Summer 2016

Alumni Interest Group of the MSU Alumni Association.

Message from the President

We’ve had a very busy alumni band winter and spring season. We performed at multiple men’s and women’s basketball games, and this year more hockey games than ever. Hockey is a little down relative to the past; this can be a rewarding experience providing the support our hockey team needs as we rebuild. The spring reunion was a tremendous success. We played to a standing-room only audience at Fairchild, sharing the concert with the Spartan Youth Wind Symphony. Many thanks to John Madden, Kevin Sedatole, and Dave Catron for their commitment to the alumni. They again participated, conducted, and provided the leadership we count on to keep your alumni band program strong. We missed Ken Bloomquist, as he was under the weather and under Ann’s orders to stay home! But he will be back with us soon.

Planning for the fall is well underway. We have a Big Ten game for the first time in many years. Keep your fingers crossed for a 3:30 p.m. kickoff. We are receiving great support from the athletic department, and this should be a bigger and better-than-ever reunion. Also, your board has acted to add a new position: Melissa Mackey has agreed to be our new Director of Social Media as we reach out to our younger alumni.

Thanks so much for your continued support. Check those calendars and make Pentwater on August 13th if at all possible and certainly the Wisconsin game this fall. I’ll look forward to seeing everyone then. Go Green!

Greg Pell, President, MSU Alumni Band Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

2016 MSU ALUMNI BAND FALL REUNION
Saturday, September 24, 2016 vs. Wisconsin
Game Time: TBA (schedule below assumes a noon kickoff)
https://msualumniband2016fallreunion.eventbrite.com

7:00–7:45 a.m.  Check-in
(Band Hall in Dem Hall)
8:00 a.m.     Rehearsal starts
9:00 a.m.     Drill rehearsal
(SMB Turf Field at Munn,
NW corner of Chestnut & Shaw)
9:50 a.m.     LUNCH
10:50 a.m.    Run-through on Adams Field
(Formerly Landon Field)
11:10 a.m.    March to the stadium
(Uniform is Alumni Band
Spartan Shirt – see page 5 for info.)
11:20 a.m.    Enter stadium with wristband
and turn in name tag
(go to seats)
12:00 p.m.    Kickoff: MSU vs. Wisconsin
Postgame: Form on field to play and march to Dem Field. After half, break to cheer on SMB, then join SMB for postgame comments and sing Shadows.

Public parking is available in the westmost lot at the corner of Kalamazoo and Harrison. For further parking & game day information visit: http://gameday.msu.edu/Parking.html

2016 MSU ALUMNI BAND GOLF OUTING
Friday, September 23, 2016
9:00 a.m. at Oak Lane Golf Course
Please see insert for details

ALUMNI BAND UPCOMING EVENTS
Pentwater Days: August 13th, 2016
Combined SMB/Alumni Band event
Homecoming Parade: October 14th, 2016
Parade info is available on the Eventbrite Reunion registration site link above.

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS IN EARLY AUGUST!
The link to register is: http://msualumniband2016fallreunion.eventbrite.com
Read through the instructions (scroll down to see all of them) and fill out the information thoroughly. You may pay your annual dues, register for the reunion, select a lunch option, and sign up to participate in the Homecoming Parade and the golf outing. It’s a secure site that accepts credit card information and speeds up the process for everyone. You still have the option to pay by check (as shown on the web site). Music will be posted online. If you have any questions, please contact us at alumband@msu.edu.

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION, VISIT: WWW.MSUALUMNIBAND.COM

The 2015 alumni band marches “The Series” from Adams Field to Spartan Stadium. Photo by: Lesa Nelson
Welcome Dr. Dustin Barr

We want to welcome Assistant Director of Bands Dr. Dustin Barr to the podium! He joined Assistant Director David Thornton on the faculty in Fall 2015. His prior experience includes appointments as director of bands at Mt. San Antonio College, interim director of the symphonic winds at California State University, Fullerton, and assistant director of bands at Esperanza High School in Anaheim, California. Among numerous other accolades, he was a Rackham Merit Fellow at the University of Michigan and recognized as one of the nation’s preeminent young conductors as part of the 2010 National Band Association’s Young Conductor Mentor Project. Dr. Barr holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in conducting from the University of Michigan. He received his Master of Music degree and two Bachelor of Music degrees (trumpet performance and music education) from California State University, Fullerton. Barr holds professional memberships in the College Band Director’s National Association, the National Band Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Phi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society, the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association and the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association.

