

The Herald

Pitt Band Alumni Council Newsletter

Spring
2008

Alumni Band 2007—Sept 1: Pitt vs. Eastern Michigan

On September 1st, 2007 the Pitt Band Alumni made their annual trip back onto the turf at Heinz Field at the annual Pitt Band Alumni Day. On a day when the Pitt Panther football team toppled the Eastern Michigan Eastern Eagles 27 to 3, the real show was the one at half time.

On the Friday night before Game day, the Pitt Band Alumni met early behind Trees Hall to watch the Varsity Band practice for the following day's performances. The chance to watch the 18 to 22 year old college students (or 23 or 26, some just won't leave, Forrest you know who you are) and remember the fun and excitement of "the good old days" is often hard to pass up for some alumni. After practice the Band Alumni met with the graduating seniors to congratulate them as well as do a little recruiting for next year's event. Following the Meet and Greet, the alumni practiced the music for the following day's game. Of course everyone was playing just like they did when they were Varsity Band Members....well, almost. Of course, Malaguena isn't an easy piece of music to play.

Bright and early on Saturday morning the Budget Rental truck arrived at the Gold Lot parking lot on the North side. After fighting with the parking attendants for the best spot the truck got parked and the fun began. The Tailgate. Probably the most anticipated part of Alumni Band Day. As is the case every year the tailgate was so much fun that it took some boisterous requests (yelling) to get everyone to put down their tasty beverages and get the instruments out and in tune.

After the alumni settled down, the group moved to the amphitheater outside gate A to play a pregame concert with the varsity band. From there the trek began from Heinz Field to PNC Park. Many were rewarded for simply playing a few notes of Victory or Hail. Once at PNC Park we marched back to Heinz Field in the March to Victory.

Once inside the stadium we found our seats, which moved from the year before. That took a while. After settling down in the seats we got to see the band perform Pregame and watched the first half of the game. Halftime came up on us quickly and we headed down to the field for the show. After the varsity band played their first tune we marched on and played Malaguena with them. The varsity band marched off and we

were left alone on the field to entertain the crowd with Victory and Hail.

Of course the tailgate continued after the game. We eventually left because the clean-up needed to begin. Thanks again to all those who participated in the 2007 Alumni Band Day. We look forward to see you at the 2008 Alumni Day.

Andy Deao, Chair
Alumni Band Day



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Things to remember:

- Pitt Symphonic Band Concert Gala in April
- If you know someone did not receive this newsletter, share it with them!
- Check the website for updates:

www.pbac.net

Our 2007–2008 Scholarship Donors:

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President's Corner

Greetings Pitt Band Alumni!

2008 brings us the 50th anniversary of the Herald Trumpets and brings to our attention the Pitt Band's 100th anniversary, only 3½ years away.

A Herald Trumpet reunion was held at the Pitt–Louisville game on February 24. Well over 50 Heralds performed at the game, including one original, J. Roger Glunt. Another reunion will be held this fall. Stay tuned for more information. If you didn't hear about the February reunion, let us know, so we can be sure to get you information about the fall reunion when it is available.

In the more immediate future, the Pitt Symphonic Band will be performing its Spring Gala Concert on April 13, 2008, at 1:30 pm in Bellefield Hall in Oakland. This year's band is outstanding; consider making a trip to hear them perform. If you are in the Greensburg, PA, area and cannot make it to Pittsburgh for the concert, the Pitt Band will be performing with the Franklin Regional High School band at Franklin Regional High School on Wednesday, April 9, at 7:30 pm.

The complete 2008 football schedule, as we were preparing this newsletter, was not yet available. Look for Alumni Band Day to be held in early September as it has been the past few years, usually at the first home game.

Hail to Pitt!
Ryan Minster

2007 PBAC Scholarship

Each year the PBAC awards a \$3000.00 tuition scholarship to a band person entering his or her sophomore year. The award of \$1000.00 per year is matched by the University. In addition, two Frank Bolden Memorial Book Grants are given each year. The winners were announced at band camp in August.

The 2007 winner of the tuition scholarship is Tyler Meinhart. Tyler marched in the trumpet section during the football season. Book certificate awards went to Barbara Drego (Tenor Saxophone) and Elisa Drobish (Drumline). Barbara and Elisa had fine freshman years in the VMB and continue their commitment, teamwork and pride in our band programs. On behalf of our students we thank all band alumni who make yearly contributions to the PBAC scholarship fund.

Bonnie Alspach, Chair
Scholarship Committee



Who's Who at the Pitt Band Alumni Council?

Ryan Minster

Name/Nickname in Band: "J. Ryan"

When did you graduate from Pitt? Degree? I earned a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from the College of Arts and Science in 1998 and a Master of Science in Information Science from the School of Information Science in 2003. I am currently working on a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Genetics in the Graduate School of Public Health.

Where do you live? What is your occupation? I live in Kennedy Township, between McKees Rocks and Coraopolis. I am a researcher and lab and data manager in the Department of Human Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Years in Band & Instrument: I marched for four seasons from 1994–98, played in the symphonic band for three semesters from 1996–98 and played in the pep band for four years from 1994–98. I played bass in all three bands.

How do you continue to serve the Pitt band as an alumni? I serve on the game-day operations staff for the Varsity Marching Band, and I serve as the sponsor for Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority.

What offices have you held or do you hold in PBAC? I was treasurer from 2001–06, and I am currently the president.

What is your favorite Pitt Band memory? Playing for two standing ovations at Ohio State in 1996.

