



TUMB Notes

The Newsletter of the Tulane University Marching Band

Vol. 9 - Summer 2015

TEN YEARS AGO

In late August of 2005, the modern TUMB held its first band camp. It was the result of the combined efforts, enthusiasm and support of students, alumni and the university administration to resurrect a band program that had been dormant for thirty years. The small assembly of 25 spirited band students worked through the five-day camp and, on the cusp of the new fall semester and their public debut, Hurricane Katrina struck. During that fall evacuation semester, band members reunited in Houston to perform for the Green Wave vs. Rice football game on November 12. It was the only time that the band performed during fall 2005, but it provided a deep strengthening spirit that had taken root during that of the bonds of fellowship and school first band camp. Once reunited again back on campus in January, the band took to the parking lots Uptown to prepare for Mardi Gras 2006, the official public debut of the TUMB. Since that time, the membership has grown to 90 students, and has marched in ten Mardi Gras seasons for a combined forty parades across more than 250 miles, in front of ten million fans on the streets. One of the great highlights was the New Orleans Saints NFL Super Bowl victory parade during Mardi Gras 2010. We have supported our Green Wave football team in the Louisiana/Mercedes-Benz Superdome and now back home on our uptown campus in Yulman Stadium. We have played for the team and university alumni at road games in Texas, Tennessee, and Florida, and this coming fall in Atlanta for the Georgia Tech game. The TUMB has been featured on national television and performs for special corporate events and conventions across the Crescent City. Our students tutor young musicians in local schools, and serve as ambassadors for the university. The story of the modern TUMB parallels the resilience that has brought Tulane and New Orleans back through the rebuilding effort. We are inspired by the earliest band traditions of Tulane, by our alumni, and by our historical roots in the Big Easy, to become one of the most unique college bands in all of America. We are motivated by our students to carry on the innovation and upward trajectory that have become hallmarks of the TUMB. We will continue to create opportunities for excellence, spirit, community and leadership, embracing the future and all that it holds. Here's to the next ten years!



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SEASON IN REVIEW



ART IMITATING LIFE

When the CBS hit show *NCIS: New Orleans* filmed a parade scene in January, the TUMB was in that number. Select band members spent the day on a downtown street doing multiple takes and audio recordings for the episode that would later be broadcast on February 17, Mardi Gras night, the same day that the TUMB would actually be marching down St. Charles Avenue with the King of Rex! The CBS Krewe was terrific to

work with on the set, starting with 1st AD Eric Hays (*top right, in orange shirt*). Thanks to members of the Tulane Cheerleaders for helping us share the Green Wave spirit with more than 18 million television viewers!

MARDI GRAS

TUMB is the only college band in America to march in New Orleans' biggest Carnival parades every year. We represent the university to the city and to all of its visiting tourists. The TUMB performs for a combined 25 miles over two weekends, and more than 15 miles in rehearsals. For spring 2015 the TUMB marched for the first time ever in Slidell, LA for the Krewe of Dionysis, with feature baton twirler Erin Ketterman, the Shockwave Dance Team and TUMB Color Guard leading the band (*below*) to the delight of the local audience. The Mardi Gras experience is a special one for our band students, in particular the interactive nature of the parades. Members get to talk with people in the crowd, or have an opportunity for a quick drum lesson with young aspiring musicians, such as the one pictured with Olivia Demkovitz (*bottom right*). And we love playing "Happy Birthday" for people holding signs along the route that alert us to their special day (*top right*). When the TUMB stops to play for the birthday honoree, hundreds of audience members sing along, and family members laugh, scream and cry with joy for the unexpected memory of a lifetime.





SOUNDWAVE PEP BAND

This was an especially active year for our student-directed pep band, as they supported basketball, volleyball and swimming teams plus special events for the Medical School and community groups. As a member of the new

American Athletic Conference, Tulane Athletics coordinated road trips for Soundwave to the Men's and Women's conference basketball tournaments in Connecticut, and also to the NCAA women's tournament in North Carolina. It was a very busy spring with a lot of traveling for the pep band but they had a great time

performing in the stands (*top left*), on the arena video board (*top right*) - "GO COWBELL GIRL!" - and playing in the snow (*left*) during the month of March!

nienteForte

This contemporary music series, produced by assistant director of bands Mendel Lee, expanded its scope and reach this past spring through a partnership with Maxwell Dulaney, music department assistant professor of composition and theory. Evolving from a one-day format in previous years

into a three-day festival and artist residency, this series also included a set of varied educational components, many

performance presentations, and collaboration among professional musicians, composers, educators and students. An example of all these elements combined was the performance of Steve Reich's "Music for Pieces of Wood" (*left*). The featured artist for the festival was **Ensemble Pamplemousse**, pictured above with Mr. Lee and Mr. Dulaney (*center left & right, respectively*).



