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## Crosbys find the right beat for semi-final contest

*Crosbys will advance to the semi-finals*

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Arianna Eisenson/photo  
*The Crosbys end a practice session with a flourish. The group will head to Cornell University this weekend and compete against Universities from around the nation.*

The a capella group that borrows its name from the velvet-voiced Bing Crosby is headed for the semi-finals in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella contest this Saturday.

The Binghamton Crosbys are the only all-male a capella group at Binghamton University. After placing first in a regional competition

held Feb. 17 in Rochester, the Crosbys will advance to the semi-finals on March 2 at Cornell University's Sage Chapel.

In addition to snagging first place, Scott Eckers, business manager for the group, picked up the runner-up award for best soloist, and the whole group won an award for best arrangement on "I'm a man," which was arranged by David Kern and Michael Van Allen, two Crosby alumni.

This is the fifth year in existence for the ICCA, and the Binghamton Crosbys have participated in the competition every year. The group had the good fortune to proceed all the way to the finals in Carnegie Hall. If they advance past the semi-finals this year, they will compete in the finals on April 28 at Lincoln Center.

According to Jeremy Honig, the Crosbys' president, more than 100 groups competed at the regional level. Only 36 advanced to the semi-finals.

Six groups will vie for the title of best a capella group in the country during the finals. The five groups that will compete against the Crosbys in the semi-finals are the all-male groups the Hangovers from Cornell, Last Call, also from Cornell, and the Buffalo Chips, Honig said.

The two co-ed groups competing in the semi-finals are the New York University APC Rhythm and the University of Pennsylvania Counterparts. From this group of six participants, only one will advance to compete against five other groups in the finals. Eckers takes pride in representing BU in the competition.

"(Being a Crosby) has really impacted my college career, and we all enjoy being the singing ambassadors of Binghamton," Eckers said.

To get into the competition, the groups had to send in a demo tape. At the regional competition, each group had to perform for 15 minutes or less. They were judged on how they sounded and looked. The top two groups from each of the regional competitions advanced into the semi-finals.

The group has a long history at Binghamton. It was founded in 1983 as a co-ed a capella group, but later that year it split into two separate groups, the Crosbys and the Harpur Harpeggios, BU's all-female a capella group.

The Crosbys perform a diverse repertoire of songs. Their performance is not only limited to competition; they are available for hire as well. They go on a two-week winter tour around Long Island and Westchester,

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performing at various high schools.

They also perform for various charities, including Habitat for Humanity and REACH, where they perform a show called Sex and A Capella. The Crosbys also host two shows a year, and participate in the dollar shows each semester, Honig said.

The Crosbys are a sort of culture in and of themselves. Five of the members live off campus in what they affectionately call the "Crosby House" and they all have nicknames for each other.

Alumni keep in touch with current members, and many take an active role in the present Crosby incarnation.

"When you become a Binghamton Crosby, you become part of a tremendous family," Honig said.



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