



### Zeta Mu Looks to the Future with Recent Officer Elections

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Brothers of the Zeta Mu Chapter set the course for their 2006-2007 academic year by electing a new class of officers.

Adam Hightower, former Secretary and Fraternity Education Officer, was elected to lead the chapter as President. Paul Levine was re-elected to his post as Vice President, where he has excelled in the directorship of all Rush, Ritual, and SHSU Ensembles Assistance programs. Zeta Mu's newest brother, Stephen Buescher (the sole member of Fall 2005's Kappa Initiation Class) was chosen as Secretary. Hubert Jones, whose meticulous leadership of the

Fundraising Committee has continued the recent trend of financial stability, was voted Treasurer. Current Assistant FEO Daniel Burkeen earned a promotion by being elected next year's Fraternity Education Officer to the future Mu and Nu Classes. Santiago Carbajal, who has led public relations and communications efforts for the chapter since his initiation, was made the Historian. Robert Barron, a leading local expert in Robert's Rules of Order and a staunch advocate of balancing fun with efficiency, was elected Warden. Recent graduate, former President

and Treasurer, and current Province 40 Collegiate Province Representative Daniel Pfannstiel was chosen as Alumni Secretary. Bruce Hall (Rho Omega), a former CPR and Province Governor, and Jay Whatley (Gamma Iota) will return as Faculty Advisors.

With this new and dedicated Executive Committee, 2006-2007 promises to be a banner year for your Zeta Mu Chapter. For a preview of the plans for the upcoming year, please read the officer reports provided in the Chapter News section of this newsletter. Good luck to all of them in the upcoming year!

### Contemporary Music Festival Features Several Sinfonian Moments

This April marked the 44<sup>th</sup> occurrence of the annual SHSU Contemporary Music Festival. This three day event is one of the longest running such festivals in Texas and is designed to highlight the best in modern music. This year, Donald Grantham of the University of Texas was the featured composer. Dr. Grantham was present for all five concerts and gave a masterclass and a lecture while in attendance.

Sinfonia made a strong presence at this year's festival. The entire event was coordinated by Zeta Mu Honorary Brother Trent Hanna, Chair of the school's Theory/Composition Department. Brother Daniel Pfannstiel, graduate student in Theory/Composition, served as Stage Manager. The chapter as a whole provided all of the equipment moving services and

receptions for the three evening concerts – many thanks are in order for Brother Paul Levine, who coordinated these efforts.

President Adam Hightower also presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Phi Mu Alpha Fisher Tull Student Composition Award to Doug Maake for his piece *Orange Doves for Solo Marimba and Delay*. The award is given each spring with a \$250 prize, financed by the chapter, to the top student composition. It is named in honor of Brother Fisher Tull (Gamma Theta), the renowned composer who chaired the then-department of music for years. His widow, Professor Charlotte Tull, in granting the chapter permission to use her late husband's name, commented on his strong love, respect, and devotion for Sinfonia throughout his life. Dr. Tull was

also a charter member of the Huntsville Alumni Chapter back when such organizations were still permitted by National policy.

Several brothers had their pieces played during the festival. Brother Pfannstiel's *Damaged for Solo Violoncello and String Orchestra* received its world premiere on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Brother Brian Herrington, Adjunct Professor of Theory/Composition, had two pieces performed, including the debut of his *Revealed by Fire for Percussion Solo and Five Winds*. Brother John Crabtree (Beta Omega), Adjunct Professor of Theory/Composition, in addition to running audio and visual for the event, had two pieces played.

All in all, our Fraternity's call to "advance music in America" was eagerly answered at this event.

# CHAPTER AND UNIVERSITY NEWS

## Chapter Has Fun for a Good Cause at the Relay for Life

On Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, the brothers of Zeta Mu participated in the inaugural SHSU Relay for Life. The event, which lasted from 7PM to 7AM at Bowers Stadium, was a local installment of the national charity event that benefits the American Cancer Society. As part of the Relay, each student organization on campus was asked to create a team of members who would take turns walking around the track for donations while the rest of team enjoyed an all-night social event.