KKPsi

Community is the result of proactive connection and support, exemplified by the fellowship and service of Kappa Kappa Psi, the national band fraternity organization. Tulane's Rho Chapter embodies the best qualities through its activities and dedication to the TUMB and support of all forms of music at Tulane. The members volunteer as ushers for music department concerts, are active in community service and fund raising, and provide logistical support for a wide range of band activities. The group's annual "RHOCital" event provides another performance opportunity (*bottom right*) for student musicians, plus the experience of producing and presenting a special event. Current KKPsi brothers (*above right*): Olivia Demkovitz, Zoe Albert, Lauren Stevens, Casey Kotowski, Andrew Goldberg, Jackie Bowers, Jody Turner, Dylan Koester, Liz Hanlon, Kimberly Plants-Paris, Ari Levine, Amy Lipman, (Mendel Lee - new sponsor), Cody Beam, Joe Trytten, Emily Galik, Maddi Barbor, Chris Cuccio, Noah Slade, Liz King, Jesse Coren, Zak James.





THE BRITISH WERE HERE! The Tulane Concert Band - alter-ego ensemble of the TUMB - presented its annual spring concert on April 22 featuring **COMPOSERS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE**. These innovative and influential composers created repertoire that evolved the 19th Century military band into the 20th Century concert band. Our program included: **Prelude, Siciliano and Rondo** by Malcolm Arnold, **English Folk Song Suite** and **Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis** by Ralph Vaughan Williams, **Shepherd's Hey, Irish Tune from County Derry**, and **The Lost Lady Found** by Percy Grainger, and **Mars** by Gustav Holst. Band students prepare for every spring concert with sight-reading sessions, rehearsals twice per week and individual appointments with the directorial staff throughout the semester, plus the dress rehearsal a few days prior to the performance. It all comes together on concert night with a warm-up, then the Dixon Hall Theatre doors open for our guests. What follows is an hour of shared musical experience between musicians and audience, of what the composer intended, from another time and place.



The Tulane Concert Band membership represents academic majors from across the entire spectrum of schools and departments university-wide. Our students work together for the challenge and joy of the shared musical experience, bringing life to the composers' vision, for the enrichment of our audiences.



All photos this page by Sarrah Danziger



ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT RECEPTION

In celebration of our final musical presentation of the academic year, and to honor our graduating seniors, the band program hosts a reception in Dixon Hall immediately following the spring concert. This gives everyone a chance to say hello and reflect on the music. The entire audience is invited to the reception, enjoyed by faculty, parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, alumni, colleagues and donors. Pictured from this year's reception are (clockwise from top) three sets of band members debriefing on their recent performance. Professor John Joyce (right) of the music department describes the finer points of the music to a guest from California, and assistant director of bands Mendel Lee discusses the program with current and former band members (lower right). Director of bands Barry Spanier and "Friends of the Band" founder Jeff Bush (below left) enjoy a light post-concert moment: "No, thank YOU sir!" Two Mrs. Spaniers enjoy the company of the always-enthusiastic band advocate and donor Rick Epstein (bottom left). The band staff takes great pride in the connections with, and ongoing support from, recent band alumni such as (bottom right) Griff Poindexter, Richard Logotheits, Raymond Baker, Brendan Carter and Rachel Shienle. Cheers to our seniors as they move into ranks of the alumni, and on into their graduate school programs and professional careers!



All photos this page by Sarah Danziger





SPOTLIGHT



NEW STAFF ARRIVAL We welcome *Andrew Szygula* to New Orleans, as our new *TUMB Drumline Instructor/Operations Manager*. Selected from a highly competitive field of candidates nation-wide, Andrew comes to Tulane with a master of music degree in percussion performance from Temple University, and dual bachelor's degrees in education and performance from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. He brings a wide range of knowledge and experience in the percussion world, as a performer, teacher, composer and arranger, at the high school, college, professional and competitive level of world-class music and marching arts. Andrew will add to our collective talents and energy to further our goal to develop students and ensembles to their highest potential.



On the road with the TUMB's Green Wave VW Truck!

The TUMB continues to grow, and we reached 90 members for the first time this spring! Thus a parade trailer was added to accommodate more water bottles and other supplies. *Thanks Patrick!*



LOCAL FAN BUILDS SPIRIT Our vintage VW support truck is a favorite with band students and the crowds at home football games and Mardi Gras parades. The legion of fans are growing across the community: Richard Exnicios, Cub Scout Packmaster for Lusher Pack 56, re-created the VW truck in the form of a pinewood derby racer (*above*). Aerodynamic? Maybe. But clearly a winner!



