

Spring 2020

THE ARIOSO

Michigan Women's Glee Club Alumnae Newsletter



SAYING GOODBYE TOO SOON

Read messages from our
President and Wellness Chair
about moving forward in the face
of the coronavirus.

UPDATES FOR ALUMNI

Learn more about the changes to
our semester and upcoming
opportunities for involvement.

CELEBRATING MEMORIES FROM OUR SHORT SEMESTER

Take a look at what our clubbers
are up to at home!



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumnae,

It has been an absolute pleasure serving as the Women's Glee Club President this year. Throughout my time as President, I have continuously been inspired by the Glee community, the song we create, and the strength our members embody. Recently, Women's Glee has had to use this strength in an entirely new way. This semester, WGC had been preparing for our spring concert which was entitled "Thank You for the Music". This was an ode to the seniors who chose "Thank You for the Music" as their senior song and a way to express WGC's love and passion for creating and sharing music with those around us. As you have all experienced, music has the ability to unite and connect people in a way which is unrivaled; singer's hearts often beat in rhythm when they sing together. Women's Glee has served as a community to each and every one of us, and, as always, sharing our music is a way to share our community with others. Set to be featured in this concert was a six-song set of Candian folk songs in celebration of our 2020 tour to Toronto, Canada.

It is with a heavy heart that I share that this semester's remaining rehearsals and spring concert have been canceled along with many of the amazing performance opportunities for which we were all excited, such as our outreach concert at the Detroit Public Library and our annual tour. The announcement of the closures came as a shock to the campus community as a whole and an abrupt end to the semester. This left many of us without the time to say goodbye to our Glee community or to thank Glee for the music it has brought into our lives. Perhaps those most disappointed are our newest WGC alumnae, the senior class of 2020. As we work to celebrate our seniors in other ways, we are excited to see all that they will accomplish. Despite this, I am excited to announce that our annual phone-a-thon has not been canceled and will take the place of our spring concert. We look forward to connecting with each of you!

Personally, Glee is the place that allows for an escape from reality, which is greatly needed right now. Despite not being able to meet in person, Women's Glee is still an amazing community and together, we have the ability to lift each other up and share in the joy of song. A message I have shared with club, and now want to share with you -- no matter what life looks like for you right now, continue to find music in your life! May it bring us joy and help us to remain gleeful!

Much gLove (Glee Love),
Jenna Varcak 2019-2020 WGC President





SCHEDULE UPDATES

CANCELLED EVENTS:

AFTERGLOW 2020

SPRING CONCERT 2020

NATIONAL TOUR 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PHONEATHON: APRIL 18TH

ALUMNAE TAILGATE: HOMECOMING!

FALL CONCERT: NOVEMBER 15TH



A MESSAGE FROM OUR WELLNESS CHAIR

My name is Katie Wiatrak, and I am the Wellness Chair of the Women's Glee Club! In this Arioso, I think it is important to address the global health crisis that has so abruptly cut our semester short. I was so sad to prematurely say goodbye to my GLadies, but I want to commend the efforts of our club leaders in keeping us safe.



I feel so lucky to have such a robust team looking after me and my fellow singers. Also, I am even more impressed that our E-Board has kept our club active during this fragmentation. Even after our singers have scattered across the country in order to stay healthy and safe, we still have point opportunities, remote activities, and a real connection within our club. To me, that is “wellness” at its finest!

Katie Wiatrak, Soprano 1, Junior

WOVAD



**Fiona Lynch, A1,
Sophomore, WOVAD
coordinator**

Women's Vocal Arts Day (or, WoVAD) was an amazing experience!

Women's Glee Club was joined by high school choirs from all around Michigan. We spent the whole day learning two new pieces in Rackham Auditorium and then performed those pieces in the historic Hill Auditorium. I got to meet so many passionate, hard working young women, many of whom are hoping to go to U of M and join Glee in the future!

WoVAD challenged us musically and strengthened the bond that we share with each other and with our community. I was the coordinator for the event, and it made me so happy to see all our clubbers and the high school students working together, laughing together, and singing together. It was a great reminder of the power of choir and of the impact that Women's Glee has!

