

xiMusings

the ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
of the XI MU CHAPTER
of PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA
at the UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

spring2008

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first Alumni Newsletter from the Xi Mu Chapter in quite some time now. As I'm sure you all know, a lot has taken place since you've last heard from the chapter.

For the last two years I have been President and during that time we brought in guest artists such as Boston Brass and Lars Hall Jazz Orchestra, performed about half a dozen Mills Music Missions, hosted Sinfonia Slam this past fall, and initiated 22 new brothers in three probationary classes with double digits: AB, AΓ, and AΔ. We also had a dinner for our Faculty Advisor Emeritus, Dr. Michael "Iron Mike" Arenson.

Dr. David Herman has now taken on the role of Faculty Advisor and has been doing a great job! We are



very pleased with him and all of his efforts.

While the Chapter's spirits and motivation are currently at a high, there has been one important item of being a brother that has been decreasing. I'm sure you've guessed it by now if you have seen pictures of the chapter – we've been lacking that good ol' Sinfonia girth. While some may think this is a problem, I assure you that while the new guys may look skinny, they love to eat!

I hope that all your personal endeavors have continued leading you to great things. I would especially like to congratulate all those who have been getting married and having children! It's great to hear the wonderful things that are happening in your lives, so keep them coming! While I will be

WHAT'S INSIDE

- p. 2 What's new at UD Amerifest Weekend SLAM! 2007
- p. 3 Alumni Updates Kuchinsky Interview Chapter Profile
- p. 4 Message from the SEF Upcoming Events

joining the fold of Alumni Brothers after this May, I assure you that future of the Xi Mu Chapter looks nothing but bright and successful. I encourage you to always remember that Sinfonia is a life-long journey. We hope to always rely on our Alumni Brothers to shed some light on where the Xi Mu Chapter has come from and you can rely on the Active Brothers to share with you where the Xi Mu Chapter is going. Take care!

Fraternally,
Greg Dalakian
President

ALPHA DELTA PROBATIONARY CLASS

Andrew Bedell

On November 18, 2007, ten young men were initiated into the brotherhood of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. After nearly two months of interviews, tasks, a recital, and a national exam that did not start until ten at night, they finally joined the ranks of the brothers of Xi Mu.

Rush started in late September, with over thirty showing interest. The ten remaining at the end, all freshmen, became the Alpha Delta class.



Clockwise from blonde kid:
Matthew Pisarcik- Music Ed.,
Trumpet

Andrew Bedell- History Ed., Jazz Studies, Saxophone
Aaron Fisher- Communication, Music Management Studies, Musical Studies
Brendan McDonnell- Music Ed., French Horn
Nick McGill- Music Ed., Percussion
David Finkelstein- Music Ed., Percussion
Matthew Colman- Environmental Eng.
Andrew Tremblay- Music Ed., French Horn
Alexander Blau- Biology Ed.
Gregory Pellis- History

MAKING MUSIC AT DELAWARE: WHAT'S NEW

Alex Eiermann

Much has changed at the University of Delaware in the past few years. Just take a walk down Kent Way towards the Amy E. DuPont Music Building. Passing familiar sights such as the Blue and Gold Club and the President's House, I'm almost certain anyone who has not visited campus in the past few years will be incredibly

surprised at what they discover at the end of the road. This semester, *Così fan Tutte*. This Department of Music debut in the Thompson Theatre will feature an all-student cast accompanied by the UD Chamber Orchestra conducted by Brian Stone.

Speaking of orchestra, yes- there are now two of them. Thanks to the hard work of its director, Dr. Brian Stone, and the support of the UD



The new Roselle Center for the Arts (left) houses numerous rehearsal and performance spaces, including Puglisi Hall (right).

Music Department, the once anemic UD Symphony Orchestra has grown to be one of the university's most robust and premier ensembles. In the past three years it has performed challenging works such as Holst's *The Planets*, Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*, Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, and every Sinfonian's favorite, Beethoven's 5th Symphony. The orchestra's improvement during the past few years prompted Dr. Stone to establish a separate, "elite" ensemble of string and wind players. The UD Chamber Orchestra is currently in its first year, and has had much success, performing in and outside UD.

It is an exciting time to be a music student at Delaware. If you're ever in the vicinity of Newark, come and check out a concert, recital, or an opera! Find more information on the web at www.music.udel.edu.