FACILITY UPGRADE Since the opening of Yulman Stadium, the TUMB has been working with university colleagues to upgrade facilities for more effective operations. The new storage shelves for drumline (left) and Sousaphones (right) improve safety and efficiency for instruments and students.





DEVELOPMENT

TUMB Endowed Fund surpasses \$50,000 goal!

The *TUMB Endowed Fund* has now surpassed its initial goal of \$50,000! This is a solid start to our long-term objectives, to ensure that the TUMB is fully supported and able to serve the university community far into the future. In the year ahead we will set our sights on the next level, to build our operating base, in order for the program to grow and flourish. Gifts to this fund allow our future band members to proudly serve as ambassadors for Tulane and New Orleans, performing at sporting events, Mardi Gras parades, concerts and through our community service projects.



FRIENDS OF THE BAND Our friends express their support of the band in many ways, from donations to advocacy and volunteerism. At our annual spring “Friends of the Band” dinner on April 22, we shared good memories with band alumnus Maurice Picheloup III (Liberal Arts '39 & Business '42) and his daughter and son-in-law Claire and Derby Gisclair (*above*). Tulane’s Office of Institutional Equity was well represented by Deborah Love and Terina Walker (*bottom left*), who enjoyed the special “British” dinner featuring fish-&-chips, bangers-&-mash and, of course, tea. JC Paciera (*bottom right*), who guided our Mardi Gras transportation effort, enjoyed a restful moment before dinner – in contrast to the 25 miles of parades that he marched with us in February! Thanks to Daughters of the British Empire for their loan of Union Jack flags, and to everyone for sharing their time, energy and resources, as well as their love of music!

THE RICHARD B. GRAVES MARCHING BAND STUDENT AWARDS

These service awards continue to help us mentor the wonderful students that make our membership, who commit themselves to the program through long hours and hard work. The awards directly support the TUMB mission to develop leadership skills as a way to enrich the lives of band members and to create a culture of dedication. Thirty-three more Richard B. Graves Marching Band Awards were granted this past spring, for service and leadership. Since its inception five years ago, a total of 194 awards have been presented to deserving band members. Our deep gratitude goes to the initiators of this essential resource, Dr. Tom and Tricia Graves (*above*).



All photos this page by Sarah Danziger

SUPPORT THE TUMB!

Visit tulaneband.org/support/ to make your tax-deductible donation today!





We recently bid farewell to Dr. Sam Threefoot, one of our great alumni from the early days of the Tulane band program. Below is a story based on an interview, written by author Craig Smith.

A DAY IN AUGUST *"When I tell people that I played in the Sugar Bowl, they ask me what position," says Sam Threefoot. "Of course, what I played was the clarinet!" Dr. Threefoot, a retired professor of medicine at Tulane, enjoys telling that anecdote, one of the many fond memories he has of his undergraduate days at the university and his experiences in the marching band.*

Born in Meridian, Mississippi, Threefoot was 13 when his father died, in the middle of the Depression. With his brother and mother he moved to Selma, Alabama, where she had relatives. It was in Selma that he began to take lessons on the clarinet. He was a member of his high school marching band, and joined the Tulane band when he entered the university at barely 17 years of age.

"I was in what was called the Scientific Med Course," he says, "a three-year pre-med program of arts and sciences. And I played in the band all three years." During those three years he performed under band director John Morrissey, and experienced the full range of on-field marching, concert performances, and Mardi Gras parades. "Oh!" he says, rolling his eyes. "Those five- and ten-mile Mardi Gras parades were something else!"

The Sugar Bowl game he marched in was on January 1, 1940, during which Texas A&M edged the Green Wave by the score of 14-13. But perhaps the most prominent on-field memory that Dr. Threefoot has from his marching band days involves a game with LSU. "In 1939 we played the game up in Baton Rouge, and Tulane beat LSU 33-20," Threefoot recalls. "Well, as you can imagine the LSU folks were upset, and a fight broke out on the field. During the fight our football coach, Red Dawson, got up off the bench, walked out into the chaos, popped somebody good, put his hands back into his pockets, and walked back to the bench. Fortunately, the band was high up in the stands, away from all that. "But I was nervous because I had been invited to a party by some friends at LSU, and the only clothes I had was my band uniform. It really made me stand out!" The evening ended well, though, and Threefoot returned to Tulane safe and sound. "I never considered myself a real musician," he says, "but I sure enjoyed playing."

