



TUMB

Notes

The Newsletter of the Tulane University Marching Band

Vol 8 Winter 2015

Only the Beginning...



Photo by Zack Smith

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SEASON IN REVIEW



GAME DAY The opening of Yulman Stadium ushered in a new era of campus pride by connecting friends and colleagues and re-establishing game day traditions. The TUMB played its central role in the preseason celebrations and game day rituals to keep the Green Wave faithful on their feet and energized. The tailgating pep rallies started at the School of Liberal Arts' Newcomb Hall (*above*), the band program's academic home.



INSIDE YULMAN The TUMB presented a wide range of halftime shows on Benson Field (*above*) throughout the football season. Highlights included guest artists and a Halloween night game. The band members had a birds-eye-view of the game from the south end zone (*at right*), shared by the enthusiastic student body.



FIRST TIME The academic year always starts with the hard work and team building of band camp before classes begin. This year we had the added excitement of breaking in the new turf of Yulman Stadium (after the football team, of course). Pictured above is the fall 2014 TUMB membership savoring the moment of our first rehearsal in Yulman.



PARADE Following pep rallies at the LBC and ringing of the spirit bell, the TUMB led parades up McAlister Place (*above*), past the Alumni House, and all the way to the stadium plaza. This brought the fans through the gates for pre-game festivities.



(All game day photos on this page by Zack Smith.)



ROAD TRIP

Our annual fall road trip took us farther from NOLA than ever before, for the game vs. University of Central Florida. Departing campus on

Thursday night, we arrived in Orlando early Friday morning, stopping for breakfast, then on to the Kennedy Space Center (*top left*) for a wonderful day of exploration and learning about NASA's history and programs. In the late afternoon we checked into our hotel on Cocoa Beach and quickly made our way to the sand and surf (*top right*), complete with a beach-front dinner. The following



Photo courtesy of UCF Band

morning we proceeded to the UCF campus for an enjoyable game-day experience, performing our "DIVAS" halftime show (*above left*). UCF Band and Athletics Department were gracious hosts, and both bands shared time together after the game. Then it was back on the road home for another 11 hours on the I-10!

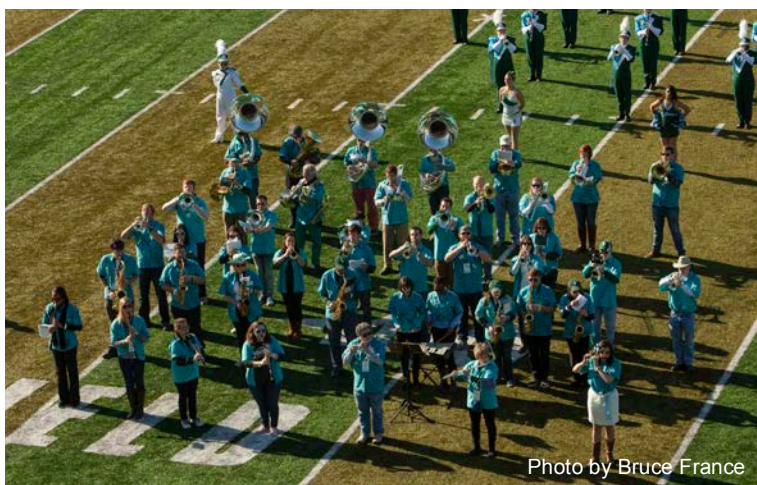


Photo by Bruce France



Photo by Arielle Pentec, SLA



Photo by Bruce France

HOMECOMING

Participation by band alumni broke all previous records for the first homecoming game back on campus in four decades. Our band alumni association **TUMBAA** helped to organize everyone, and distributed instruments, music, and the new TUMB alumni Hawaiian shirts. The band performed on the field at pre-game (*top left*) and jammed with the TUMB and special guests the **Soul Rebels** and the **Trombone Shorty Academy** students during halftime (*top right*). We were joined by another alumni group this year, the **Tulanians** choir (*bottom right*) who performed the alma mater and national anthem with the TUMB during the pre-game show.



SPOTLIGHT

The theme of new beginnings held special meaning for the TUMB this fall. In addition to inaugurating Yulman Stadium and developing new traditions for game day performances, our staff has also started new chapters in their lives. Mark Lighthiser said goodbye to Tulane after serving on the band staff since 2006. We send along our deepest gratitude for his many contributions in building the band program during its earliest stages. We wish Mark and his family great happiness and success in the future.



We congratulate our colleague Mendel Lee (*at right*), who has been promoted to the position of assistant director of bands after serving as our operations manager and drumline instructor for the past five years. In his new capacity, Mendel now takes a leadership role in the design and preparation for all performances of the TUMB, as well as direction of our Green Wave Brass Band.