We extend a warm Spartan welcome to Dr. Barr and wish him all the best!

Tradition, Innovation, Excellence

The success of MSU Football has created great opportunities for the SMB! In 2015, the band traveled to five games, which by all accounts, is a first for the SMB. These included Western Michigan; Ann Arbor; Columbus; the Big Ten Championship in Indianapolis; and the Cotton Bowl in Arlington!

Our SMB provided some of the nation’s finest, most innovative, and acclaimed shows. Notable among these was the popular “Marvel” halftime, receiving positive media response from USA Today, Sports Illustrated, and many others, even a shout-out from “Avengers” actor Mark Ruffalo. In addition the SMB performed the highly-acclaimed “The Art of the March: Cues from Sun Tzu’s ‘The Art of War’.” This innovative show engaged the entire MSU community with a union of art, athletics, and mass entertainment. Jennifer Wen Ma — the New York-and Beijing-based artist who led the creative team for the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening and closing ceremonies, served as artistic advisor for the production. The show earned recognition as one of this year’s “Mega Halftime Shows” from Halftimemag.com.

A world-class teaching staff is at the heart of the Spartan Marching Band. SMB Director John Madden has built an outstanding staff with Associate Director David Thornton, Visual Instructors Glen Brough and Jon Schwarz, Drum Line Instructor Jon Weber, and Color Guard Instructors Peter Eichler and Krystal Forbes. They and the members of the SMB continue to raise the multiple bars of tradition, innovation, and excellence! As MSU Bands Alumni, we couldn’t be more proud or happy for the bands of this era!
Beryl’s Beat  summer 2016

Barry, Jim ('73, '83, Trumpet) and Linda’s son Mark (Bachelor of Music, MSU Jazz Studies, ’96) is the drummer with the L.A. based band Lord Huron. They have lot of fun following his tours in Europe and the U.S., national TV, and music festivals around the country.

Black, Gary ('76, Big Ten) is a sales and demo pilot for Cirrus Aircraft in Duluth, MN and flew a 2015 SR22 to the 2015 reunion.

Carl, Carrie ('94, Mellophone) is in her 22nd year of teaching science at the 6th/7th grade level. She has two children Kaylie (9) and Ben (6).

Draeger, Tim ('86, Tuba) and Rachel ('87, Color Guard) welcomed an exchange student from Japan into their home for the 2015–2016 school year. He attends the same high school as their two younger daughters, and they plan to turn him into a Spartan before he returns home. But, they are not sure they should introduce him to the rest of the Tubs at alumni band because it would cause his parents a great deal of anxiety.

Elliott, Thomas ('01 Twirler) at the age of 66, returned to the MSU Music school singing bass in State Singers — yeah continuing education.

Fredericks, Tom ('76, Trumpet) leads a brass quintet at St. Mary, Williamston. Professor Byron Autrey (90) has been extremely generous in working with the ensemble. Byron marched with the SMB in the ’53 Rose Bowl, and is both a wonderful friend of Tom and MSU.

Garrison-Haynor, Kathleen ('96, Alto Saxophone) share that her husband retired from the USAF in March 2014. They bought a house in Eaton Rapids, and welcomed Michael in 2013, joining Elizabeth, (3½). Kathleen is a teacher & librarian at Holt Junior High.

Gibbs, Ron ('64, Trombone) and Jerrie Lynn enjoy their summers in the Grand Haven area playing in West Michigan Summer Winds, Lakeshore Big Band, and Scottville Clown Band.

Gould, Bob ('90, Trumpet) began his 9th year teaching broadcasting in the MSU School of Journalism. He's married to Susan (Alto ‘91) and they have two kids, Ilene, who hopes to march in the SMB next year, and Isaac, 12, now plays trumpet. Susan began her 25th year teaching instrumental music in Greenville, MI.

