



**PHI BETA MU**  
**Summer 2013**

**Paul Worosello**  
International President

Brothers and Sisters of Phi Beta Mu,

I hope that everyone is having a great summer and have had opportunities to actually relax and recharge your batteries. In the summer of 1938 Col. Earl D. Irons founded the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu along with eleven other charter members. From modest beginnings in the back yard of Prof. Wiley in Lubbock, Texas, Phi Beta Mu has grown into an international organization comprised of 35 chapters in the United States and Canada. This summer marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our fraternity.

The new millennium has brought such positive changes to the fraternity. The new website will provide an invaluable resource as we reach an ever wider audience. This was spearheaded by Mu Alpha members Mike Townsend and Robert Eklund, along with immediate past president Sheryl Bowhay, who made this a focal point of her presidency. The reality of this vision will allow Phi Beta Mu to more effectively realize the ideals of the founders.

One of those ideals is promoting the development of bands. With that in mind, I would like to encourage all chapters to create projects that focus on this. Three thoughts immediately come to mind:

- Mentoring of new teachers
- Commissioning of new band works
- Creating historical documentation

Mentoring new teachers has such personal rewards and future benefits to our profession. This is the most important thing that we can do, and all can participate. Our experience can make those first years less stressful for a new teacher, whether it is working with their band, mentoring, or just being there when things get overwhelming. Just your presence can make a difference. While this can be done on an individual basis, an organized process can reach more

individuals, those who would like assistance and those willing to mentor. The Alpha chapter has a procedure in place that has met with success.

What greater legacy can we give our profession than the creation of new music for our medium. We all know of individuals and band programs that have commissioned numerous new works for band, many which have become staples in the repertoire. While this might be a long-range project due to financial resources needed, everyone can benefit from your commission. Kudos go out to all the chapters that were involved in commissioning Mark Camphouse on HOMAGE TO A DREAM, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Phi Beta Mu.

If you do not have a Hall of Fame for your chapter, I would like to encourage you to start one. Not only does it recognize those outstanding individuals who were the foundation for the programs in your state or province, but it provides a history of the development of bands in your area. The International Board will be undertaking a project to interview “icons” of the band world, to record their thoughts on various topics. It is essential that we document the wisdom and knowledge of those who create the high water marks of our profession. Not only will there be a series of consistent questions that all will be asked, but they will then be given an opportunity to address anything that they feel is important that has not been previously covered.

Phi Beta Mu has always done a great job of recognizing and honoring superior achievement throughout all aspects of our profession. We should all be more involved in promulgating bands and mentoring colleagues. We get out of Phi Beta Mu what we put into it. Time is the most important non-renewable human resource. How we spend time reflects what we deem important. I encourage all chapters to record your history and hope all individuals will share your talents with someone less experienced. The experiences resulting from the time you give will continue to resonate as it ripples toward the future.

Life, Love, Music

**Paul Worosello**

International President