

THE SAMFONIAN

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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; and a loyalty to the Alma Mater.



A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER

Brothers, I am privileged and honored to have recently been elected to the office of the Alumni Relations Officer. It was just the past semester in the Fall of 2010 that I was initiated with the rest of Rho class. Since then I have been very active with the fraternity by becoming webmaster and redesigning the current website and also by being a part of the fund raising committee. I now seek to improve the Alumni Relations of this chapter. I have already started by creating an Alumni Committee which will help with the future publications of The Samfonian and planning Alumni Events. Some things you can expect for next year is to see the Alumni BBQ in the fall instead of the spring. In the spring will be a new Alumni Event. We will also schedule Alumni Events the same day as either our Musical Recitals or Initiations. Alumni Members will also be updated via Email monthly about our events, SHSU School of Music concerts and our Alumni events for this semester. If you have any suggestions for Alumni Events or things you would like to see from our chapter as an Alumni member please feel free to email me at mav1121@yahoo.com with your suggestions. Your words would greatly be appreciated. Also check out our newest website and become a member TODAY!!! www.pmazetamu.org You can sign up with your email or Facebook using Facebook Connect but you **do not have to** have a Facebook profile to become a member. You can become a member of the website with any valid email address.

Take Care Brothers, In Fraternal Spirit Of
Phi Mu Alpha
Alex Villarreal *Alumni Relations Officer*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the time I have spent as a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia at Zeta Mu, I've watched the chapter grow under two E.C committees. The Chapter has had a positive influence on its members, its school and community but we can do more. We've out grown certain habits and adopted new ones. New sights wait just over the horizon and this is where we hope to be with our new E.C. As President my first concern is that of Fraternal Spirit. After all, this is for us. I want us to make it more than worth the \$120 we pay in dues every semester. I want us to grow as men; physically, mentally, emotionally, and morally. We've made a commitment together. I've made a commitment. We have the power, the resources and the talent to move forward and I can't wait to get started!

-Stewart D. Gaitan

(President of PMA – Zeta Mu)

ENSEMBLES AT SHSU

This past spring semester has been a tiring one for the School of Music with the opening of The James & Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center, giving us more opportunities to perform with the many faculty and student-run ensembles at the School of Music. One of the student-run ensembles is the SHSU Brass Choir, conducted by brothers Chase Giddings and Casey Salinas. In addition to having two Sinfonian conductors, the brass choir consists of brothers Carloz Gil, Kyle Cameron, A.J. Hicks, David Spence, Nathan Wood, David Martin, Marco Samperio, and Randy Laran. The SHSU Brass Choir strives to perform and rehearse as a professional ensemble. This year, the SHSU Brass Choir recorded and sent in a recording to the prestigious Midwest Clinic. We all agree that we performed and displayed a high level of professional in our recording. This is just one of the many ensembles at Sam Houston State where brothers strive to perform at a high level. Whether it is in a brass ensemble, a choir, or an orchestra, the Brothers of the Zeta Mu Chapter are always committed to sharing their love of music.

By Randy Laran

ACPR PROVINCE 40 PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA

Throughout my collegiate career I have had the pleasure of holding many different offices and attending many different workshops and conventions. I had the distinct honor of accepting the Charles E. Lutton award for our chapter at the 09 National Convention and meeting with now past president Richard A Crosby during my term as President. Holding the office of FEO helped me confirm my incredible passion for teaching in general, and I was able to create bonds with four wonderful men of XI Class that have done amazing things for our chapter. The most recent honor I received was being able to serve as the Assistant Collegiate Province Representative for the 2010-2011 academic year, and representing our chapter at the Province level.

It was such a thrill to meet brothers from other chapters who spoke so highly about Sinfonia, who had similar experiences, and who held just as high a standard of excellence that we do here at Zeta Mu. Just being there to do presentations, to take minutes of the province meetings, and to be an experienced listening ear to anyone that needed to talk or ask advice about how things are going on in their chapter was a tremendous opportunity and honor to do with our province. These are some of the many memories I will cherish as I take my next step as an Alumnus member of Zeta Mu, as I am graduating next spring with a Bachelor of Music Education.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Casey Salinas, recent Past President of Zeta Mu for being elected as the Collegiate Province Representative for the next academic term, who will continue to represent our chapter to the highest standard in the Province level, and will also be representing all of us at the 2012 National Convention as a voting delegate.

By Ryan Ramsey

WGI COMPETITION

Indoor drumline and winter guard are stronger than ever! This year, several active brothers and even a PM took part in what was my final season as a performer in WGI (Winter Guard International). Every year we take the court from Friday night to Sunday afternoon and put together a show that combines music, dancing, theatrics, and the raw power of marching band (even with guitars and keyboards thrown in there for good measure).

Imperial Percussion Theater's program for 2011 was called "Choices". Each movement introduced a new musical 'choice' one might choose when listening to or performing a show. Choice A was Rhythm, which featured lots of just good old fashioned drumming, and the bass drums in particular. Choice B was Melody, which of course featured the front ensemble with a little bit of a jazz/breakbeat feel. Choice C was Movement, which found the marching members performing more intricate dance moves than had been found in previous offerings. The cymbal line provided the musical solo, as their change of color helped to move the show along. Choice D was dubbed Effect. This movement pulled out all the stops. Anything we could do to get a positive reaction from the audience was in. We had cartwheels, leapfrogs, solos, stick flashes, almost anything you could think of! We even capped off the movement marching at 240 beats/minute. All sections had their time to shine in this movement. Our last movement brought it all together. It was titled aptly, 'We Want It All!' Elements from all of the other movements showed up and we capped it off with lots of energy and intensity!

