle* editor at editor@muphiepsilon.org.

100 Years at Ithaca College

Guests and hosts gather in Lambda's room at Ithaca College for the chapter's gala centennial celebration.



See story, page 3.