Directly across from the Amy, the Louise and David Roselle Center for the Arts (CFA) is a stunning and welcome addition to the University of Delaware. The building houses four main performance spaces and 32 practice rooms and is currently in its second year of operation. Taking advantage of this new space, university ensembles ranging in size routinely hold their performances in either Puglisi Orchestra Hall or Gore Recital Hall. The CFA also hosts performances by many prominent guest artists over the course of the year, as well as faculty recitals and other special events. This spring, Opera Workshop will take the stage in the CFA. Following successful productions of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*, the faculty has decided on another Mozart gem for this

AMERIFEST 2008:

FUN, FRIENDS, FAMILY, FRATERNITY

Alex Blau

This year Xi Mu has planned to hold Amerifest on Saturday May 3rd. The event starts at 12 o'clock noon when UD campus groups are invited to perform American music. The event continues at 3:00pm when the brotherhood will hold a collegiate / faculty / alumni American Music Recital.

Here is the best part of the whole day though; there will be an alumni BBQ following the recital! The BBQ is open to all student, faculty, and alumni brothers, as well as their families. So please bring your families; we want lots of people to be there! Hotdogs, hamburgers, sausage, and ribs will be provided, but you are welcome (nay, encouraged) to bring any other food or drink that you wish.

If you would like to play something for the recital, or if you just want to show up and eat good food, please RSVP to Alex Blau ASAP (abblau@udel.edu).

SINFONIA SLAM

Ryan Fedewitz

We kicked off the school year by hosting Province 27's Sinfonia SLAM. This annual event unites chapters from across the province in a social event filled with music and brotherhood bonding. Highlights included singing of fraternal songs, a Mills Music Mission at the Little Sisters of the Poor nursing home, a province council meeting and a game of capture the flag. At the province council meeting, Xi Mu's own Michael Molaski officially took office as Province 27's Collegiate Province Representative and Rho Sigma's Kevin Boehm as the assistant CPR.

The weekend was also filled with celebrations for Founder's Day. The chapter and brothers from the province enjoyed the traditional Founder's Day ceremony and a presentation of "Sinfonia Birthday," a historical play written by Percy Jewett Burrell depicting the first meetings of the Sinfonia Club. The day was topped off with an exquisite dinner at an all you can eat buffet! A true Sinfonian experience.

Full text of all the articles here!

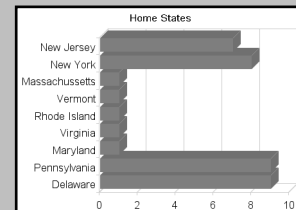
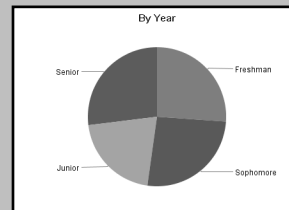
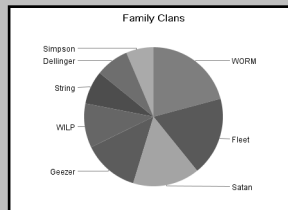
Alumni contact info!

Current, up-to-date calendar of events!

Get it all on the chapter website:

www.mysticcat.org/~ximuchapter

ACTIVE CHAPTER STATS



ALUMNUS INTERVIEW: KEVIN KUCHINSKY

Paul Gospodinsky

My name is Kevin 'D-Day' Kuchinsky. I pledged as a member of the Eta Class along with Alex Young and Lew Indellini in the Fall of 1997. My Big was Chris Williamson. My little was Aaron Kirschner. I was Treasurer during 1998. I was on the committees for the AMF and Band Fest. I was also the first Lord High Mük of our



chapter. I played snare in the Drumline; guitar in the Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Guitar Ensemble; and sax in the Jazz Ensemble and Marching Band. I also formed the UD Parking Lot Band along with Brothers Lew Indellini, Matt Watson, and Dave Reimschuessell. I entered UD as a Mechanical Engineering Major. I then transferred to Music Education with a Concentration in Classical Guitar. I completed that Degree at TCNJ in 2004 and got a Masters Degree in Jazz Guitar Performance from NJCU in 2006. I am currently the Instrumental Music Teacher at Holland Township School in Milford, NJ. I also have an active performance schedule in the NY/NJ area. I am living in North Brunswick, New Jersey and I am getting married on July 6 of this year.

WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO

Steve Litterst (Charter): My daughter will be a year old in April!

Tim Simpson (Charter): I'll be back at UD full time in the fall working on a 2nd degree.

Bill String (Charter): I am currently a band director at Long Reach High School in Columbia, MD. Our first child was born this year, Abigail Lynn String, June 13, 2007, 3lbs, 14oz.