As Mendel has moved up, we welcome Stephen Tumblin to our teaching staff to take over the drumline section. Stephen is currently pursuing an advanced degree in percussion performance from Loyola University. Nikki Kelly, who worked with us for the first time during Mardi Gras 2014, has now completed her first fall football season teaching our color guard unit. Nikki performed as an undergraduate at LSU in the Tiger Band color guard. Thanks to these talented artists for their energy and creativity through fall 2014.



Our friends of the band Patrick and Marian Maguire have stepped up once again. Regulars with the TUMB at Mardi Gras parades, they have now established themselves and their 1961 VW truck on the must-see list at the tailgating picnics. Before every home football game, they lead the parade from McAlister Place to Yulman Stadium. Patrick spent most of summer 2014 converting the VW to all-electric, and we keep it on campus in a special parking spot with an electrical charging port (*at left*). Patrick and Marian have raised the bar and put a new spin on what it means to be “green” for the Green Wave!



Photo by Zack Smith



FAREWELL TO OUR TRAILBLAZERS

This past year we lost band alumni Alvin Caplan, Milton Hilbert and Dr. J. Dudley Talbot. Their time at Tulane during the 1930's represents the earliest successes of the band program, the first-ever Sugar Bowl, and the start of the Morrissey era. Special thanks go to the families of these wonderful alumni, for their support of our efforts to carry on the traditions that Alvin, Milton and Dudley established long ago. Mr. Caplan's story on this page is one of a series based on interviews written by author Craig Smith. Mr. Hilbert's story appeared in the summer 2013 issue of *TUMB Notes*, and Dr. Talbot's in the winter 2013 issue. Both can be found with other back issues at www.tulaneband.org under "Watch and Listen."

FOLLOWING FAMILY TRADITIONS

As Alvin Caplan likes to tell it, he entered Tulane University "just in time to miss the Rose Bowl -- but in time for the first Sugar Bowl!"

On January 1, 1932 Tulane's football team met the University of Southern California in the Rose Bowl, but despite a perfect 11-0 season that year the Green Wave lost to the Trojans by the score of 21-12. On January 1, 1935 the inaugural Sugar Bowl game took place in Tulane Stadium. As a member of the marching band, Caplan paraded with his fellow bandmates on the field that day, and then watched as the Green Wave defeated Temple by the score of 20 to 14.

The game was dubbed the Sugar Bowl because the Tulane campus had once been a sugar plantation. Speaking in November 2012 with current director of bands Barry Spanier, Caplan added, "Of course that first game didn't have the significance that the Sugar Bowl has today, but it was special nonetheless."

A New Orleans native, Caplan followed the musical legacy set by his father and uncle, both of whom played in the band at Isidore Newman School. His uncle, Mike Caplan, went on to become first trumpet in the New Orleans Symphony. Caplan himself began his musical career in grammar school, where he played saxophone, then followed the family example into the Newman band. By then he had switched to the clarinet, which he continued playing for four years in the Tulane Marching Band, 1932-1936.

"Our repertoire at Tulane was strictly marching band material," Caplan said, "Sousa marches and such. And we presented an annual concert on campus. We had some outstanding players in that band, fellows who were top notch and often played professional jobs on the side. I was good, but not of that caliber."

Caplan laughed when he recalled trying to prepare for one of those annual performances. "I remember attempting to learn a particular piece for the upcoming concert. I practiced and practiced and practiced, but I just couldn't get it. At the time I had, by attrition, risen to first chair in the clarinet section, but for that concert I was more than happy to let the previous first chair reclaim his former position."

Among the highlights of Caplan's years in the marching band were road trips and Mardi Gras parades. "The band traveled to games with teams like Kentucky and Georgia Tech, and a long train trip was a big deal for us in those days. And for Mardi Gras we got \$75 for each of the parades we marched in. That money helped support our road trips during football season."

At that time the Tulane band had only 40 members. "Huey Long was instrumental in getting LSU a 100-piece band," Caplan said, "but you know something -- our band could make more music!"

Caplan studied mechanical and electrical engineering at Tulane. After graduation he went to work at Lane Mills, the present site of Rouse's on Tchoupitoulas, and there met his future wife.

Music and Tulane have played large parts in Caplan's life. First, he followed father and uncle into music. Then he followed them to Newman School and the Newman band. He graduated from Tulane. His father-in-law graduated from Tulane. His wife graduated from Newcomb, and their own daughter graduated from Newcomb.

That is a lot of family tradition, and Alvin Caplan has enjoyed it all.



Thanks to the leadership and energy of the new Tulane University Marching Band Alumni Association, we are off to a great start with our new game day traditions. To get involved and stay informed, contact TULANEBANDALUMNI@GMAIL.COM.



The Richard B. Graves Marching Band Student Awards

The Graves Awards continue to lead the way in student support. They provide primary funding to recognize and support student leadership and dedication. This, in turn, plays a vital role in developing our future leaders and building a stronger band program.

Graves awards were presented to 26 TUMB members in fall 2014. That brings the total to 187 awards granted over nine semesters since this fund was established. Thank you to our generous donors who make it possible for band students to put in the long hours and develop their leadership skills, making the TUMB the best it can be.