On the brink of entering Tulane Medical School, Threefoot says, a spot was discovered on one of his x-rays. "I was advised to stay out of school for six weeks to see what that was all about," he recalls. "Well, if you miss the first six weeks of medical school you miss the whole year. I went back to Selma, very depressed." He was determined, however, and in 1942 he returned to medical school, where he completed four academic years of study in three calendar years. At the same time, he was doing orientation in the Army at Ft. Beauregard. Then came a day he will never forget. "It was August 14, 1945," says Threefoot. "It was V-J Day, Victory over Japan. I got out of the Army that day, wore civilian clothes again that day, and graduated from medical school that day. I never forget August 14."

Unfortunately, after graduating he made a musical mistake -- "a tragedy" he calls it. "I was taking the train to Chicago, where I was to intern at Michael Reese Hospital. In those days there was the Panama Limited, which had Pullmans, and the City of New Orleans, which had day coaches. I didn't have much money, so to buy my ticket I hocked my clarinet. As soon as I arrived in Chicago I regretted doing that, because quite a few of my fellow interns played music -- a few had even attended the Julliard School of Music in New York --



and they assembled a band. I was able to play a little bit with borrowed instruments, but aside from a few very informal bands after completing my internship my musical days were over." His professional career, however, was just beginning. Threefoot returned to New Orleans and Tulane, starting as an instructor and rising to become a full professor of medicine. With the exception of a six-year stint at the Medical College of Georgia, from 1970 to 1976, he has remained at Tulane Medical School for his entire career.



Dr. Sam Threefoot, from the 1939 Jambalaya yearbook.



SERVICE LEARNING The TUMB has been working with the Center for Public Service for six years now to give our students the opportunity to fulfill their service learning requirement through music tutoring. For the past four years we have been partnered with the Roots of Music, an after-school marching band program for New Orleans middle school students. Rehearsals and tutoring takes place in the historic Cabildo on Jackson Square, with special events in other locations around the city and a performance during the annual French Quarter Festival. Some of this spring's tutors included Erica Bush (top right) with a flute player, Sarah Maier and Drew Cohen (below left) working with drummers, and Matt Solomon and Michael Hawke (bottom right) with the trombone section.



BAND MEMBERS, IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

I'm definitely glad that I did it, because it immersed me into a facet of band culture and music education that I have never experienced before. I learned more about how music education is run in much of inner city New Orleans. I got to meet a lot of kids who really appreciate music and having the opportunity to play at amazing gigs like Mardi Gras parades and French Quarter Festival.

– Dylan Koester

Being able to work with the Roots of Music kids was a powerful experience. I am very grateful for this experience and all it has taught me, along with

all that I was able to teach. Living in New Orleans has a very distinctive environment that seemingly implores everyone to want to contribute and do their part. Living in such a musical city, I felt that teaching music was the best possible way for me to give back to the city. – **Noah Slade**

I think that I left the kids that I taught with at least a new way to look at music. I have honestly never seen anything like this program before. Seeing how hard the kids worked and how much fun they had just playing their instruments really shows how powerful music is. Thankfully, programs like Roots of Music work hard to introduce young people to music and help guide them through a positive path in life. – **Edward Porter**

Marching band gives them a sense of discipline, and provides for them a safe and accepting community. It shows them that people care about what they are doing and want them to succeed. – **Erica Bush**

Roots has had a big impact on me, and given me a lot of confidence in teaching. It has shown me that there are many styles of teaching, and for every group there are things that work and things that don't. The things I learned in Roots can cover all facets of a leadership position that isn't just related to music. – **Matt Solomon**





Tulane University Marching Band
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Address Service Requested

TUMB Road Trip to Atlanta, GA:
September 12 vs. Georgia Tech

US Marine Band – “The President’s Own”:
October 1 in McAlister Auditorium, hosted by TUMB

7th Annual Band Day:
October 3 vs. University of Central Florida

Homecoming and Alumni Band:
November 7 vs. University of Connecticut



ENCORE

**Fall 2015
Special
Events**



ALUMNI BAND: Join us for **HOMEcoming 2015:** Afternoon REHEARSAL Nov. 6 and game day PERFORMANCE Nov. 7. For info and to REGISTER to participate, contact Patricia McWhorter-Broussard at patmcwbr@tulane.edu or 504.314.BAND (2263). Get the latest on alumni band planning and socials from TUMBAA at TULANE BANDALUMNI@GMAIL.COM.

Visit tulaneband.org for the latest in TUMB related news!
Follow us online for photos, videos, and livestreaming broadcasts!



Or give us a call at 504.314.BAND (2263)

{To receive our newsletter electronically, send your email address to patmcwbr@tulane.edu}