

Current Events

Mills Music Missions by Bill Dabbs

As you may know, Theta Omicron has recently reinstated the tradition of the Mills Music Mission. For those unfamiliar with this aspect of Phi Mu Alpha, the Mills Music Mission is an outlet for our music in the community. In the spirit of Ossian Everett Mills, a chapter will take a music program to a local nursing home, hospital or other community group and perform for them spreading the fraternity's love of music. We have performed three Mills Music Missions over the past two semesters and are planning one this April. After our performance the establishments provided refreshments as we mingled and visited with our audience. This has been an area often overlooked in our chapter in recent years, but now, the Mills Music Mission is helping to broaden our outlets of community services.

Black Night Overhaul by Josh McGill

Recently, the brotherhood held its Black night for this semester's pledge class. This year's Black night contained new stops and activities for pledge members and active brothers to partake in. The stops include Gate 23 at Neyland Stadium where the brothers and probationary members sang "Fight Vols Fight", "Down the Field", and "Rocky Top". A second new stop for Black night was at the Rachmaninoff Statue in World's Fair Park commemorating Rachmaninoff's last performance. Another addition to Black night was a visit to Alumni Memorial Building. Here, the probationary members and current brothers sang "Hail Sinfonia" in the stairway where many of UT's old archives lie. The probationary members were also given riddles to find a red songbook, a black cat, and a golden lyre. This new Black night was a success, and if you would like more information regarding some of the new stops, symbolisms, and riddles, please feel free to contact me at jmcgill1@utk.edu.

Service & Fund Raising by Alex Green

I am proud to announce Phi Mu Alpha is on its way to a very successful fundraising semester. Under the direction of our fundraising chair, Tyler Tallent, we were able to raise funds through magazine sales in our latest fundraiser. We also have a couple of other good fundraising events coming up such as vacuuming dorm rooms and some car washes. In the service department, Theta Omicron raised over 100 dollars for the Joy of Music School here in Knoxville last semester by singing Christmas/Holiday carols in the University Center. There is also a Mills Music Mission coming up April 9th. Additionally, we are planning a Bonus Bucks Blitz (having students use their bonus bucks to buy non-perishable goods for various charities) at the end of the semester. If you have any ideas, questions, or even donations for any cause contact Jeremy. He has assured me that he would be happy to pass along any thoughts to me.

"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; the advancement of music in America and a loyalty to the Alma Mater."

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
Theta Omicron Chapter
University of Tennessee
211 Music Building
Knoxville, TN 37916

Φ M A
Alumni

Things to Remember

- Alumni (4/21) Retreat
- Golf (4/29) Slicer
- Recital (4/17)
- Spring (tba) Dinner
- Poker (tba) Nights
- Brotherhood Dinner (4/7)
- Keep in Contact (Always)

Spring 2006 Alumni Newsletter



Theta Omicron Chapter

University of Tennessee Knoxville

Ideas Past & Present

State of the Province by Ashley Glenn

Hail Brothers! I'd like to take a moment to thank Jeremy Jones for reintroducing the alumni newsletter. As we move out from the shelter of our Alma Mater and spread across the state, country, and globe, we can still share in the strength of shared experiences. It is my hope that the alumni newsletter continues to keep us connected with our active brothers, our Alma Mater, and each other. At the same time, I would like to encourage each of you to make sure your Sinfonian experience goes beyond the four (or more!) years we spent working together in college. Across the province, alumni brothers are laying the groundwork for Alumni Associations. This summer in Cleveland will be one of the largest gatherings of alumni in fraternity history at our triennial National Assembly, where much work will be done to provide alumni with the voice and resources required to help them be active alumni. It is good to be together again, even in paper format. I wish each of you the best in your walk down the alumni pathways. All Hail!

Words from the New by Andrew Skoog

Faculty Advisor I joined the faculty at U.T. as a voice professor in the fall of 2003 filling the vacancy George Bitzas left upon his retirement after so many wonderful years of service. After Michael Combs announced he would retire last year, I was very eager to make my interest known in serving as this chapter's faculty advisor. I became a member of Phi Mu Alpha in 1982 having pledged the Omicron Omega Chapter at Arkansas State University. I think we have one of THE strongest chapters in the country. What really resonates in my mind about this chapter is that these guys genuinely care about the fraternity and see to it that its mission is carried out. Many of my brothers in college pledged PMA to have the credit of fraternal organization on their resume. That is simply not the case here at U.T. I see an energy and a commitment that is contagious. I am especially impressed with the leadership of both the current and past president as well as the other executive officers. There is a very healthy fraternal bond between the guys in this chapter, a genuine respect for one another as well as a respect for the role of music in the enrichment of the human spirit. I would invite you to attend the next American Music Recital. The recital presented last semester was quite remarkable. If you are ever on campus, please drop by and say hello. My office is located in the Alumni Memorial Building, and I always have a fresh pot of coffee brewing. I would love to meet you!

