

1-2016

Gemini 14 Memories

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Gemini 14

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Recommended Citation

Matchus, Karen, "Gemini 14 Memories" (2016). *Student/Alumni Personal Papers*. Paper 123.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_alum_papers/123

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Memories shared by Karen (Warren) Matchus

Thank you for sharing the photo on Facebook of my WKU Gemini band friends from the '60s. The girls shown in the photo are Ellen Schermack (far left), Jamie Carlyle Daly (front center), Pat Smith Flowers (back left--now deceased), Lynn Aukerman (back right), and I think Nancy Hill Cron (far right). I am checking with Nancy and husband Sonny Cron to verify if that is Nancy or not. She was a vocal music major and currently teaches music at WKU, so I'm not sure if this is her in the photo.

I was not a music major but did play in the Big Red Marching Band + WKU Symphonic Band, and in my senior year the ORIGINAL Gemini band. The idea was conceived by Pat Smith as a "surprise musical guest" for the annual music department Christmas party in 1965 and as an all-female dance band because the guys in Phi Mu Alpha had a dance band who played paying gigs. Doc Livingston was our band director then, and he helped us with the secret. We would practice on Sunday afternoons in the old rock music building when no one else was around. Then the night of the party Doc introduced us as the surprise musical guest group. Well, the guys were a little taken aback at how good we were.

Doc then decided to make a demo recording of us to submit to the USO. (I asked him a few years ago if he still had a copy because I wanted a copy as I had a solo part in one of the pieces we played. He replied "probably somewhere.") The band was accepted as part of the USO annual musical tours for several years, but alas, I

graduated in 1966 and did not get to play with them for any tours. We were originally called Gemini 12 or 14 (I can't remember) based on the number of girls in the band + the NASA space flight program that was underway at that time.

Over time Doc introduced guys into the band for the USO tours . . . John Carpenter, Larnelle Harris, etc. There should be some old photos from that era in the music department or Talisman archives somewhere.

Karen Warren Matchus
WKU '66 '71