I'm already looking forward to next year's WoVAD :)



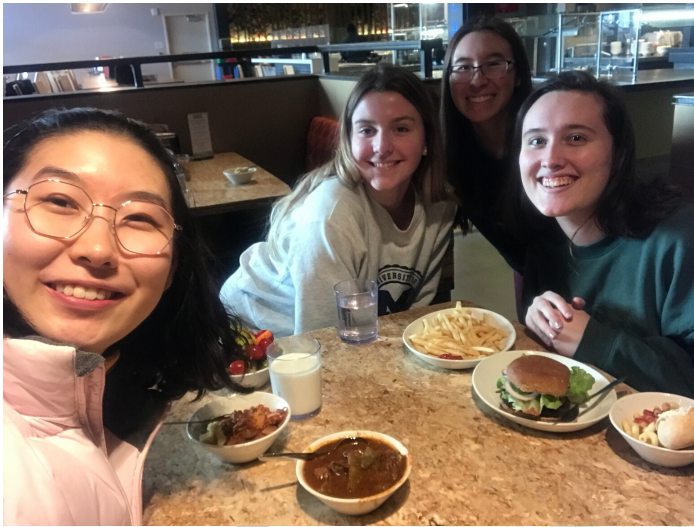
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SING FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



It has become a tradition for the Women's Glee Club to sing the national anthem at the UM Women's Basketball Breast Cancer Awareness Game. This event is a great way to foster our sisterhood not only within Glee Club, but with other, inspiring women's groups around campus. Events where we get to sing for a good cause and get social time with our fellow clubbers are the best!

Maddie Mozina, S2, Junior

WINTER RETREAT



Our Graduate Student Instructor for the year, Maggie Burk, was a force of nature! She directed us well; was prepared for every rehearsal; engaged with us as women, not just as students or musicians; and she radiated passion for what she did. As an aspiring choir director myself, she inspired me to think big, to know my strengths and weaknesses, and not be afraid to be a real person with your choir. I learned a lot from her this year, and it was a pleasure to make music with her!

Charissa Hasper, S2, Junior

I really enjoyed our winter retreat at the Michigan League. My favorite song we practiced was "I Thank You God" by Gwyneth Walker. I was blown away every time we sang the opening chords during retreat. The direction from Dr. Skadsem and Maggie brought the music to life and I hope we add it to the repertoire next year to share the magic that was felt throughout our rehearsal space. I will truly miss Thursday and Sunday rehearsals, "secretly" eating dinner during rehearsal, and the goofy looks and noises shared across the room between friends. You all will be missed!

Ambrielle Stoltz-Bango, S1, Junior



CLUB ACTIVITIES

IM VOLLEYBALL WITH MGC



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Consistently, one of my favorite things about glee has been doing co-ed IM sports, especially volleyball. In recent seasons, our glee team has won the championship game and received winning t-shirts 3 times in a row!

This semester we started off strong again, however, it was sadly cut-short do to in-person activities being cancelled. It's always fun to play with these people and I'm thankful for all the great memories this experience gave me :)

Shannon Kenny, S2,
Senior

GLEE LOVE

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Music has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I took mommy and me music classes as a child. Music was my favorite special in elementary school. In middle school, I found my niche in choir. I bounced around in voice parts, but the community was unlike any other I'd joined. When I didn't have time to do traditional choir in high school, I was disappointed but I found an alternative in a capella clubs. I was so happy when my next door neighbor in the dorms let me tag along to auditions for a choral group I had never heard of on campus, the Women's Glee Club. Glee has brought the music back into my life, and I cannot be happier about it.

