



SAMFONIAN



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1 SPRING 2007

THE ROAD LIES BEFORE US

The Zeta Mu Chapter is proud to initiate the nine members of the Mu Class into the Fraternity, the second largest since the Reactivation in 2000. This group of talented men is comprised of eight instrumentalists and one vocalist, bringing the Chapter roll to nineteen members.

Overcoming common issues as a class, these men have become close friends. Some of their bonding activities have reverted them and the actives back to childhood, such as sleepovers and playing "Hide and Seek."

Although the games may seem juvenile, they have been just what the probationary members and ac-

tives needed to get closer.

In the fall semester, the Chapter choose not to have a Probationary Member Class in order to build on the social aspects of our brotherhood. This class has achieved this and strengthened what we tried to accomplish last semester.

As you will read in this issue of the "Samfonian," the Mu Probationary Member class has changed the Chapter immensely, and we are proud to have them in the organization.

Adam J. Hightower
Fall '04
J. Ryan Morris
Spring '06



Mu Probationary Member Class

Top Row (L to R): Clint Arndt, Casey Tucker, Justin Palos, Kevin Ford, David Smith
Bottom Row (L to R): Ryan Ramsey, Michael Owens, Ryan De Oliveira, John West Stuart

Zeta Mu Chapter

Top Row (L to R):
Reshard Westmoreland (Alumnus); Hubert Jones, Jr.; Daniel Burkeen, Jr.; Desmond Williams; Adam Chitta, Benjamin Guillotte

Bottom Row (L to R):
J. Ryan Morris; Daniel Bassett; Paul Levine

Not Pictured:
Stephen Buescher; Adam J. Hightower

SPRING SEMESTER BRINGS TRANSFORMATION

The Spring Semester has been one of drastic change for the Zeta Mu Chapter. Finally Sinfonians are looking like Sinfonians. There has been an increase in attendance, social events, and an open expression of brotherhood in the hallways. With a Probationary Member class of nine members, the Zeta Mu chapter is

on the right track.

Phi Mu Alpha has now become a more widely known entity of the School of Music. Excuses of, "I'm busy," have been diminished and this has led to smoother-run meetings with a presence of laughter and relaxation. With this increase in attendance, the number of

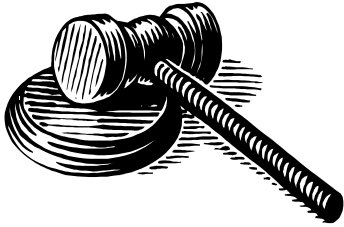
social events has also increased and tightened the bonds of all Sinfonians. Finally, the hallways are no longer a place to pass by and wave. Now, they have become a place of socialization amongst brothers.

Hubert Jones, Jr.
Spring '05
Treasurer, 2006-2007



The *Samfonian* is published by the Zeta Mu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity and is edited by Adam J. Hightower and J. Ryan Morris

NEW TERM BEGINS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



At the final meeting of the Zeta Mu Chapter for the spring semester, the Executive Committee for the 2007-2008 academic year was installed.

Paul Levine, a seasoned member of the Committee, having served two terms as Vice President and one as Fraternity Education Officer, will now lead the Chapter as President. Former Alumni Relations Officer, J. Ryan Morris,

will serve as Vice President. Daniel Bassett, the lone non-music major, was re-installed as Secretary, as was Hubert Jones, Jr. as Treasurer.

Former Assistant Fraternity Education Officer and Historian, Daniel Burkeen, Jr. will rejoin the Committee as Fraternity Education Officer. Also, joining the Executive Committee is Adam Chitta as Alumni Relations Officer.

Returning to the offices of Warden and Historian is Benjamin Guillotte. We are happy to have both Faculty Advisors, Bruce D. Hall (Rho Omega, '85) and Jay K. Whatley (Gamma Iota, '82) return for another term.

With this new and dedicated, Executive Committee the Chapter will definitely move to the next level.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hail Sinfonian Brothers! The last time I wrote you, I was beginning my tenure as President of the Zeta Mu Chapter. Now in this report, I am bidding the office farewell.

The destination of completing a full term has been some journey. This year, the chapter accomplished many things of which I am proud. We have taken strides towards becoming a closer brotherhood.

As I promised, I wanted to get "Back to the Basics." I feel that our chapter is not completely there, but we certainly have taken steps to get there.

Our chapter got down to ten collegiate members this semester. I am not proud of this, but I felt that if we were going to go to the next level, everybody had to be ready to go there. As I told the Province at the annual workshop, our energy is focused on the

"Uplift of Mankind."

As I leave office, I want to acknowledge the past and future leaders of our organization. For if it weren't for the past, there would be no present nor future. To the future leaders, I wish you much success in the upcoming year. May your light for Sinfonia never die!

Adam J. Hightower
Fall '04
President, 2006-2007

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT

"THEY HAVE WORKED VERY HARD AND ARE DEVELOPING A GREAT GRASP OF SINFONIA'S AIMS AND IDEALS."

All Hail! This has been an exciting year for fraternity development in the Zeta Mu chapter. This semester finds us with only 10 active members.

We realized last fall that we needed to aggressively pursue the upstanding musicianly men of the school of music. This semester started off with a highly successful rush during the first weeks of school which yielded a bumper crop of fine

probationary members. They have worked very hard and are developing a great grasp of Sinfonia's aims and ideals.

