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**The 75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
of the chapter is  
quickly approaching!  
See how you can be  
involved! See page 3**

# Gamma Epsilon

## Alumni Newsletter

**S**pring 2012



## Greetings Alumni of Gamma Epsilon!

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the beautiful spring we have been having! My name is Ryan Wamhoff; some of you may recognize my name from the Alumni Reunion Dinner last fall. For those of you who do not know me, I am currently a music education senior and my major instrument is the trombone. For the past year I have had the pleasure and challenge of serving as Gamma Epsilon's President.

Last week we elected our officers for the coming year and I can confidently say that the Gamma Epsilon Chapter is again in good hands. This year has been one of sustained success as well as enormous growth for our Chapter. A few of the projects we have accomplished this year will be showcased later in this newsletter.

On and Ever Upwards!

My name is Joshua Sholler and I am the Alumni Relations Officer for the Gamma Epsilon Chapter. I have served the chapter in the past as FEO and President. I am currently finishing up my degree in music education and beginning the job search. The chapter has had a very successful year as you will read about in this newsletter.

Lastly, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of the collegiate brothers and alumni brothers for all of the memories they have given me from the past 5 years. I will graduate in just a few short weeks and I cannot imagine graduating as a non-Sinfonian. My journey as a Sinfonian is not coming to an end, but simply, just beginning. I hope to continue to give back to the fraternity that has given so much to me and to continue the work of our founder, Father Mills.

OAS! AAS! LLS!

# Alumni News

I would like the current alumni newsletter to expand and I hope you do too! Currently, the alumni newsletter showcases what the current collegiate brothers have done over the past school year. I would like the alumni newsletter to begin highlighting where our Alumni have gone after they graduate. If you are interested in this new initiative please contact me at [jdsholler@gmail.com](mailto:jdsholler@gmail.com).

## Alumni Website

Brother S. Joseph (Joe) Levine is the Site Administrator for the Spartan Sinfonia Alumni website. The website has been a fantastic resource at reconnecting with alumni and has steadily grown over the past year. Please continue updating your information. Thanks to generous alumni support the website and domain name have been paid forward for an additional 10 years!

[www.spartansinfonianalumni.com](http://www.spartansinfonianalumni.com)

## Alumni Reunion Success!!

"The Alumni Reunion this past fall was a huge step towards an increased interaction between the current collegiates and our alumni. I fully expect the chapter to carry the torch from this point but continued alumni influence will be instrumental in planning future events. I firmly believe that successful alumni engagement will cultivate even more development within our chapter."

- Ryan Wamhoff

## Initiation Ritual

Join us for the initiation ritual of our Spring class.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Music Building, Room 120,  
"The Band Room"**

**Rehearsal at 8:30 PM Knock at 9:30 PM**

For more information, e-mail ritual director Joey Zill at [zilljose@msu.edu](mailto:zilljose@msu.edu).



## Orpheus Award

The brothers of the Gamma Epsilon Chapter presented Professor Roger Smeltekop with the Fraternity's Orpheus Award. The criterion for awarding the Orpheus Award is as follows:

"Any person - male or female, Sinfonian or non-Sinfonian - who has significantly and lastingly contributed to the cause of music in America may be considered for the Orpheus Award."

Professor Smeltekop could not have been a more suitable candidate for this award. His 15 years of service to the chapter and even more important work in the education of future music therapists is proof enough.

Congratulations, Professor Smeltekop!



# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion

The collegiate brothers have formed a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Committee and we want your input and involvement! On November 22, 2013, the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha will celebrate 75 years since it's chartering on November 22, 1938. To honor this momentous occasion the chapter is hoping to host one of the largest alumni reunions of Sinfonians in Province 2. Currently, the tentative date for the reunion is towards the end of the 2014 Spring Semester. This will help to alleviate the complications of football and marching band conflicts in the Fall of 2013 and allow for more planning time. The reunion is in the initial planning stages and would really benefit from alumni involvement. The current committee would like to have a representative from each decade that the chapter has been active. The committee will be meeting in the coming weeks to begin formalizing our goals for the reunion. Please look for more information in the coming months. If you would like to be a representative from your decade, please contact me at [jdsholler@gmail.com](mailto:jdsholler@gmail.com).