Halls, Brad ('87, Snare Drum) is in his 17th year with Siemens PLM Software as a software development manager. He and Heather's children are in the SMB this year. Cameron is a 2nd generation snare drummer and 3rd generation drumline. Emily is a 2nd generation alto saxophone. Brad manages the website and social media for the SMB.

Hedlund, Denise ('90, Alto Saxophone) and Tom share that daughter, Ashley, is a junior at the University of Illinois (and a very proud member of the Marching Illini, as trumpet section leader) studying music education. Their son Ben, is a junior at Grand Ledge High School. He’s very active as a trombone player and he is on the Grand Ledge Archery squad who just attended their second world competition in July 2015.

Koehn, Norman ('68, Clarinet) marches through life with so many great memories of MSU … band, friends, conductors, events, campus life, and rewards achieved … thanks to MSU participation. He also wishes Godspeed to Beryl Falcone … will be cherished through infinity! Thanks for the memories …

Kostoff, Jenny ('60, Clarinet) and son, Chris attended the 2015 MSU-Iowa Football Championship game, and the 2016 Big Ten Basketball Tournament in Indianapolis. MSU won every game at both venues. Go Green!!!

Kressler, Carolyn ('69, Trumpet) shares that she’s older now…

Mackey, Melissa ('88, Alto Saxophone) lives in East Lansing. Her twins, Andrea and Adam, graduated from East Lansing High School last May and now attend MSU. Adam will be a sophomore trombone player in the SMB.

McDaniel, John ('81, Baritone) works as an academic technology coordinator for the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, and enjoys playing all alumni band events and with the Strolling Spartans.

Mooney, Connie ('71, Flute) plays flute with the Northwestern Michigan College Community Concert Band.

Neff, Jeff ('90, Mellophone) shares that Jenny (Stogner) Neff received her doctorate in educational leadership (Ed.D). She’s in her 24th year as an instrumental music teacher. She enjoys time at New England Music camp conducting the concert band in the summers.

Pierce, Richard ('74, Trombone) retired from band and orchestra teaching in 2014 after 40 years.

Rafferty, David ('64, Trumpet) shares that Deb Pfeifer (Rafferty) ('70) retired from Fields Fabrics and continues her job as Organist/Choirmaster at Lutheran Church of the Savior, Kalamazoo.

Rice, Bill ('68, Alto Sax) shares that after 34 years at James Madison University he has retired to Spring Hill Florida.

Schemm, Bonnie ('68, Alto Sax) works at The Rooper School, and Leonard does a lot of “contract” work there as well. He only thought he was retired! He’s also finishing their basement. Pretty soon, after 29 years, their house will be finished. (Then, they can start over!) Their kids and two grandchildren (13 and 8) are well. Their grandson (13) plays clarinet, tenor sax and piano. He plays in the concert and jazz bands at school, and sings in the choir as well — a chip off the old grandpa!

Sherrill, Carolyn ('81, Clarinet) retired after 26 years conducting the Meridian Community Band, and had the honor of having mentors, Dave Catron and Bob Erbes, play in the band.

Seitz, Mark ('88, Trumpet) returned to fall reunion for the first time since ’89. He hoped to remember “The Series.” He lived in western NY for 12 years and moved to NC in 2004. Married to wife Robin since 2008, they work for NC State University Extension. Daughter Reagan (16) plays percussion in her high school marching band. Daughter Olivia (6) started kindergarten last fall and son Garrison Carter Allan Seitz was born in 2015. They started a ‘go fund me’ account for all of them to attend MSU as out-of-state students. Any and all contributions are appreciated.

Walsh, Brian ('86 Baritone TC) shares that daughter Brianne is in her last two years of her PhD as a newlywed. Son Jake continues his insurance career at Farm Bureau not State Farm. Wife Shelly still barbers & he still MDOT-s as they enjoy their 29th year of wedded bliss!