Katherine Springer, Soprano 1, Junior



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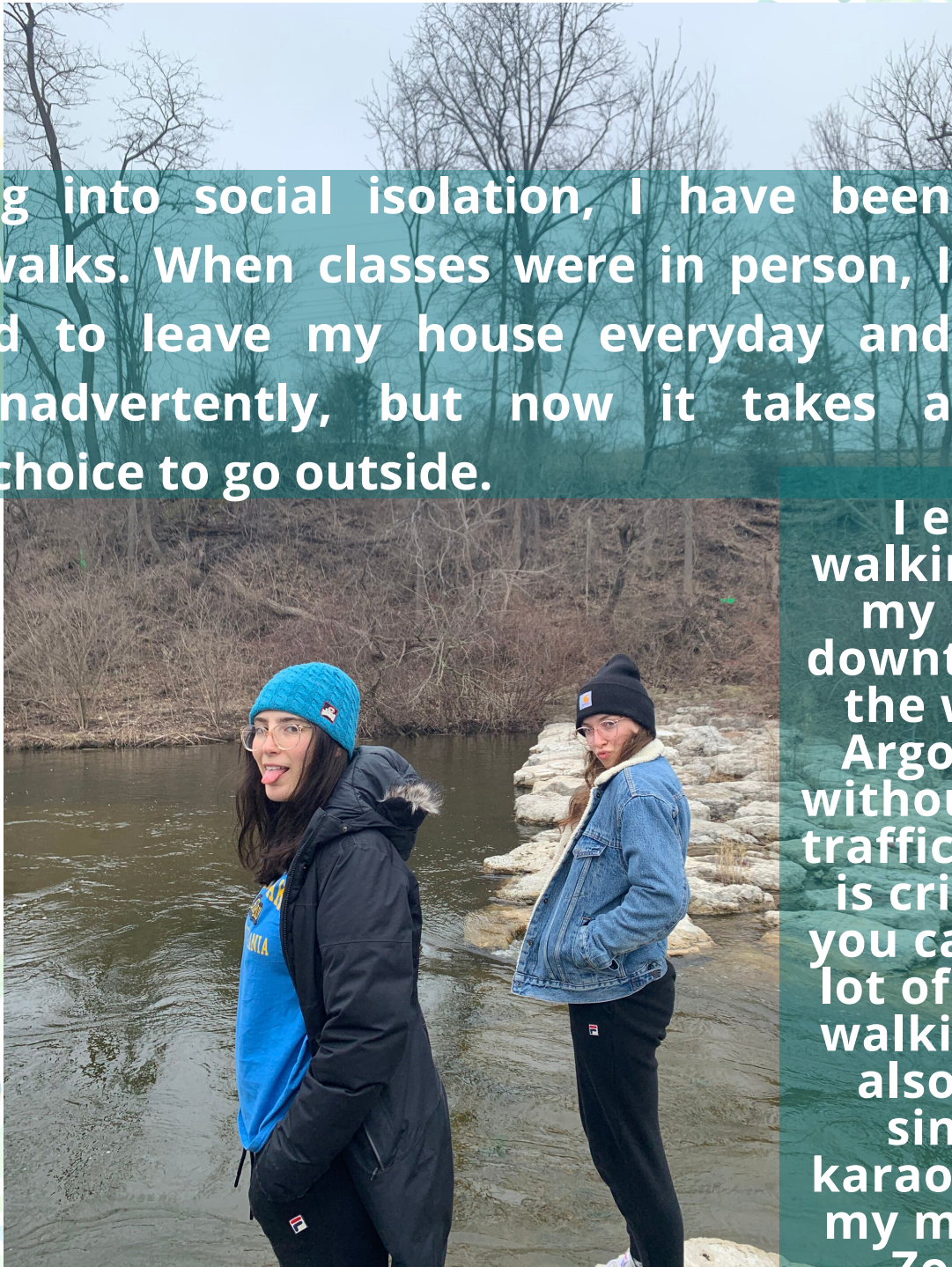
Joining Women's Glee Club was one of the best decisions I have ever made. These past two semesters I have been able to continue singing and meeting so many amazing and talented women. Being a chemistry major on the pre-med track I find my schedule to be filled with STEM classes, but Glee gives me an outlet to allow me to forget about the stress of my classes and college. All the girls in Glee are so welcoming and nice, so it was easy to join the club and feel like part of the Glee Club family. Women's Glee Club is definitely the highlight of my week, and I am so excited for participating in Glee next semester.