Brother Stephen Buescher was captain of the Phi Mu Alpha team. Brothers Reshard Westmoreland and Daniel Bassett helped out by cooking burgers, dogs, and wings to keep our team nourished into the wee hours of the morning.

Some of the evening's entertainment was also provided by Sinfonians. The Shortbus Superheros (featuring Brothers Glen Tate, Daniel Wilson, Greg Cox, Daniel Pfannstiel, and Kevin Chubirka) and FrameSwitch (featuring Brother Westmoreland), two of Huntsville's top rock bands, each played a live set. Probationary Member Ryan Morris even got into the act by competing in a mock "talent" contest!

The event raised over \$9000 for the benefit of the American Cancer Society. For more information on this program, visit [www.acsevents.org](http://www.acsevents.org).

---

**The Sinfonian is published by the Zeta Mu Chapter of ΦMA and is edited by Daniel Pfannstiel, Alumni Secretary.**

## President's Report

Dear Brothers,

As my tenure as President of the Zeta Mu Chapter begins, I come before you excited and ready to work. I never thought of any office besides Secretary, but, now look where I am! Indeed, it is a great privilege that I do not take lightly to sit in this seat.

First, let me recognize the past leaders of this Chapter. Brothers, you have done a fine job; now we must keep excelling to the next level. I also want to recognize the men that sit beside me as leaders of this Chapter. All I can say is, "It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it." Men, you are already stepping up to the plate and making the job a great deal easier.

During the 2006-2007 term, I intend to get the Zeta Mu Chapter "Back to the Basics." We have begun to get away from the original vision that our dear brother, Ossian Everett Mills, had 108 years ago. During my presidency, I intend to start getting us back to this vision.

I know you have probably been bombarded by information about this summer's National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, but I would like to encourage you as well to "Rock out Cleveland" July 19-23. This convention will not only be a brother affair, but also family-friendly, so make it a family vacation. It is not too late to rekindle that fire that you had years ago when you pledged your life to Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

I now leave you with a quote from the end of Percy Jewett Burrell's 1908 President's Message. *"It is good to be a*

*Sinfonian for "Once a Sinfonian, always a Sinfonian."*

Fraternally yours,  
Adam J. Hightower, President

## Words of the Warden

Hail Sinfonian Brothers!! I would like to reflect on the events of this past semester as it comes to a close and what we should be looking forward to in the upcoming semesters. First, this past semester has really shown our weaknesses as a group as well as our strengths. It has been an eventful semester, and we have had to overcome a few obstacles, but the willingness of the members and their deep commitment to our beloved fraternity has helped overcome those obstacles. It is my plan as Warden to help build on our strengths to better our fraternity and to focus on the issues where we lack strength so we can help ourselves overcome such weaknesses. Also, it has been expressed among the membership that we should have more Music Mills Missions next year, and I encourage my fellow officers to do their best to make that expression become a reality.

I feel a great sense of optimism for the upcoming semesters and know that with the right leadership and strong commitment of all members and officers we can have a great year. I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer, and that with the new school year, we come back reinvigorated and ready to serve our beloved Sinfonia!

Fraternally yours,  
Robert Barron, Warden

# PROVINCE AND NATIONAL NEWS

## **Are you ready to Rock Cleveland: A Preview of the National Convention**

This summer will bear witness to the culmination of three years of anticipation with the hosting of the Triennial National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 19-23. The National Executive Committee and the Lyrecrest Staff have assembled an impressive schedule of events, including a visit to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a reserved section with all you can eat food at a Cleveland Indians game (where 100 brothers will even get to sing the National Anthem on the field), an appearance by Maynard Ferguson



(who is receiving the Man of Music Award), an opportunity to rehearse under Col. John Bourgeois in the Sinfona Winds, a free concert of the Cleveland Orchestra (who will be receiving the National Citation), and trips to local attractions for family members.