Zerman, Tavia ('95, Tuba) completed her 15th year teaching band at Hayes Middle School in Grand Ledge, and her 10th year as faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

TO VIEW UPCOMING MSU BANDS CONCERTS VISIT: http://music.msu.edu/event-listing/by-category/tag/bands

SELECTED CONCERTS (LIVE & ARCHIVED) AT: http://new.livestream.com/musicmsu
A HALF-CENTURY AGO

Greg Pell has worked with John Madden to recreate the 1966 Rose Bowl patch! Kirk Gartsied of Custom Embroidery has made a prototype and we can now make patches available to anyone who played in the 1965-66 SMB for $25 each.

If you are interested, email Greg Pell at gregpell68@yahoo.com.

2018 MSU ALUMNI TOUR BAND

Kevin Sedatole, Stacie Detgen, and Jack Nelson are working on plans for the next proposed Alumni Band tour. They hope to have a late June or early July 2018 trip. As currently planned, the band would fly from Detroit to Athens for three days before departing on a Princess Cruise ship for a cruise from Athens to Barcelona. There would also be an optional trip extension in Barcelona. Rehearsals would be in the MSU vicinity before departing for Athens. The actual itinerary will not be established for at least another year. The cost of the trip is estimated at about $4200 and will vary depending on the choice of cabin, the exchange rate, and the pricing. The proposed trip is ten days and would include many meals.

If you did not receive the tour update mailing that was sent in May and are interested in receiving updates on trip plans, contact Jack Nelson at jacknelson55@yahoo.com. An updated proposal and tour presentation will be given at the Alumni Band Fall Reunion.

Jack Nelson Honored by MSU Varsity Club

Jack Nelson has been inducted into the MSU Varsity Club as an honorary member! This wonderful honor was extended to our special events coordinator in recognition of his significant and long-term contributions to MSU Athletics. Jack was inducted at the Varsity “S” Club Annual Golf Outing on June 1.

Jack was instrumental in the creation of the Alumni Pep Band (now “Alumni Brass”) which plays at athletic events when the student Spartan Brass is not available. Over the years the bands have played at men’s basketball, women’s basketball, volleyball, and hockey games and at the Izzone Reunion. Jack coordinates all aspects of the band with the College of Music and Department of Athletics. A typical year’s schedule involves playing for at least a dozen athletic events. He is also a charter member (1980) of the Strolling Spartans, entertaining MSU football fans and campus visitors on game days. Jack also initiated and is responsible for the alumni band representation in MSU’s annual Homecoming Parade. Five years ago Jack took the lead in creating a combined student and alumni band that plays at the summer Pentwater Homecoming Days, and has continued in that role. The Pentwater festivities include an MSU brunch, MSU tailgate parties, and a grand parade. This combined band has become a traditional part of the Pentwater festivities and represents MSU Bands, MSU Athletics, and the University.

Jack has undergraduate (’72) and MBA degrees from MSU. As a student, although an Honors College business major, he received a full tuition saxophone performance scholarship. Jack was a saxophone section leader of the Spartan Marching Band and a member of the Spartan Brass. Jack’s parents, Phyllis and Henry Nelson (the alumni band’s first president) are also graduates of MSU. His wife Nancy (our listserv member), and his two sons Mike and Matt are also graduates of MSU, and SMB alumni. Talk about a green & white family!

Prior to his retirement in 2002, Jack had a distinguished career as a senior executive in Michigan state government, after which he worked as a consultant for two years. Since then, Jack’s increasing alumni band responsibilities, comprising many hundreds of volunteer hours, might look much like a “real job” to most. But Jack says it’s simply a labor of love for Michigan State University. CONGRATULATIONS on this well-deserved honor, and THANK YOU JACK, for representing all of us so well!

Origins

Four of MSU’s Finest! John Madden, John Whitwell, Dave Catron, and Ken Bloomquist at the 1994 Fall Reunion.
Scholarship Recipients Honored

Through your generous donations, the MSU Alumni Band presents scholarships annually to two outstanding MSU music majors. Honored at the spring concert band reunion on May 1 were Kenneth G. Bloomquist Scholarship recipient Connor Fetting (left) and John L. Whitwell Scholarship recipient Aaron Woodman (right). Pictured with the recipients are Director of Bands Kevin Sedatole, Alumni Band President Greg Pell, and Alumni Band Treasurer Abby Zarimba. Photo by: Linda Barry

 Tradition: The Spartan Marching Band Jacket

For over six decades, the SMB jacket has been worn proudly on MSU’s campus. The jacket is earned after a first-year member completes dress rehearsal or “Freshman Dress” — a culmination of ten days of pre-season practice, rehearsal, and drills. Band members don the jacket for the first time after marching through the tunnel into Spartan Stadium.