## Featured Alumnus



David Buhlman and Dustin Keith after completina 100 miles in Pelotonia 11.

Name: David "gooseneck" Buhlman

Initiation Date: 02/02/02

Offices Held: Alumni Secretary, President, FEO, ARO, ACPR(Province 2)

Where are you now?: I am currently living in Columbus, OH where I have taken up bicycling to help raise cancer research funds for Pelotonia ([www.pelotonia.org](http://www.pelotonia.org)) with the cycling team Speranza ([www.teamsperanza.org](http://www.teamsperanza.org)). Team Speranza was founded by Gamma Epsilon alumni Dustin Keith ('00) and Andy Scheurer ('01).

How does one get the most out of Sinfonia?: Foster Brotherhood! Spend as much time as you can with each of your brothers. In groups or one on one, just go out and have fun with your brothers. Now is the time to shake their hands and share the bond you have with them.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Committee

Joshua Sholler – April 2008  
Michael Wright – April 2008  
Benjamin Woodcock – April 2009  
Ryan Wamhoff – April 2010  
Brad Schmaltz – April 2011

**Newsletters are very expensive to produce!  
Therefore, we have switched to an all-electronic newsletter. If you wish to receive a hardcopy in the mail please let us know.**

## 2012-2013 Officers

**President – Brad Schmaltz**

**VP – Jon Carrothers**

**FEO – Jacob Bender**

**Secretary – Anthony Machniak**

**Treasurer – Josh Sawyer**

**Warden – Evan Wegener**

**CMAL – Marcus Herndon**

**FCD – Steve Cook**

**PCR – Byron Valentine**

**Ritual – Jacob Bender**

**ARO – Benjamin Woodcock**

### Officer Key:

VP – Vice President  
FEO – Fraternal Education Officer  
CMAL – Committee Man at Large  
FCD – Fraternal Choral Director  
PCR – Province Council Representative  
Ritual – Ritual Director  
ARO – Alumni Relations Officer



# Chapter News



## Chapter Activities Through the Year

- The brothers of the Gamma Epsilon Chapter hosted a very successful Province Mill's Music Mission last October spending time singing for, and talking with, the wonderful people at Bickford of Okemos retirement home. Furthermore the chapter hosted the Province Workshop in February.

- This past November the chapter presented "An American Musical" in the Hart Recital Hall at Michigan State's Music Building. This was a fantastic event that involved every member of our chapter as well as numerous alumni Sinfonians. Performances included: a trombone sextet, vocal octet, horn duet, piano solo, and many others. The recital was a great success.

- In January of this year our chapter performed with Brother Mark Stice's Okemos High School Wind Ensemble in a local concert known as the Tri-District Concert. The chapter provided the men's chorus parts to "The Sinfonians."

- The chapter has been very active with the current probationary class. This semester's class has four fine gentlemen who began their journey towards becoming a brother in late January. They have been working extremely hard to become collegiate Sinfonians. One of their numerous accomplishments includes all of them passing the National Exam on the first try. Recently the Chapter participated in the Mills Music Mission with the probationary members. The Chapter sang a 40-minute program at a local retirement community.

### Brothers presenting Brother Woodcock with a check totaling \$1,527.50 raised in large part from donations from Gamma Epsilon Alumni

Dear Alumni Brothers,

As most of you know, I was diagnosed with germ cell cancer this past fall after having a large tumor surgically removed from my chest. I underwent ten weeks of intensive chemotherapy and experienced all the side effects of chemo, including losing my hair.

Chemo ended on December 27 and I was deemed cancer free on January 12, 2012. At the beginning of the spring semester, I was not strong enough to live on my own, so I continued to live at home in Muskegon, MI. I began working towards my degree again by enrolling in four online classes through MSU. Over the past few months, I have visited MSU a few times and participated in Phi Mu Alpha events and resumed work as a desk receptionist in the dorms.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> I will be moving back to East Lansing for the summer. I will be taking classes and working on campus. It will be a change of pace, but I am excited to resume my life as a college student.

Thank you for thinking of me with your thoughts and prayers, contributions, and support as I underwent a very difficult time in my life. My family and I thoroughly appreciate it.

OAS! AAS! LLS!

Brother Benjamin Woodcock