



SAMFONIAN



THE OFFICIAL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF THE ZETA MU CHAPTER

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“Nu” Members on the Way!

The Zeta Mu Chapter is proud to announce the initiation of twelve men into Nu Probationary Member Class of the Zeta Mu Chapter at Sam Houston State University. The group consists of all but two non-music majors, coming from the history and criminal justice schools. There are nine instrumentalists and three vocalists. By not having a rush class in the Fall 2007, this enabled a large group of potentials to get the benefits of teamwork and true brotherhood.

It is quite the challenge to have all twelve members meet as often as possible, but they manage to pull it off with outdoor activities and late night dinners at local restaurants such as Whataburger and IHOP. They find every way possible to have study sessions and go over the fraternity and chapter history. This semester, the athletic events have been quite popular for the fun gatherings.

Top row (L to R): Casey Salinas, Austin Ishee, Gilbert Millan, Steven Torrence, Kyle Cameron, Matt Poche, Kyle Ramage, Brandon Hughes, Zachary Harston, Mark Benavides

Bottom row (L to R): Daniel Dufour, Lindsey Harris, Jr.



Graduating Sinfonian Departs SHSU

In December 2007, Brother Daniel Bassett graduated from the Sam Houston State University School of Criminal Justice with a minor in General Business Administration. Last year, Bassett completed an internship with the DEA and hopes to find a job soon. He also made a couple of appearances at our rush events for this semester. Best of luck to you, Brother Bassett!

Past President Gets Field Experience for Future Career

Brother Adam Hightower is in one busy semester right now as he wraps up his education at Sam Houston State University. Hightower is enrolled in his Student Teaching block right now and is teaching in various schools in the Cy-Fair Area.

Serving as President during from Fall 2006 to Spring 2007 and being a Sinfonian since December 2004, he continues to keep himself active in the Phi Mu Alpha world. He currently serves as Assistant Collegiate Province Representative, working aside CPR Kyle Norman (Omicron Upsilon). He will be greatly missed as Music Director. We wish him nothing but the best for his future and graduate school auditions. Once, Always, Long Live, Brother Hightower!

PHI MU ALPHA  AMONG MEN
SINFONIA HARMONY
ZETA MU CHAPTER

The *Samfonian* is published by the Zeta Mu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity and is edited by Daniel Burkeen and Adam Chitta.

A Signature Sinfonian's Impact

In the summer of 2007, Michael Cesario, a designer with Fred J. Miller, was inducted as a Signature Sinfonian for all of his attributes to the music and performing arts world. Cesario was initiated in the Xi Pi Chapter at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1967. With Broadway, TV, and Las Vegas among his credits, Michael Cesario was honored as Professor Emeritus by New York's Purchase College, where he was the Director of Design/Technology and Graduate Studies for Theatre and Film. Published in several texts, he has taught seminars at Dartmouth, NY School of Visual Arts/MFA, and the Julliard School. Recognized as a national leader in pageantry arts and a member of the Drum Corps International Hall of Fame, he is in demand as an adjudicator of high school bands and a consultant for drum and bugle corps.

This is a true gentleman who has made a tremendous difference in my life not only as a Sinfonian, but as a friend. I cannot say alone how much work he has done for the marching band, drum corps, winter guard, indoor drumline, pageantry world. I first met Michael after my first drum corps camp in Madison, Wisconsin. He was on our design team and was in charge of putting the show together. This included providing ideas on music, drill, colors, and the storyline. Luckily enough, I was able to stay with an alumnus in Madison the Sunday night after the camp. At that time, we went to a bar where a meeting was being held with some board members and alums. Just sitting there and listening to how he put his ideas forth and the enthusiasm there was in his voice, I could not think of a better place to be than in the drum corps community and with the Madison Scouts Drum & Bugle Corps.

For the 2005 season, my twin brother and I were in financial need with our dues and camp travel fees. I asked Michael and without a question, he helped us. My parents could not be more than grateful to hear that he helped provide for us to enjoy the experience of a lifetime. After that, I told myself that I will do whatever I can to help him with anything he might need in the future. After I left for college, I worked with a high school winter guard and my college marching band. Klein High School, Houston, TX, was in need of a new uniform design. I mentioned Michael to the color guard director, Tim LeBlanc, who is also a Sinfonian. Tim and the head band director communicated with Michael and talked ideas on a new design. After seeing the drawing and a sample uniform, then a few alterations, the band accepted the design and is now wearing Cesario with pride.

Last year, our marching band at Sam was in need of a new uniform design as well. I spoke with our marching band director, Alfredo Velez, who is also a Sinfonian. He exchanged emails and calls with Michael and took in a few designs. The sample uniform came in, went to the university board, alterations were made, and now the Bearkat Marching Band has a taste of Cesario on its field and in the stands. My

fellow peers could not be more than happy to see that we now have something to that can be worn with pride and enthusiasm. The new uniforms arrived just in time for sizing and fitting to be done for homecoming. A couple of days before the big game, the uniforms were previewed at an alumni dinner on the SHSU campus. As we marched into the ballroom, I could feel the excitement of the new uniforms from the alumni. At the game, the roar of anticipation from the fans grew louder and louder as the marching band reached the stadium.

Our school and fraternity are very grateful that Michael Cesario was able to touch our hearts this way and hope to keep our connection for a long time. Thanks, Brother!

