



TUMB Notes

The Newsletter of the Tulane University Marching Band

Vol. 10 - Winter 2016



IN SCIENTIFIC TERMS, waves are an energy transport phenomenon, transporting energy from one location to another location. From the extreme heat and humidity of mid-August band camp, to the dropping temperatures and driving rain of November, the TUMB stays true to its mission of providing engaging entertainment and endless spirit for the Green Wave faithful. Our students are the ultimate resource of renewable energy!

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SEASON IN REVIEW

PLAYING TO THE CROWD

With Green Wave fans filling the seats on both sides of Yulman Stadium, assistant director Mendel Lee devised an innovative strategy for the TUMB for fall 2015: perform halftime shows in both directions. So Mendel, along with drumline instructor Andrew Szyplula, set out to design the field shows to be flexible, with transitions allowing the band to flip the formations 180 degrees between musical segments. This required more advanced planning and show writing through the summer, and more music and drill for the band members to learn during August band camp, and throughout the fall semester. The result paid off, as the audiences on both east and west sides were treated to the full impact of the halftime shows. Another innovative device was the use of small stage units that could be moved for different performance settings. The overarching theme of the season was featuring “iconic” music from varying decades and styles, including contemporary pop and rock anthems, to Latin and swing jazz. Musical arrangements also provided opportunities for students to perform feature solos. On Thanksgiving weekend, the culminating halftime show of the fall season celebrated the much-anticipated return of the **Star Wars** saga, to the great delight of our audience. The finale featured a light saber battle at mid-field between *Jedi* baton twirler Erin Ketterman and *Sith* drum major Jesse Coren.



PARADE'S END The TUMB honors its graduating seniors every fall by introducing them at the start of their final halftime show performance. Pictured at right, the class of 2016 takes their bow at the 50-yard line of Benson Field. Thanks to this great group of performers, leaders, students, – they leave the TUMB a better band because of their talents and efforts.



TUMB ON THE ROAD

The annual fall road trip is a highlight for our students. The shared experience of visiting other cities, performing in other stadiums and representing Tulane facilitates a bonding process that lasts a lifetime. Departing Tulane late Thursday night on September 10, we arrived in Atlanta early Friday morning. After a big breakfast we proceeded directly to the new Civil and Human Rights Center (*top*). It was a tremendous educational and emotionally moving experience.

Our Shockwave dance team brought their special brand of Green Wave talent to the sideline (*middle*) at GA Tech on September 12. Combining first class performance with first class spirit, they kept the faithful Green Wave fans entertained and engaged in the stands.

Meeting Tulane alumni and fans in other cities is a central mission of our road trips, sharing updates on the band program and the Uptown campus. Following the TUMB's pregame pep rally on the GA Tech campus, director of bands Barry Spanier shared a few moments with Elizabeth Parnell, president of the Tulane Alumni Club of Atlanta (*inset far right*).

No matter the score or time remaining in the game, the TUMB always keeps Green Wave spirits high, playing in the stands (*bottom*) and cheering on the team. At the end of every game we perform our Alma Mater, as the football team joins the band for the ultimate statement in unity and loyalty, to each other and to the institution.



SPOTLIGHT

NEW TRADITION BORN Tulane football has been finishing the regular season on the road for 40 years. But now, back on campus in Yulman Stadium, Tulane hosted its first Thanksgiving weekend home game in ten generations of undergraduates. Thus, the TUMB hosted its first-ever Thanksgiving Day dinner for band members, parents, siblings, grandparents and friends. We are very grateful to the Office of the Provost and the VP for Student Affairs, whose support made it all possible. The dinner took place in the Goldring Pavilion of Temple Sinai (*bottom*), our St. Charles Avenue neighbors. The meal was catered by our friends at the Uptown Whole Foods Arabella Station, making the delivery (*top*), with our Kappa Kappa Psi band members providing the logistical support for the entire event. And our very own Green Wave Brass Band made for an even more memorable affair with their rousing performance (*middle*), bringing folks onto the dance floor for a great finish to the evening. Appropriate to the holiday, we are very thankful for the support of everyone who made this inaugural event such a great success.



CORPORATE PERFORMANCE The Tulane Band Program has established itself as unique and flexible, able to provide entertainment in many forms and settings: civic and private functions, major sporting & special events, and film production. The TUMB has become a favorite of production companies for conferences and corporate events in the Big Easy. We had the opportunity this fall to perform for the Burger King North America Sales Conference, in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The opening session was hosted by José E. Cil, President of Burger King and alumnus of Tulane University, class of 1990. Mr. Cil took time between the rehearsal and the performance to greet the band members (*left*) and reflect on the Tulane connection. Moments later, the TUMB marched onto the stage (*right*), introducing Mr. Cil to the audience with appropriate fanfare of the Tulane Fight Song!





DEVELOPMENT

MARCHING TO THE SOUND OF OUR OWN DRUMS

As the TUMB has grown and developed, some of the original equipment purchased more than ten years ago has been showing the wear and tear of band camps, football seasons, road trips and especially the physical strain of Mardi Gras parades. In order to keep up with the demand, the TUMB recently purchased a new set of drumline equipment. These Yamaha instruments are state-of-the-art in their design and manufacture, and will serve the drumline students and the band program for the next ten years. This necessary and significant expense creates a unique opportunity for donors, and we welcome inquiries for those who will consider underwriting the cost of these instruments. The distinct sound of the drumline is at the center of the marching band activity, providing the heartbeat for our music and generating spirit for all Green Wave fans. For more information about this vital funding opportunity, please contact Barry Spanier, director of bands, at bspanier@tulane.edu or call 504.865.5139.



