

# Gargantuan Circloid

KKΨ - ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2011



## The 100<sup>th</sup> Year

By Will Cowan, President

Happy Holidays from the Alpha Omega chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi here at the University of Pittsburgh. This past fall has kept all the brothers busy planning for Pitt Band's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, performing at up to twelve games so far (including eight home games), and serving the community and our band. Over the summer, four of our brothers traveled to National Convention in Colorado Spring, CO.

Our chapter held a banquet the weekend of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary game and it was great seeing those alumni that came back to meet our chapter and catch up on old friendships. Look for more chances to connect with our chapter come April during Pitt Band's celebration.

The band's away trip this year took us to Toronto, Canada to watch the Buffalo Bills take on the Washington Redskins. This trip was compliments of the Bills and their fans loved us playing in the stands, something many of the native Canadians had never seen before. We also found out mid way through the season that the Pittsburgh Steelers invited us to play at the game against the Baltimore Ravens. Even though the Steelers didn't put on a great show in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the band performed very well during pregame and halftime. A pep band also traveled to the University of Louisville, where some of our brothers had a dinner with Louisville's TBΣ chapter (their KKΨ chapter is inactive).

The chapter itself welcomed five new brothers in the fall 2011 semester. After third degree, Jack and Peg graciously welcomed us to their house to a home-cooked meal. It was quite a sight to see Jack's collection of Pitt memorabilia! We have been very busy with service, social, and fundraising activities, so read on to find out more! To all of the alumni, AEA!

### 2011-2012 Officers

William Cowan.....President  
Stephanie Benincase.....Vice President of Service  
Aaron Roman.....Vice President of Membership  
Jasmine Smith.....Secretary  
Katie Egan.....Treasurer  
Amy Ehrenworth.....Historian  
Anthony Roscoe.....Sponsor  
Jack R. Anderson.....Director of Bands

### In This Issue

	<u>Page</u>
A Semester of Service.....	2
National Guest Speaker Project.....	2
Membership Report.....	3
Spring 2011 MC Class.....	3
Fall 2011 MC Class.....	3
Fundraising with a Purpose.....	4
Historian's Report.....	4
Upcoming Events and Contact Info....	4

## A Semester of Service

By Stephanie Benincase, Vice President of Service

If there is anything that Alpha Omega truly excels at, it is serving the Pitt Band and the music community at large. As of November, the chapter has logged over 650 service hours! We have participated in a range of activities, from Freshmen Move-In Week and instrument cleaning to working at the Carrick Food Bank and high school band competitions. Our services have been met with much appreciation in all arenas—we've even been contacted several times to have our services booked for a second occasion.

There are also some exciting service projects on the horizon. We have begun work on our annual benefit to The VH1 Save the Music Foundation, Casino Night, with our TBΣ Sisters. The event will take place in February, and we anticipate the night to be a great success! This year each member of the Service Committee is also planning their own service project. Jake Volpe has set up a "Kappa Kappa Caroling" outing for December 6<sup>th</sup> at the VA Hospital. Phillip Olsen is in the process of setting up a Music Badge opportunity for Boy Scouts. Natalia Ermakov has begun work on contacting schools to participate in our "Traveling Dog and Pony's". Traveling D&P's are our new initiative in promoting college band participation. We will travel to area schools and talk about why students should stick with music after high school. And next semester, Pam Lyons will be working out a plan for the brothers to give instrument lessons to kids in local schools!

The Service Committee—and the brotherhood—have been hard at work!

What is even more important than the number of service hours we can log as a chapter or the variety of projects we complete in a year is the connection that AΩ has been able to make with the community. On the high school band competition circuit, our reputation precedes us—committee chairs contact us before I can even get to them, and the band parents always remember working with us the year before. This working relationship and reputation was founded by brothers whom came before us. I am glad for this opportunity to share with you the fruits of your labor, as AΩ continues to strive for the highest in service as always. AEA!



KKΨ and TBΣ at the West Allegheny High School Band competition in October!

## National Guest Speaker Project

By Jasmine Smith, Secretary

This fall, I have begun planning to bring a speaker from this year's National Convention, Dr. Lori Hart, to Pittsburgh. Bringing in Dr. Hart will give everyone in our chapter and other chapters the opportunity to hear an engaging speaker, even if they were unable to attend National Convention. Dr. Hart became an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi during the convention in July. Dr. Hart presented a speech about "Making Greek Life Great".

*"Making Greek Great* is as simple as being true to our core purpose. It's as simple as our members committing themselves to leadership guided by the principles of good friendship giving young men and women a safe, nurturing place to become their very best."

- Dr. Lori Hart

I have been in contact with Nationals and CampusSpeak.com about information on Dr. Hart such as expenses, possible dates, etc. Bringing Dr. Hart to Pittsburgh has great potential to help our brothers build relationships within our chapter or with brothers from other chapters.