The Greenie Gals baked these custom cookies for band camp, plus a lasagna dinner for everyone in the TUMB.



As we enter 2015, the TUMB Endowed Fund is on track to reach our target of **\$50,000!** This will provide additional funding every year, helping support our students and myriad goals for engaging the university community and all of its constituents. Our gratitude goes to all donors of this endowment, whose generosity and foresight has helped establish this fund. We look forward to building this fund every year, to ensure a bright future for the band program.

SUPPORT THE TUMB!



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

Band Camp Contributors

The TUMB's pre-season band camp is the most intense time of the year, with 14-hour days, extreme heat, humidity, and summer rainstorms. It all goes toward preparing for the fall football season and building our team for the academic year. We are fortunate to receive support from local businesses, Green Wave alumni groups, and individuals to help the TUMB to achieve its goals. Below are those who have provided resources in recent years:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Whole Foods Market, Arabella Station | Greenie Gals |
| Ray Hester Chapter/Tulane Athletic Club | Mr. Mudbug |
| 5 Happiness Chinese Restaurant | Café Freret |
| Bruno's Tavern/David Melius | Creole Creamery |
| Nancy's Corner Gifts & Gift Baskets | Fresco Café |
| Canseco's Metairie Market | Corky's Bar-B-Q |
| John Koerner Company | Ted's Frostop |
| Woodwinds & Brasswinds | Halftime Magazine |
| Southern Hospitality Catering | Creole Delicacies |
| Sodexo/Olive Blue Catering | Fred J. Miller, Inc. |
| Flowers Baking Company | Audubon Dermatology |
| Kentwood Springs Water | Honey Baked Ham |
| Steamboat Natchez & Gray Line Tours | Band Shoppe |
| New Orleans Music Exchange | GTM Sportswear |
| Yamaha's Band & Orchestral Division | |

The support shown by local businesses of the Greater New Orleans area, alumni and neighbors, is an excellent indicator of the enthusiasm they have for the revival and growth of Tulane's Marching Band tradition. Let's continue to make our supporters proud, and gratefully patronize them in return!

We also gratefully acknowledge our colleagues across the university who partner with us for a successful and safe operation, with special thanks to:

- Tulane University Services
- Tulane University Police Department
- Tulane Theatre & Dance Department
- Tulane Career Services & Success Coaching Center
- Reily Recreation Center
- Tulane Student Affairs' Offices of Orientation & Parent Programs, and Housing & Residence Life

COMMUNITY

CAUSES The TUMB continued outreach efforts with conviction through a wide range of causes. Starting with the popular activity of summer 2014, the membership performed a circular, synchronized “Ice Bucket Challenge” (at right), which also helped to break the heat of August band camp.



Thanks to our friends at Creole Creamery who not only challenged us, but also contributed additional funds toward the cause for our participation. Other awareness and fundraising efforts included purple shirts for the March of Dimes, growing a beard during “Noshavember,” and taking a pie in the face for our Kappa Kappa Psi student service fraternity. All of these activities build a culture of caring and giving, which our students can carry forward throughout their lives.

COLLABORATION

The TUMB enjoyed a wonderful collaboration with the **School of Liberal Arts**, as we hosted and performed with local high school musicians of the **Trombone Shorty Academy** and the amazing **Soul Rebels** (at left), for the homecoming game. Our alumni band also joined in for the halftime show finale. The presentation embodied how Tulane celebrates and enhances the cultural and educational life of New Orleans.



Photo by Arielle Pentec, SLA

BAND DAY

More than three-hundred performers filled Benson Field for the TUMB’s 6th Annual Band Day, the first one held in Yulman Stadium. This event welcomes middle and high school bands from all across southeast Louisiana. Our TUMB members tutor the younger musicians in a rehearsal earlier in the day. (Featured clockwise from left: Eddie Porter, Evan Siegel and Kathryn LaBelle.) A brief but heavy thunderstorm drove everyone for cover into the stadium concourse during the rehearsal, and progress continued there until the skies cleared. The halftime performance featured the musical selection “The Hullabaloo Song” composed in the 1950’s by then-Tulane band director John Morrissey. In addition to the musicians, we were joined by a school choir, dance teams and baton twirlers.



(All band day photos by Zack Smith.)



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Address Service Requested

Upcoming Spring 2015 Events!



ENCORE

Mardi Gras Parades:

2/8 Dionysis - 2/13 Krewe d'Etat - 2/15 Bacchus - 2/17 Rex

nienteForte Contemporary Music Festival:

March 23-25: master classes & performances featuring guest ensemble Pamplemousse and Tulane students

KKPsi RHOCital:

April 9 @ 7:00pm: TUMB students produce, present and perform

Tulane Concert Band:

April 22 @ 7:30pm: Composers of the British Empire



Our spirited seniors (below) took a bow before their last field performance at the final home game on December 6, 2014.



Photo by Zack Smith

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



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