Emma Mendez, Soprano II, Freshman



UPDATES FROM HOME: CLARE DIPOLA

Since going into social isolation, I have been going on walks. When classes were in person, I was forced to leave my house everyday and exercise inadvertently, but now it takes a conscious choice to go outside.



I enjoy walking from my home downtown all the way to Argo dam - without much traffic, the air is crisp and you can see a lot of people walking! I've also been singing karaoke with my mom via Zoom - isolation is forcing us to get creative!

UPDATES FROM HOME: ELLEN REED



My dog's name is Daisy. She is a very helpful study buddy.



These are the first flowers I found growing in my mom's garden! spring is coming :)

Me and my ukulele, my most frequent accompanying instrument at home.



Me and my siblings. This photo was taken last summer, but they get a mention cause I'm spending LOTS of time with them now that I'm home.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW ALUMNI

Thank you for the music! It is so sad to see you go, especially without having a chance to truly say goodbye. We wish you the best in everything you pursue and we know you will soar. Go Blue!



Courtney Beauchamp A2

Jasmine Chang S2

Anna Chewter A1

Cecelia Batterbee S1

Katherine Hunt S2

Reagan Kelly S1

Rebecca Lies A2

Elizabeth Woelmer A2

Hallie Fox A2

Emma Ma A1

Jackie O'Driscoll A2

Jane Schmid A1

Lauren Taylor S1

Logan Tidstrom S2

Jenna Varcak A1

SENIOR FEATURE: EMMA MA



I am moving to Philadelphia in May and I am going to work as a research assistant at the University of Pennsylvania for two years. I will participate in a project on Parkinson's Disease:) Emma Ma, A1, Senior



CLASS NOTES



I'd like to introduce future Glee Clubber, Ryleigh Kathryn!

Miss Ryleigh was born December 21, 2019 and we couldn't be more in love!

Kate Collier, Class of 2015

I moved to Houston and became, among other things, a writer and standup comedian! I made my comedy debut last fall at the Houston Fringe Festival and will perform with The Best Of The Fringe in May. I'm completing my first novel, which received an honorable mention from the Speculative Literature Foundation, and I will attend a Creative Process Residency at Greywood Arts in Ireland next fall. I recently launched a website at amandawenger.com to promote my creative work.

Amanda Wenger, Class of 2014



I have been up to a lot of different things! This includes jobs in nonprofits, becoming a parent and foster parent, and running for office, among other things. Currently I am a therapist working in private practice in Grand Rapids, MI.

Christine Mullan, Class of 2008



CLASS SECRETARIES

Class secretaries are our alumnae "correspondents," they gather contact information and announcements from their classmates and encourage them to come to Women's Glee Club Events! Our Current Class Secretaries:

Class of 1983 - Jennifer Conlin

Class of 2007 - Christine Mullan

Class of 2009 - Kirsten Haverberg

Class of 2012 - Julie Felberg

Class of 2013 - Johanna Grum

Class of 2014 - Emily Kempa

Class of 2015 - Barbara Dennis

Class of 2016 - Kate Collier

Class of 2017 - Shannon Cahalan

Class of 2018 - Mary Lund

Class of 2019 - Sara Ramaswamy

Class of 2020 - Katherine Hunt

Thank you so much to all of our class secretaries! If you are interested in becoming a class secretary, email Katherine

Hunt: kathunt@umich.edu or Maddie Mozina

mozinam@umich.edu

CONTACT US

There are so many ways to reconnect with Women's Glee! One opportunity to get involved with WGC would be an alumnae interview. This way, you can chat with a member of WGC and talk with them about your shared experiences as members of Glee! Other avenues for involvement include sharing a fond memory from your time in Glee in the Facebook page, or simply saying hello if you happen to bump into a current member of Women's Glee in your endeavors. If any of this is of interest to you, please get in touch with us through email or social media!

Vice President: Katherine Hunt

kathunt@umich.edu

**Alumnae Relations Chair and Vice
President 2020-2021: Maddie Mozina**

mozinam@umich.edu

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