Reminder

All chapter events, recitals, meetings etc. are open to the alumni. Please contact me if you intend to be in the area and I will get you to set up times and locations. Impromptu attendance from alumni is not only encouraged but is essential to the progress of brotherhood and continued interaction between the current and past brothers of Phi Mu Alpha. jj



State of the Chapter by Shaun Stewart

We currently have a strong, young, and growing chapter. Over the past couple of semesters we have increased how active we are in all aspects including social, service, and music. As for social our social chair, Steve Forbes, has increased the quantity and quality of our social events by having more athletics and more overall bonding activities. Service has increased because of the reinstatement of the Mills Music Mission. Because of the MMM the chapter has grown together in music and got our name out in the community in a positive way. Musically the chapter is continuing to grow in its musical ability by having weekly music rehearsals during meetings. Throughout this last semester we have continuously grown in the brotherhood aspect of our fraternity. We are having two retreats this semester. By having two retreats we hope to further the common bond us as brothers have. We had a strong probationary class come in last fall as well as a promising one this spring. This spring class was the first class to experience the new black night. We spent many long hours trying to give this color night a greater meaning to the PM's as well as the brothers. I think the overhauling of black night could be a great representation of what this chapter is and will continue to do. We are going to continue to look back and grow on the different aspects of our fraternity to provide more meaning to everything that we do.

Theta Omicron 2006 Officers

President	- Shaun Stewart
Vice Pres	- Alex Green
Secretary	- Alan Cline
Treasurer	- Ben Williams
FEO	- Jonathan Swafford
Historian	- Josh McGill
Warden	- Sam Costilow
Alumni Sec	- Jeremy Jones
Music Director	- Bill Dabbs

Active Brothers

UTC	Beta Alpha	22
ETSU	Lambda Sigma	12
Lee	Pi Xi	22
UTK	Theta Omicron	39
TN Tech	Xi Chi	-- Inactive

Contact Info

If you have received this newsletter and would like to be added to the alumni email list, please email me at jjonesifixit@bellsouth.net because information is posted much more frequently by email. I look forward to seeing the Alumni Association grow and as always

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Upcoming Events

Alumni Retreat 4/21/06 by Steve Forbes

In an effort to raise retreat attendance, the significance of brotherhood retreats, and ultimately bonding between members of Phi Mu Alpha, Theta Omicron revamped the semi-annual retreat in 2005. The second retreat is our attempt to strengthen relationships between the active members and alumni. At retreat we will have a scheduled itinerary on Saturday with what we've come to call the "Sinfonian Olympics" composed of random events, semi-athletic trials, and most importantly: musical affairs. Also, there will be numerous opportunities Friday and Saturday evenings to meet and greet, share the stories that have been lost through the years, and for alumni to converse and catch up among themselves. Plus, the active brotherhood is funding the event to encourage as many alumni to attend as possible. And finally, the brothers are planning a surprise or two to make it definitely worth your while. The retreat will be held at the group camp area of Harrison Bay State Park outside of Chattanooga. The beginning of the retreat kicks off Friday evening and officially ends Sunday morning. More specifics are still to be determined, so be sure that you are a part of the active alumni listserv to get any more details that are released. We hope to have a great turnout in April and look forward to catching up with many recent graduates as well as meeting brothers whom have been alumni for longer than we have been active!

Alumni Affairs by Jeremy Jones

Hello gentlemen, I saved this last little square for myself to convey some closing thoughts. I get such a joy returning to campus to sit in on their meetings and partake in the singing and connections that we all seem to have for no apparent reason, other than music. I have made it my goal to spread that joy into the alumni of the chapter, in hopes that it will be commonplace to have some alumni at every meeting. As it says under contact info, if you would like to be added to the email list please feel free to contact me, I would love to add all of you to it. Next, I will be planning the annual Theta Omicron Slicer this year, which is a round of golf somewhere around the Knoxville area. The Slicer will be 8AM Sat. April 29th to be continued throughout the day until all foursomes have played 18 holes. This will be a fundraiser for TO to help the funding that allows the chapter to operate. With that said, I am in no way soliciting funds in this newsletter but any donations for TO will be accepted and very much appreciated, just contact me or you are welcome to mail to the return address on the back of this newsletter. There are over 200 copies of this newsletter being mailed, so I hope this is the beginning of one of the strongest Alumni Associations in the southeast. Again, always feel free to contact me anytime for any reason. I thank you all and have a very prosperous and safe year. jj

Alumni Outings

Poker Night
Spring Dinner
Brotherhood Dinner

Retreat
Slicer