Fraternally Yours,
Adam Chitta

Road Trips and Drum Corps

Last semester, Brothers Justin Palos and Clint Arndt made the journey up to Indiana for Bands Of America Grand Nationals, as well as their auditions for the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps. After a 21 hour drive, the two arrived in Indianapolis, auditioned, and managed to watch BOA Finals with some great seats, all within a 3 hour period! After the long drive there, rather than drive straight back, they decided to stay and enjoy the sights and sounds of the city. Although neither brother will be on the field with the Madison Scouts this summer, they have both received contracts for the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps. Clint will be marching bass drum, and Justin will be in the front ensemble playing vibes. Joining these two brothers during the 2008 Tour of the Summer Music Games with Drum Corps International include:

Adam Chitta – fifth year member of the Madison Scouts – baritone

Casey Salinas – first year member of the Santa Clara Vanguard – backfield conductor

Brandon Hughes – second year member of the Santa Clara Vanguard – trumpet

Zachary Harston – first year member of the Troopers - percussion

Go online to www.dci.org for performance schedules. Make the opportunity to drop by and see fellow brothers in action! This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience that these performers and musicians will never forget. Best of luck to all!

Fraternally Yours,
Justin Palos



Probationary Member

Corner



By: Zachary Harston

The 2007-2008 school year has been a year of many firsts. Not only have I entered the wonderful world of college music, I have begun to develop into who I'll be for the remainder of my life. There are many points on the proverbial map that I could place my finger on, but if there is any single point, it would be my choice to pursue the life of a Sinfonian.

The initial realization of my desire to become a Sinfonian occurred sometime in the fall semester, a period of time heavily influenced for many by marching band. Amidst the drama, frustrating rehearsals, and humid football games, I slowly began to distinguish these Sinfonians from the rest of the crowd. Their camaraderie and brotherhood sparked my attention, seeing as marching band can be a very stressful and almost hostile environment.

As I began to meet, socialize, and eventually befriend the Sinfonian percussionists, my observations were right... they were interested, even involved in each other's lives to a level that I was not accustomed to, yet I liked it. Sure enough, I attended the spring rush events, and I, Zachary Ryan Harston, am now a Probationary Member of the Zeta Mu chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

My first real experience with a group of Sinfonians for any significant amount of time was the TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) convention in February. I roomed with 3 of the actives, and had a blast. Whether it was tagging along beside them in the exhibit hall collecting signatures, or just talking about things we were going through or felt strongly about, I thoroughly enjoyed my quality time with those actives.

The highlight of my first experience was the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia "Step Sing," where most, if not all, of the Sinfonians present at the convention gathered in one room, and sang their songs for any and all that wished to hear. The number of "goosebump" moments that night provided were countless, but above all the rest I'll never forget the chorus of "Red and Black," and how those chords and lyrics hit me. Singing along with hundreds of men that shared the same high ideals was an experience that will never be matched... until the next Step Sing.

Brother Takes Internship at Disney World for Fall Semester

By David Smith

Only two-and-a-half months into my Disney College Program experience and my life had already been reduced to popcorn, sodas, cinnamon-glazed almonds, and ice cream bars that no one—despite how worldly or intelligent they were—could properly pronounce. I saw Mickey and Minnie EVERYWHERE, and if I heard that damnable term "Mickey Ears" once more I would explode! Beyond the fact that the magic was beginning to fade, the problems intrinsic to life were rearing their heads. (Why can credit-card companies find you no matter where you hide?!) Naturally, after a while of the heat, constant bustle, rude customers, late hours, and incessant money issues I was beginning to tire mentally and physically. Too bad I tired so much that I forgot the days of the week and no-call-no-showed at work because I thought that Tuesday was Wednesday. (Just keeps gettin' better and better, doesn't it?)

Just as I was ready to rip my hair clean out of my scalp, I had an encounter that was no short of a miracle. As I was heading into work for yet another very long day, I got discouraged; that is until I noticed a very tall, young-looking, kind-faced man walking towards me in a jacket similar to several I had seen before, with those three Greek letters placed vertically along the zipper, standing out in bright crimson against the black of the nylon upon which it was stitched. It was one of the most beautiful and comforting sights I had ever laid my eyes on.

After immediately running to him, meeting him, and telling him about my day, he gave me a laugh and told me that every now and then he wore his letters just for such an occasion. It was as if we were meant to talk to each other that day. Ever since, I've been reminded of a brother who did nothing more than lend a listening ear and a hearty handshake, but in turn gave me such a sense of security and warmth that I was having trouble feeling up until that point.



Stay in Touch...

We have now updated the Zeta Mu website online. You can access it at <http://pmazetamu.googlepages.com/>.

Included on the page is a Biography section for profiles of current actives, calendar of events, information for prospective members, and a media section with audio recordings and pictures. We hope to record some songs and have them posted on the website shortly.

If you need to update your contact information, or pass along information for a brother we may have lost contact with, please contact our Alumni Relations Officer, Adam Chitta, at 830-556-4091 or by email at scoutseuph04@gmail.com.

If you would like more information on how to re-connect with the National Fraternity, you can contact Dan Krueger, Director of Alumni Engagement at krueger@sinfonia.org. Meet other Brothers online and build networks at Sinfonia Circle - <https://sinfonia.affinitycircles.com/>. There, you can meet other Sinfonians with your same interests, from your surrounding area, or even look for job openings. Feel free to contact me for anything. Take care and God Bless.

In Phi Mu and Alpha,
Adam Chitta
Alumni Relations Officer



Signature Sinfonian Michael Cesario and Adam Chitta at TMEA in San Antonio, TX.

Trivia

What day is Zeta Mu Chapter Day?

April 28th

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



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