SUPPORT THE TUMB!



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

TUMB Endowment jumps past \$80,000

Having reached our initial drive for \$50,000 last spring, the **TUMB Endowed Fund** moved forward in recent months, surpassing \$80,000! Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this fund will support long-term objectives, and provide for the very best student experience while presenting inspiring performances for the university and community. Our next goal is to reach the \$100K level in the year ahead!

ANNUAL FUND Please consider a gift of any size to the TUMB Annual Fund. This provides immediate support for band activities during the academic year, and helps the staff and students respond to events and performance requests as they happen. Items such as color guard flags for parades are among the wide range of equipment and supplies that keep the TUMB looking and performing their best, and building a reputation as America's Collegiate Mardi Gras Band!





TUMBAA ROLLS ON!

The Tulane University Marching Band Alumni Association continues to make strides, connecting band graduates across the years. One of the annual traditions is an evening at band camp every August. Band Alumni join us for dinner, and then get a season preview as they watch the TUMB rehearse in Yulman Stadium (*selfie, above*). TUMBAA leadership also presents awards to graduating band students at the annual fall band awards banquet. Current TUMBAA officers are Neill Aguiluz, Allie Feibus, Brendan Carter and Eleanor Knight. To learn more about upcoming events and how to get involved, contact TUMBAA at tulanealumniband@gmail.com.



NEITHER WIND NOR RAIN NOR... The Tulane Alumni Band would not be deterred from its appointed rounds at Homecoming 2015. Despite a football game dominated by ever-increasing rain and winds, and precipitously dropping temperatures, the alumni band reached an all-time high of 60 participants. Weather conditions for pre-game tailgating held out well enough, but once the TUMB took the field for pregame there was no turning back. Our fearless alumni braved the elements, kept up the spirit and followed through with their halftime performance alongside the TUMB. In honor of the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the amazing recovery of Tulane and New Orleans, the combined bands performed the rock



anthem “*Saints Are Coming*”, originally recorded by **Skids**, and made popular post-Katrina by rock groups **U2** and **Green Day**. Alumni percussionist Beth Turner gets a close-up by the cameraman (*left*) during halftime on the field, while alumni band members did their best to stay dry (*right*) while performing the Fight Song in the stands.



SOMEBODY TO LOVE It was a time for celebration, as a group of recent band alumni gathered in New Orleans for the wedding of Katy McPherson and Eric Wilder. Both played mellophone & French horn in the band program, and both served as drum majors of the TUMB. As part of the festivities, the band alumni took to the floor for a toast and finished with a rousing “Hullabaloo” cheer! (Anyone surprised?) TUMB alumni guests came from near and far to honor and party with the newlyweds and their families. Katy and Eric are the third band couple to be joined in matrimony since the program was re-established in 2005, a reflection of the quality of bonds that are formed and the experiences shared. Congratulations!!!



BAND DAY “It’s all about the bass”... and the woodwinds and brass, percussion and colorguard, baton twirlers, dance teams and choirs. School groups came from all across southeastern Louisiana to perform with the TUMB at our 7th annual Band Day in Yulman Stadium. This year’s music was the terrific anthem of pride and hope for the people of New Orleans: “504” by **Soul Rebels Brass Band**. For many of our guest students, Band Day is the first time on a college campus. It is also a wonderful opportunity for learning, sharing, mentoring, and having a great time together.



US MARINE BAND – THE PRESIDENT’S OWN For the first time in 15 years, the United States Marine Band – The President’s Own – performed in New Orleans on October 1, 2015. Tulane’s McAlister Auditorium was the ideal venue, providing wonderful acoustics to present the top military band in the nation, one of the best musical ensembles of any kind in the world. Guests were treated to a wide range of repertoire and featured soloists, with a rousing finale of patriotic favorites. Master classes for student musicians were presented the following morning. The event was co-hosted by the TUMB and the Loyola University Band Department. Program directors Barry Spanier (Tulane) and Dr. Serena Weren (Loyola) shared a moment before the performance (*bottom, right*) with Lieutenant Colonel Jason K. Fettig, 28th director of the US Marine Band. (*Official photos are courtesy of the US Marine Band.*)





Tulane University Marching Band
102 Dixon Hall
New Orleans, LA 70118
Address Service Requested

Mardi Gras parades:

1/30 Pygmalion - 2/5 Krewe d'Etat - 2/7 Thoth - 2/9 Rex

nienteForte Contemporary Music Festival:

March 14-18: master classes & performances
featuring guest artist ECCE

KKPsi RHOcital:

April 10 at 7pm: TUMB students produce/present/perform

Tulane Concert Band:

April 17 performance at National WWII Museum
April 20 at 7:30pm Spring Concert in Dixon Hall



ENCORE

Spring
2016
Special
Events



SPECIAL INVITATION to BAND ALUMNI, DONORS and PARENTS:
FOR OUR **FRIENDS OF THE BAND DINNER** ON **APRIL 20**
FOLLOWED BY THE TULANE CONCERT BAND SPRING CONCERT.
For reservations contact Patricia at patmcwbr@tulane.edu or 504.314.BAND.



*SAVE PAPER! Receive "TUMB Notes" electronically,
by sending your email address to patmcwbr@tulane.edu.*

Visit us online at tulaneband.org and follow us @TulaneUBand



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