## Membership Report

By Aaron Roman, Vice President of Membership

This year, the Alpha Omega chapter welcomed fifteen new brothers to the order of Kappa Kappa Psi. The Gamma Pi class, consisting of ten determined and confident brothers, was initiated in April 2011. They were pivotal in providing new ideas for service projects as well as being a large visible representation of the fraternity within the Pitt Marching Band (five different sections were represented in this class). The Fall 2011 class brought in five new members. Initiated November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Gamma Rho class consisted of five members from four different sections. The Gamma Rho's worked hard to complete service projects and fundraisers that reached out to the band as well as the community as a whole. For their fundraiser, the Gamma Rho's raffled off an Oakland Zoo t-shirt signed by the Pitt Men's Basketball team. They also reached out to the community at large by trick-or-treating for UNICEF, in which they dressed up in costumes and collected money for UNICEF in the Schenley Farms neighborhood.

This year, the Membership Candidate process has entered transition period from being based solely on facts about the history and organization of national/districts of Kappa Kappa Psi to being a more hands-on, applicable process that not only enables the membership candidate to grow as a brother, but grow as a leader and, more importantly, a person.

### Meet the Gamma Pi's (Spring 2011)

Erica Bechtold	Bass	Gray
Sean Caulfield	Tenor Sax	White
Stephanie Chepega	Trombone	Red
Jimmy Miller	Piccolo	Maroon
John Obeid	Trumpet	Maroon
Eric Olsen	Trombone	Gold
Alex Petsis	Trombone	Kelly Green
Michael Stafford	Trumpet	White
Curtis Tilves	Alto Sax	Gold
Kristin Vermilya	Alto Sax	Red

### Meet the Gamma Rho's (Fall 2011)

Chloe Delaney	Piccolo	Hunter Green
Rachelle Haynik	Trumpet	Maroon
Emily Ofstun	Piccolo	Hunter Green
Emily Seltzer	Bass	Gold
George Vafeas	Mellophone	Gray

### Connect with us on Facebook!



This summer, Alpha Omega has expanded it's method of communication to facebook!

Just search **Kappa Kappa Psi - Alpha Omega Alumni** and join the group to get updates and reconnect with other alumni!!



## Fundraising with a Purpose

By Katie Egan, Treasurer

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Pitt Band, and what better way to celebrate than by fundraising! Since the National Convention this past summer, the brotherhood has really focused its fundraising efforts on getting the chapter back to the pre-Nationals balance. This fall we had two large fundraisers - selling Pitt Band 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary sunglasses and posters. We sold both to the band and to alumni who were in Oakland for the historic October 15<sup>th</sup> game day. But if you didn't get the chance to buy any, do not worry! In addition to selling these products at the Spring 100<sup>th</sup> Year events, we are also willing to ship these items to you (please see the flyers for additional information)! We also started a Gatorade fundraiser, where brothers sign up to sell Gatorade to bandmembers before and after practice. After the holiday season, we are having a used cell phone and iPod drive, where we send in used phones and iPods in exchange for money from the recycling facility. Also in the works is a fundraiser with Qdoba, where, with a flyer, the brotherhood would receive a certain percentage of the profits (since the majority of the brotherhood enjoys burritos and queso at least once a week). We are really striving to make the Alpha Omega chapter be in the best financial situation it has ever been in by continuing past successful fundraisers as well as inventing new ones suited to the current chapter.

### Get In Touch!

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## Upcoming Events

First Degree.....January 14<sup>th</sup>  
Band room, Trees Hall

Pitt Band Centennial Celebration  
& Gala .....April 13-15

Check out our website for degree changes  
and other news and events!  
[www.pittband.com/kkpsi](http://www.pittband.com/kkpsi)

## Time Flies When You're Having Fun

By Amy Ehrenworth, Historian

Alpha Omega continues to work hard in helping Jack digitalize Pitt Band's history. We have some amazing Pitt Band memories to share with all of you coming to celebrate Pitt Band's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in the spring!

Our chapter has also been very busy helping PBAC plan the year long celebration of Pitt Band's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We began the weekend of Oct 15<sup>th</sup> at the Pitt-Utah game. For many of us, being on Heinz Field with over 400 alumni was a once in a lifetime memory.

KKΨ, as well as PBAC and all of the other band organizations have been continually working together to plan the alumni weekend in the spring. You'll see both active and alumni brothers busy helping out in many ways. The main event that the KKΨ will be hosting is a "musical zoo," geared towards the children of visiting band alumni. The goal is to show that music is fun and to get kids interested in becoming future musicians. We will provide instruments (as well as flags and batons) for kids to test out. We hope to see many of you there!!

As always, we are updating our chapter history archives. If you have any artifacts, stories, traditions, documents, etc that you want to share with us please send them in! Also, if you have any suggestions for activities to bring our active and alumni brothers closer together feel free to share them with us too!

Thanks to all the alumni who came out for our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/End-of-Year banquet last spring. It was great seeing everyone and hope we see even more of you this spring!