Furthermore, I think that this is one of the closest groups of probationary members that we have seen in quite some time. This comes as a bit of a surprise, since at the beginning of the process, they were one of the most divided groups I've seen. Their development as

men through the process has been unparalleled. This has been in part to their on resolve to learn, but also due to the excellent support given by the active members. I believe this semester marks a renaissance for the Zeta Mu chapter.

Paul Levine
Fall '04
Vice President/Fraternity
Education Officer, 2006-2007

PROPOSED RITUAL REVISION AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

Documents pertaining to the proposed revision of Sinfonia's Initiation Ritual are available through the Fraternity's website. To access the documents, log in to MyDesktop. The documents are subject to multiple levels of electronic security and consist of the following:

- Introduction and proposed changes with rationale
- 1988 (current) revision

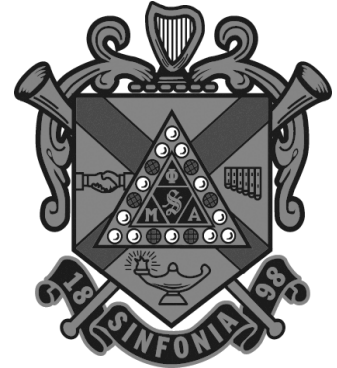
containing numbered references to proposed changes

During the 2006-2009 triennium, one of the three authors of the proposed revision—John Mongiovi, Mark Lichtenberg and Ryan Riperton—will be traveling to one province workshop in each province to present the revision, answer questions and receive feedback.

Collegiate and alumni Sinfonians should contact their province governor for the specific date and location of the workshop at which these visits will take place.

There will be a Ritual Education Workshop for Collegiate members held this June to discuss the current ritual.

(Excerpts reprinted from www.sinfonia.org)



ARE YOU IN THE CIRCLE?

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia has recently launched "Sinfonia Circle," a secure online networking community through the people you already know.

Thanks to this new service, sharing pictures, thoughts, job opportunities, and news with your fellow members has never been easier. Through "Sinfonia Circle," you can tap into one of the greatest resources available to you—your network of Sinfonian friends and friends-of-friends.

Is this just for finding jobs? Not at all. "Sinfonia Circle" is whatever each individual member wants it to make of it. You fill out your profile with whatever information you want to share, invite and accept invitations from only those people you know and trust, and join groups based on your location, interests, hobbies, or school clubs. Anything from new fathers comparing notes, to mountain bikers recommending trails, to a local

chapter sharing event photos and organizing their next gathering; it's up to you.

Visit <http://sinfonia.affinitycircles.com> and start growing your network today!

(Excerpts reprinted from *The Red & Black*; Vol. XXIII, No. 4; March/April 2007)

"SINFONIA CIRCLE' IS WHATEVER EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER WANTS IT TO MAKE OF IT."

NEW ALUMNI INTEREST GROUP IN HOUSTON

In Texas, the process has begun to establish a second alumni association. Currently, it is known as the Greater Houston Area Alumni Interest Group (GHAAIG), until it is granted to become an alumni association. Sinfonians have been meeting to discuss requirements needed to become an alumni association. Also,

discussion has occurred about the goals and the direction that alumni involved want the association to proceed in. The whole process was kicked off by a dinner on January 28, 2007 hosted by the OY chapter at University of Houston. At one of the earliest meetings, three officers were elected, Jehielk U. Burke, President; Kenneth Tice,

Secretary; and Brian Parks, Treasurer. The GHAAIG also has a website at www.HoustonSinfonian.Org. Alumni members in the area may register themselves at this site and are welcome to participate in any of the activities. For further information, contact Brother Burke at kidcapri6@hotmail.com.



ALUMNI RELATIONS INCLUDE YOU!

Hello, My fellow Sinfonian brothers! I am really looking forward to working with those who have been a part of our chapter, those who have come to make us who we are today. For next year, I would really like to reach out to *you*.

How are you doing, and how have you been affected by Sinfonia? Also, if you know of any other alumni in the area, please feel free to have them contact me and encourage them to join in our Sinfonia.

I would also like to encourage each and every one of you to join Sinfonia Circle. With this new tool available online, it will be easier to tie together the brothers across the nation.

Being a part of another broth-

erhood, the Madison Scouts Drum & Bugle Corps, I am really excited about sharing ideas of family and brotherhood with the alumni in the Sam Houston State University area. If you have any ideas of how we can extend our reach to you further, please let me know.

We look forward to hearing from you, and joining my Sinfonia and yours as one!

To update your contact information, or to pass along information on another brother, please contact me, Alumni Relations Officer, Adam Chitta at sinfonia@shsu.edu.

Adam Chitta
Spring '06



ATTENTION!

A few months ago, our School of Music Chairman, Dr. James Bankhead, came to me with a project for Phi Mu Alpha. Our School of Music has partnered up with Palawan State University in the Philippines. Their school has just started teaching beginning band to college freshman, but in a desperate financial situation. Half of the band rehearses while the other half waits their turn to play. This is an awful situation that we are trying to help rectify.

This is where you can help! We are trying to collect any band instruments that are not being used. Donations are tax-deductible and we would be happy to pick up instruments wherever you are. These are first-class students who are caught in a third-world situation, and we have the ability to create an amazing opportunity for them. Please help us to advance music not only in America, but across the globe. Questions can be e-mailed to me at PaulLevine@shsu.edu

Paul Levine

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Once a Sinfonian, Always a Sinfonian, Long live Sinfonia!