



Sinfonica



The Alumni Newsletter of the Zeta Rho Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
Volume 2, No. 1, October 6, 2006



Word from the President

Greetings from the Zeta Rho (ZP) Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity. My name is Darius Gaines, and I am the President of the Zeta Rho Chapter 2006-2007. It is an honor to come before you in this capacity. I wanted to take on a role that required more time, effort, and responsibility within the fraternity. When confronted with the opportunity, I decided to take advantage. Our ideas for the Zeta Rho Chapter are far from conventional. Some of the items on the agenda are: hosting the Province Workshop, December 9, bringing a Sigma Alpha Iota Chapter to Fisk University, and obtaining permission to construct a Phi Mu Alpha plot. Brothers, I assure you that we will tackle these projects with tenacity, creativity, and forethought. Among the completed items on the agenda are painting of the music building and the hosting of an informational for those interested in becoming Sinfonians. We eagerly await the induction of the new Gamma class. At first glance, you would think they were Sinfonians, already due to their musical abilities, respectful attitudes, and polite manners. Indeed, there are great things in store for the Zeta Rho Chapter.



Left: Troika Hanna paints the high part of the wall in the entrance way to the Harris Music Building. Right: Darius Gaines holds the "Wet Paint" sign
Below: The Spirit of Orpheus shows at the informational.



Harris Music Building Gets Refreshed

"The Music Building is like our plot," said president Darius Gaines before the current members voted to renew the Sinfonics pledge to paint the Harris Music Building this semester. In 2004, artwork by Ramses was purchased by the Sinfonics, who were seeking the donation of paint from local retailers. They also enlisted the aid of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity for support in labor.

The donations did not come through at the time, but the University agreed to budget funds for renovations and on September 16 and 23, actives and their friends gathered to paint the entrance, hallways, and classroom. Alpha Phi Omega joined them on September 16 and other friends stayed until the very, very end on September 23.

"It makes the building appear more inviting to guests and prospective students," said Dr. Philip Autry, faculty advisor and chair of the Fisk University Music Department. The renovations to the back office and classroom include shelving space in Harris 113 and an equipment storage area in Harris 111.

A new sign hangs in the foyer that states "Refreshing the walls of the Harris Music Building, Equipment for Music Technology Lab, and Artwork by Ramses were obtained through the leadership of Fisk Sinfonics and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia with assistance from Sponsored Programs, Alpha Phi Omega, and other Fisk students." The certificate is dated September 24, 2006.

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Chapter Day Celebration a First for Most Participants



Pictured above (L to R), Sherman Tribble, Philip Autry, Gary Powell Nash, Kent Wallace, Devin Mikell, Adam Burnick, Darrel Jones, Tom King

The Zeta Rho Chapter celebrates three days: Founders Day (October 6, 1898), Colony Day (January 25, 2005), and Chapter Day (May 23, 1953). Although the University is not in session, collegians, alumni, faculty, and guests gathered in Harris 111 for a reading of the Chapter Day ceremony. Presiding was Immediate Past President Darrel Jones (New Alpha Class, 2005). Speaking on behalf of the Alumni of Zeta Rho was Dr. Sherman Tribble (Zeta Class, 1975). Speaking on behalf of current members was Vice-President Devin Mikell (New Alpha Class, 2005). Guests in attendance were Province Governor Adam Burnick (Vanderbilt University) and Dr. Thomas King (Austin Peay State University). Fisk Faculty in attendance included Dr. Philip Autry, Dr. Gary Powell Nash, Dr. Sherman R. Tribble, and Mr. Kent Wallace.

According to Dr. King, Chapter Day at APSU is also May 23, and with no one there, they have not celebrated it. The chapter at Angelo State University (Texas), according to Dr. Autry, wore shirts on December 3, but did not perform the ceremony while he was there. Mr. Wallace and Mr. Burnick were founders of their chapters at Grambling State University (Louisiana) and Vanderbilt University.