Derek Danilson: Recently stepped down from NEC to become president of the SEF. Married for 8 months now to Colleen after one hell of a party at the wedding. Still playing in the Atlantic Brass Band.

Brian Burns (A): About a year away from being Doctor Burns

Jason Jacoby (A): I've been married to Jennifer Behnke since September of 2005. We have twins, named Ella Rose and Isaac Joseph, who were born on December 20, 2006.

Joe Gironda (Δ): same ole shit...working too hard, saving to go Austrailia with Selena

Marc Drumm (E): My wife, Laurie, and I will celebrate our fifth anniversary this summer, and our son, Colin, turns two in March.

Brian Kozakowski (Z): My wife and I had a beautiful and healthy baby girl in September. We are living happily in New Jersey. I am a middle school music teacher and I am trying to land a Principal job.

Jim Brewer (I): Mine and April's first child was born on January 22, 2008 at 1759 hrs. Her name is Natalie Snow Brewer (7lbs 14oz, 20 in). Also, I have been selected at work to take part in the upcoming SWAT school in March-April.

Lee Hartman (I): I passed my comprehensive exams and so I'm officially ABD and will be receiving my DMA in August hopefully.

Aaron Kirschner (M): I'm putting my music/history degrees to good use by... being a business analyst at

ING DIRECT, reading every Customer (yes, we use a capital C for Customer) complaint to enhance my sunny disposition. In this role, I've learned the basic of Relational Database Design, SQL, and VBA since September. I also bought a condo in March '07; it has nearly no furniture.

Drew Keim (N): Our son, Rowan just turned one year old last week. I'll be finishing my Masters Degree (School Administration) from Wilmington University in the Fall of 2008 (hopefully).

Aaron Paquette (N): I relocated to the Baltimore area from the Boston area recently

Dave Bacon (P): I am 90% sure I am going to JMU next fall to get my MM is conducting. That is if the professor didn't think I suck at life....which he may have.

Matt Leitsch (P): I live minutes from Churchill Downs, the baseball bat factory, and 6 whiskey distilleries. Beyond that there are a bunch of incest wedding chapels, back door gun shops...

Mike Malaney (P): Mike invented the George Foreman grill in 1987. He still has a scar on his rear shaped like Matt Leitsch's hand. Mike helped Baxter eat that wheel of cheese. Baxter is a lying bastard. Mike will take whatever he can get, according to Facebook. Mike is also Chuck Norris.

Chris McKeever (T): I'm moving to New York.

Mike Schulties (T): Only another year and a half and I'll have my second degree, hopefully it will be more useful than the first. Ohh yeah and I got married.

Jason Angelo (AB): I spent this past January studying abroad in Italy, where I was able to have an incredible time/eat awesome Italian food. I was just elected Chapter President and I'm looking forward to an awesome year next year!



Welcome to **Pulse**, the heartbeat of Sinfonia. This new campaign is designed to ensure that the SEF can continue to support the activities of future generations of Sinfonians for years to come. At the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees, a new vision was adopted to coincide with the Fraternity's strategic plan.

The Vision of the Sinfonia Educational Foundation is to build a sizable endowment and sustaining support for the strategic growth of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity. The Foundation will support its direct grants and scholarships as well as the educational and leadership development programs of the Fraternity.

Our goal is for 500 brothers to sign up for recurring gifts of \$18.98 per month to signify the founding year of Sinfonia. This small monthly contribution from a large group of alumni will allow the SEF to continue to work towards building stronger programs to enrich the lives of collegiate Sinfonians and advance music in America.

HELLOOOO, OLD PEOPLE!

It's kind of an exciting time for the alumni of this chapter: we apparently have a newsletter and your contact information, and the chapter is trying to theme events specifically around alumni. Amazing!

But we all need to keep at it. The ARO can't do everything himself, and God knows the chapter will forget about alumni faster than Kirschner can eat a hot dog. So keep on the chapter to let you know what's going on, and keep showing your support to good ol' Xi Mu. You know it'll be worth it.

And by the way, you can now direct your complaints at Alex Blau; he's the new ARO. He looks wimpy, but he can take it like a man.

In Phi mostly, but also some Mu,

Dan Roche
(former) Alumni Relations Officer

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2-3	AmeriFest Weekend
May 5, 9:30pm	Red Night
May 10, TBD	SOCIALFEST
in Lancaster: mini golf & food	
May 11, 9:30pm	Black Night
May 18, 8:00pm	Gold Night
May 22, 8:00pm	White Night
TBA	Ritual

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
Xi Mu Chapter
Amy E. duPont Music Building
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716
U.S.A.