We are thrilled to say that donations to the Alumni Band Freshman Band Jacket Fund have surpassed the amount needed to provide a jacket for each incoming freshman in the fall of 2016!

But what about the origin of this iconic jacket? The following is excerpted from a letter addressed from John Madden and copied to the alumni band board from Donald R. Gillette, SMB President 1955–56:

“Dear John,

The MSU Alumni Band website currently carries news that Edward T. Spink, a past president of the MSU marching and concert bands and a member of the alumni band, passed away on January 7, 2016. Ed was a dear life-long friend of mine and of my wife, Mary Ellen (MSU ’57).

When I was a freshman, Ed was Mr. Spartan Marching Band. He was a mentor as well as a friend. Ed was president of the band in 1953–54. The band played for the first time in the Rose Bowl on January 1, 1954. Shortly after we returned to campus during the winter of 1954, Ed suggested that we adopt a design for a band jacket. I remember that he insisted that the jacket have a collar and buttons to make it distinctive from other jackets. Ed made the arrangements with a Lansing sports equipment provider and we individually purchased jackets. That tradition has continued and has been enhanced by your excellent leadership.

Don goes on to describe Ed Spink’s strong support of MSU and the MSU Bands, and includes support for the Freshman Band Jacket Fund and honoring Ed Spink’s memory. “I know that members value their jackets as much as we did back in 1954,” he writes. When I am on campus, nothing makes me prouder than to pass a student wearing a Spartan Marching Band jacket.”

The design and style of the jacket has remained constant since the 1950s. Each year, approximately 300 SMB alumni arrive on campus for the annual fall reunion. These alumni are of greatly varying ages, but the SMB jacket of Ed Spink and Don Gillette’s day is seen worn by 70 year-old men standing next to recent graduates and current SMB members. That’s Tradition!

The Alumni Band gets Social

The MSU Alumni Band is expanding its presence on social media. You can now find us on Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat, in addition to our Facebook page. Follow us for the latest news and information about alumni band happenings and events, as well as live coverage of our performances at the fall and spring reunions, Pentwater, holiday bands, and more!

Here’s where to find us:

- Twitter: twitter.com/msualumniband
- Instagram: instagram.com/msualumniband
- Snapchat: https://www.snapchat.com/add/msualumniband
- Facebook: facebook.com/msualumniband

Follow us, and share with your alumni band friends!

T-Shirts for Fall Reunion

Even though the days of the SMB’s strict dress codes are behind us, we’re still proud to be a part of the band’s history. We’ve seen how good the alumni band looks while marching “The Series” and on the field in Spartan Stadium with the official MSU Alumni Band t-shirt for the past two years.

These Spartan green shirts will again be in your registration. All must purchase a shirt to participate. This is a one-time expense; if you have your shirt from the previous reunions, you’re all set.

Show your Spartan pride by wearing the official MSU Alumni Band t-shirt!
Since our Last Issue

Scenes from the 2016 MSU Alumni Concert Band Reunion
To see more photos from the spring reunion, visit “Michigan State University Alumni Band” on Facebook. The 2017 MSU Alumni Concert Band Reunion is set for Sunday, April 30th.

Follow Us Online!
Stop by the MSU Alumni Band’s web site. You’ll find information about upcoming events, a digital copy of the newsletter, email addresses of members, and lots of pictures! www.msualumniband.com. Check out “Michigan State University Alumni Band” on Facebook.com!

Change of Home or Email Address
To keep you informed, please let us know when you move or have a change of email address by calling (517) 351-4582, mailing a note to MSU Alumni Band, c/o Tim Fox, 1850 Snyder, East Lansing, MI 48823, or emailing us at: alumband@msu.edu.