Man Power: UNCF/Mellon Program

Sophomore Devin Mikell was chosen by the UNCF/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for participation as a Fellow. The purpose of the program is to help students prepare for graduate school. He attended the Summer Workshop at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and has begun work on his thesis, which will be presented at Fisk's 2007 Research Day. His project is titled "Thelonious Monk and Claude Debussy: The Comparisons and Contrasts of Contemporary Jazz and French Impressionist Music."

Music Power: Sinfonian Faculty Members Form Faculty Jazz Ensemble



L to R: Greg Bryant, guitar; Kent Wallace, trombone; Robert Gibbs, percussion; Philip Autry, piano; Gary Powell Nash, clarinet (director)

Increasing popularity of the Jazz Ensemble has resulted in performances for the Gallatin Shalom Zone contributors, the Provost's Reception, Graduation, and many other on-campus and off-campus functions. When Gary Nash received a call from the Tennessee affiliate of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA), which has more than 65,000 members, nationwide, he could not let the fact that the regular Jazz Ensemble was scattered from Texas to Illinois to Nassau. The substitute ensemble was built from Music faculty, other University faculty and staff, and one "ringer." Rob Gibbs, percussion, is a 2003 graduate of the Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business at Belmont University, and an alumnus member of Phi Mu Alpha. Greg Bryant is from the Office of Communications and Public Relations at Fisk, and has sat in with the University Jazz Ensemble in the past. It is only fitting that the Faculty Jazz Ensemble should mirror the 2005-2006 University Jazz Ensemble, in which Troika Hanna, Curtis Jones, Greg Mason, and Matthew Richardson are all Sinfonians.

Music Power: World Premiere Performance

Silent Guns of Sacrifice and Fortitude by Gary Powell Nash received its world premiere performance at the Tennessee Music Teachers Association state convention on June 6, 2006 on the University of Memphis campus. TMTA President Philip Autry introduced the performance. The work will be submitted to Music Teachers National Association so that Dr. Nash will be considered for naming as the MTNA Distinguished Composer. We wish him well in this endeavor.



L to R: James Gholson, clarinet; Gary Powell Nash, composer; Ed Murray, percussion.

Money Power

The first fundraiser for FY 2007 took place at the Krystal Restaurant on Charlotte Pike on September 3. The leaders of the Zeta Rho Chapter held a car wash for the community. Participants were Darius Gaines, Devin Mikell, Greg Mason and Willis Ware.

Other fund-raisers for the semester that are planned will include work at the Gaylord Entertainment Center and a "Name that Tune" game.

Funds will be needed for hosting the Province Workshop on Fisk's campus, December 9, 2006.



Sinfonians Matthew Richardson and Greg Mason perform with the Fisk Jazz Ensemble in Centennial Park. For the Nashville Jazz Festival.

I want to keep the Spirit of Orpheus alive at Fisk University.

Enclosed is my gift of
\$ _____ for the
Zeta Rho Chapter of
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Name:

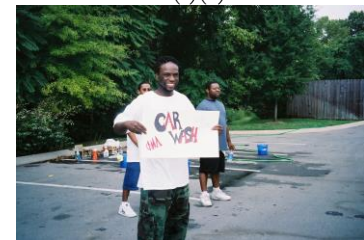
Address:

City, State Zip Code

Voluntary Contributions
may be sent to:

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
c/o Music Department
Fisk University
1000 17th Avenue, North
Nashville TN 37208

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia does
NOT have 501(c)(3) class status.



Willis Ware advertises the fundraising Car Wash in August.

Officers 2006-2007

President	Darius Gaines
Vice President	Devin Mikell
Secretary	Joshua Jeter
Treasurer	Gregory Mason
Fraternity Education (FEO)	Devin Mikell
Assistant FEO	Willis Ware
Historian	Troika Hanna
Alumni Relations	Matthew Richardson
Warden	Troika Hanna