Please consider joining in on the Fraternal experience by registering today at [www.sinfonia.org/convention](http://www.sinfonia.org/convention) - it is this summer's real must-see; it will truly "rock your world!"

## **Sinfonia Educational Foundation Charts a New Course**

After 50 years of lackluster existence, our Fraternity's Foundation finally seems poised to make good on its promise to "enrich lives." The organization has been renamed the Sinfonia Educational Foundation, and its mission has been refocused to provide the most assistance to our active brothers. The Foundation provides Scholarships, Travel Assistance Grants, Research Assistance Grants, and Matching Grants. The SEF recently hired its very first staff member, Director of Development Matt Garber, to oversee its operations. The Foundation is funded entirely by tax-deductible donations from Sinfonians, and Zeta Mu would like to thank Brothers James Butler '54, Danny Solis, Jr. '75, and Daniel Pfannstiel '02 for being our only local donors last fiscal year. Both the Chapter and the Lambda Pledge Class have already made donations this year, so please consider joining them!

## **Province 40 Update**

Our Province (40) recently passed its first year anniversary with the hosting of the Annual Province Workshop at the University of Houston by the Omicron Upsilon chapter on February 24-25. In addition to a number of wonderful and educational workshops presented by the province officers, the event was highlighted by a keynote address by Brother Brian Stratton, the current Governor of Province

## **Fraternity Celebrates Mills Milestone with a National Mission**

This past February was the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of our Founder, Ossian E. Mills. To mark this historic milestone, over 100 chapters across the nation participated in the Mills Music



Mission. This philanthropic event, which was modeled after the revolutionary charity work completed by Mills during his days in Boston, sees Sinfonians asserting the mystical power of music by singing to patients at Nursing Homes and Hospitals. This service was made our National Philanthropy in 2003 and is certainly a telling reminder of the healing powers of music.

14 (Louisiana) and a former National Vice President. Major items of business included the installation of a new Province Governor, George Beverley of Eta Mu (Lamar University), and the election of Michael Moreau as CPR for the 2006-2007 term.

In other Province News, the brothers of the Southeastern Texas area recently held a Province Ritual at Omicron Zeta (Prairie View A&M) where members of 5 chapters initiated 5 new brothers.

# ONCE A SINFONIAN, ALWAYS A SINFONIAN!

## Zeta Mu Calendar of Events

**Friday, May 5, 2006**, at 8:00PM in the SHSU Recital Hall – Initiation Ritual for the Lambda Class

**Saturday, May 6, 2006**, at 2:00PM at the Woodcreek Apartments Pool (on Josey Street, Behind HEB) – Year End Luau with Sigma Alpha Iota

---

## Contacts

To update your contact information, ask for more information about specific events or issues, or to pass along contact information for a brother we may have lost contact with (Help us update chapter & national records!!!), please contact our Alumni Secretary, Brother Daniel Pfannstiel, at 832-443-9338 or [dmpfannstiel@yahoo.com](mailto:dmpfannstiel@yahoo.com).

If you live the Greater Houston Area, and you might be interested in helping to form the Houston Area Alumni Association, please contact Brother Brian Parks at [bparks79@hotmail.com](mailto:bparks79@hotmail.com).

If you would like more information on how to re-connect with the National Fraternity, you can contact Brother Dan Krueger, National Director of Alumni Affairs at [krueger@sinfonia.org](mailto:krueger@sinfonia.org).



Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia – Zeta Mu Chapter  
SHSU School of Music  
1751 Avenue I  
Box 2208  
Huntsville, TX 77341

**Postmaster:**  
**Address Service Requested**  
**Forwarding Service Requested**

---

*The Object of this Fraternity shall be for the development of the best and truest fraternal spirit, the mutual welfare and brotherhood of musical students, the advancement of music in America and a loyalty to the Alma Mater.*