What do you like to do in your free time? I am a second-degree black belt in judo, and I teach both at a private dojo and at the Pitt (PEDC 0063). I like reading and Mad Mex black-bean-and-pineapple quesadillas. (The potato taquitos are good too.) I have a black and tan collie-lab-shepherd mix named Yuengling and a Maine Coon named Tsuki.



Thoughts from the Drum Major

This season, as in the past, the Pitt Band has taken the field with pride. For the first time, however, I have had the privilege of leading the ranks. My name is Tyler McGaughey, and I'm the new Drum Major of the University of Pittsburgh Varsity Marching Band.

I grew up just outside of Pittsburgh, in a small town called Lower Burrell. For four years I worked my way up through the ranks of my high school band before getting handed the position of Drum Major my junior year. Even though I never had to try out, the preparation was extensive. I spent part of the summer before band camp training with the Drum Majors from IUP and also working with the section leaders of my own band. The Burrell Band only had about 50 instrumentalists, but we were talented enough to entertain crowds of any size. By the time I graduated, I was certain that I could never love a group of people more than the Burrell Band. The following year I came to Pitt, and I was proven wrong.



I can remember being overwhelmed by how many people I met my first day on campus, but by the end of band camp I had bonded with the other saxes more than I could have hoped. My first game was against Notre Dame in a packed stadium, and just like I had been told, I can still remember my first time out of the hole. From that moment on, Pitt Band became my life.

By joining Iota Beta Kappa and Mu Kappa Upsilon I got to know many of the leaders of the band, as well as meet the people that are now my best friends. I served as a squad leader during my sophomore year and was reminded just how much I had loved leading a group of bandies back in high school. It was then that I decided to try out for Drum Major. After a few short training sessions with Jeremy Herrman, the Drum Major at that time, and knowing that the other people trying out were some of my best friends, I felt incredibly confident in whatever outcome the tryouts would present. Even still, hearing the final decision shocked me more than I could possibly say. In fact, it didn't really sink in until I found myself running out of the hole the very first game this season. However, after slamming my plume to the 50 yard line for the first time, everything fell into place.

So far this season the band has seen improvements in many aspects from the musical ability of individual members to good relations between sections. Over the next two years I hope to push for even more enhancement in the band and in my own performance. By the time I leave this band, I want every member to have had as fulfilling of an experience at Pitt that I have. We're well on our way to achieving this goal through the hard work of our amazing section leaders, squad leaders, and staff.

Thank you Jack Anderson for this chance of a lifetime, and thanks to all of the alumni, my friends, my brothers, and my family for their continued support.

Hail to Pitt!
Tyler McGaughey



Jack R. Anderson receives highest award given by Kappa Kappa Psi

At the University of Pittsburgh Spring Concert in Bellefield Hall, Jack Anderson, Director of Bands, was awarded the 2007 Kappa Kappa Psi "Distinguished Service to Music Medal." The Distinguished Service to Music Medal is the highest award presented by the Fraternity. It was instituted in 1963 to honor outstanding individual contributions to bands. The areas of recognition include: composition, concert band, marching band, instrumental music education, artist performer, industrial research and progress, contributing laymen, alumni achievement, and fraternity service.

Jack has been a music educator in Pennsylvania for 35 years leading band programs in the Greenville and Keystone Oaks School Districts. At Pitt, Anderson's responsibilities include directing the Varsity Marching Band, leading Pep Bands at athletic events, and conducting the Symphonic Band. After 15 years of directing high school bands Anderson was named Assistant Director of Bands at Pitt in 1986 and in 1995 was named Director of Bands. Jack's father was also Assistant Director of Bands at Pitt

While playing in the Pitt Band in the late 1960s and early '70s, Anderson played under the direction of Robert (Ace) Arthur, who also received the "Distinguished Service to Music Medal" while Director of Bands at Pitt. Anderson's other awards and recognitions include: "The Paula Crider Outstanding College Band Director Award" received in 2001 from Tau Beta Sigma, the National Honorary Band Sorority, "Special Recognition Award" received in 2002 from the Mon Valley Chapter of the Panther Club and in October 2006 Anderson received the "Professor of the Year Award" for outstanding teaching from Pitt's Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Founded on the campus of Oklahoma State University in 1919 to serve the College and University band programs, Kappa Kappa Psi operates primarily as a student service and leadership recognition society whose chief aim is to assist the Director of Bands in developing the leadership and enthusiasm that is required of his/her band.

Congratulations Jack!





Pitt Band Alumni Council

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Ryan Minster

President

Katie Welsh

Vice President

Jason Donovan

Secretary

Carol Nichols

Treasurer

ATTENTION ALUMNI! 100th Anniversary of Pitt Band Ahead!

We are now in the planning stages for producing a DVD commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Pitt Band. Even though the 100th anniversary is in 2011, we are starting this project now to allow enough time for both research and production. Alumni can help with this project too! We are welcoming any contributions film, video, pictures, audio recordings, or any other interesting items pertaining to Pitt Band history to add to use in the DVD and add to the history archives. We are specifically looking for audio and video recordings from the late 1970's and early 1980's.

We would also like to conduct interviews with Pitt Band alumni to include in the DVD. Pitt Band alumni are welcome to share their experiences with us on camera. You must be in the Pittsburgh area and available to travel in Oakland to participate.

To contribute materials or to schedule an interview, please contact Jen Costello at eighthammer87@yahoo.com.