Sinfonians involved include Adam Chitta (a year of cymbals and three years on staff), Zach Harston (bass, center tenor, drum captain), John Paddie (3 years as bass captain) and Nathan Jessup (bass drum), who

is a probationary member and my little brother. All of these men are from Zeta Mu. Other Sinfonians who have contributed include Chip Richer, Jay Davis, Justin Zimmerman and Justin Smith (without whom this ensemble would surely not exist).

I believe that this group of people is advancing music in America through integrity of competition, dedication to a cause, and certainly good old-fashioned hard work. We took our third state championship this year and received our highest ranking at national competition in Dayton, Ohio against lines from all over the country. Next year, I'll be moving to the staff side of things, but brother Harston will remain at the helm and Nathan Jessup will be stepping up in my place as bass captain. Things are looking up for the ensemble and the chapter! I couldn't be more excited!

Come out and see us sometime around the Houston/Austin area, where our shows will likely take place!

Fraternally yours

John Paddie

NEW BROTHERS OF SIGMA CLASS

Brothers! Join us in welcoming our newest class of brothers! They have spent the past nine difficult weeks as we all have learning about our fraternity while living the busy college life. This class has spent a lot of time together not just in their Probationary Member meeting but they have also taken it upon themselves to meet at one of their PM Brother's house for a night by the fire with each other. Sigma class has a good grasp on

our ideals and is sure to see them carried out as brothers.

“Sinfonia represents a trusted group of guys who share a common bond with each other and who will have each other back no matter what. They look out for your best interest and help you through the good times and bad times”.

Charles Robilotto – Sigma Class

“Phi Mu Alpha represents caring and trustworthy brothers who will always be there for you no matter the circumstance. It is a brotherhood that uplifts positive criticism for the better of one self and the fraternity as a whole”.

Conner Roberts – Sigma Class

“PMA represents bonds that will never be broken and a friendship that can never be taken away from me. People I know I can trust on for anything”.

Cody Brooks – Sigma Class



Left to Right Top: Kadon Fontenot, Charles Robilotto, Nathan Jessup, Nick Szoeki, Darren Hymel, Conner Roberts
Bottom: Jacob Lowry, Luis Ayala, Cody Brooks

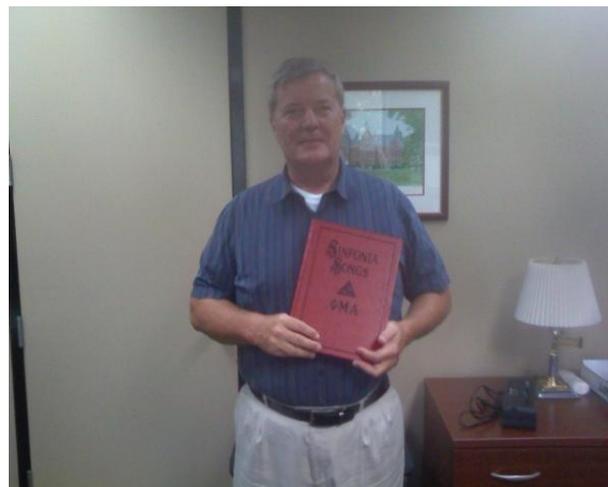
NEW HONORARY MEMBER

DR. JAMES M. BANKHEAD

Zeta Mu is proud to announce former SHSU School of Music Director Dr. James M. Bankhead as an Honorary Member of our Fraternity. Since coming to Sam Houston Dr. Bankhead has made many contributions to the School of Music. Because of his many efforts we now have the James and Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center. Dr. Bankhead is returning to Utah where he has accepted the position of Music Department Head at his alma mater, Utah State University. Dr. Bankhead received his bachelor of music degree at Utah State University in 1969, his master of arts in business administration at Central Michigan University in 1981, and his doctor of musical arts in conducting at the Catholic University of America in 1986.

Dr. Bankhead completed 22 years of military service in the Air Force retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He served as Commander/Conductor of the United States Air Force Band in Washington 1985-1991 and Deputy Commander/Assistant Conductor of that organization from 1976-1985. Prior to that he was Chief of Bands and Music for the Air Force stationed at the Pentagon.

An early accomplishment was the creation of a Foreign Bandleader Exchange Program, designed to foster personal contact with international military band counterparts. During that year, guest conductors from Brazil, Portugal and the United Kingdom conducted The Air Force Band in concerts at the Sylvan Theater and at the U.S. Capitol. Dr. Bankhead also commanded the first military musical unit



to visit China as the Band resumed international tours in 1987.

Outside of his military work Dr. Bankhead has also been the Chair for the Department of Music at California State University, Chico. Before taking the job at CSU, Chico, he was also the Executive Director of the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra and Producer at Weidner Center for Performing Arts. He has been a frequent guest conductor, clinician and music specialist at many events all across the country. He has conducted in all fifty states and fourteen countries.

After reading this it is easy to see that Dr. Bankhead has made many contributions to the world of music. However this is not the only reason why we choose Dr. Bankhead to join our brotherhood. We have also found his character to be that of one we look for in every new brother. He is willing to do more than work hard but also make sacrifices when needed, having not only a passion for music but a desire to teach the truth. Brothers please join us in welcoming Brother Bankhead.

Keep us Updated!!!

Brothers help us stay in contact with you so we know how you are doing and what you are up to. Send us your most up to date contact information and maybe a little bit about what you are up to these days so we know what you are doing these days. We appreciate everything you have done for this chapter and would not likely be here without your help. You can update your information by visiting the Zeta Mu website www.pmazetamu.org or email the Alumni Relations Officer at aro@pmazetamu.org



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Together Brothers!!!

**Once A
Sinfonian**

**Always A
Sinfonian**

**Long Live
Sinfonia!!!!**