

# The Herald

Pitt Band Alumni Council Newsletter

## Summer 2006

### Alumni Band Day 2005

Once again this year, we had a very successful Pitt Band Alumni Day in September when our Pitt Panthers defeated Youngstown State. We welcomed the return of on the field drill, combined with the Varsity Band this year, and in preparation had a combined practice Friday night before the game. Although we were dusting off some cobwebs, all went well. Following practice, Band Alumni mingled with Varsity members over pizza and pop. We enjoyed getting some input from current band members and are encouraged with their interest in Alumni Band.

Bright and Early Saturday morning, we setup a tailgate in Gold Lot 2. We had a good turnout of Alumni, both marching and not, as well as family and friends of Alumni who enjoyed the food and beverage. We performed at the pre-game concert and marched from PNC Park to Heinz Field. I think the most exciting part of the day was sitting in reserved seats directly behind the Varsity Band, which afforded us the opportunity to play throughout the game. The halftime performance went well.

We are glad our Alumni enjoyed the day and look forward to seeing even more of you next year for Alumni Band Day. The information will be posted on our website as soon as it is available.

Thank you for your participation and continuing support!  
Hail to Pitt!!  
Bonnie Alspach, SHRS '96  
PBAC Vice President



The Varsity Band performing their pre-game concert outside of Heinz Field.

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#### Things to remember:

- Register for Alumni Day.
- Send in your family's ticket order by Sept. 8, 2006
- Send in your dues
- If you know someone who did not receive this newsletter, share it with them.
- Check the website for updates:

[www.pbac.net](http://www.pbac.net)

### Concert and Pep Band News

On April 9, 2006, the University of Pittsburgh Symphonic Band held its annual Spring Gala. Beautiful music filled the hall in Bellefield Auditorium as the band closed another season. Most of these band members participate in not only marching band & symphonic band but pep band as well. These dedicated members spend their free time cheering on our Men and Women's basketball teams as well as other events for the university. This year was especially busy since our Women's basketball team had risen to be a fierce competitor in the Big East. Head Coach, Agnus Berenato has always praised the band for its endless support. Pep band members traveled to away games as regular fans to cheer the women on to victory. In honor of the band's love for the Women's basketball team, Agnus was asked to be the guest conductor at the Spring Gala while the band played the Pitt Fight Song. This was an honor for her to lead the band members who had supported her and her team. Incidentally, Jack Anderson was recognized at the Women's basketball banquet for the band's dedication to the team.



Guest Conductor,  
Agnus Berenato

Katie Welsh, ENGR '05



Our 2005 – 2006  
Scholarship  
Donors:

Lynn Alstadt  
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James Sczepanski  
Valer Secarea  
David Smith

## President's Corner

Greetings from the PBAC!

It has been an energetic year for the PBAC. Unfortunately I missed many of you this past fall at alumni band day. A family emergency took me out of town at the last minute. I did hear many good things about the event and wanted to thank everyone who arranged and executed the event for a job well done. Also, many thanks to those who participated and contributed to our success.

If you were around for alumni band day, you would have seen a number of new faces. One of the many challenges facing the PBAC is the recruitment of members to help run the organization. This is a goal that many of us set some time ago and are finally realizing a return on our investment. You'll see in this issue of *The Herald* several new names proposed for the corps of officers. I'm very happy to see these alumni step up and continue the proud tradition of supporting the University and our band program. I support the slate of officers and hope that our dues-paying members will elect these competent individuals. To cast your vote, please include a slip of paper with your vote with this year's dues.

Speaking of the election and dues paying members . . . the PBAC bylaws, which are available online at our website, stipulate that only dues paying members may vote to elect our officers. If you are interested or not in selecting the leadership of the PBAC, I encourage you to join the PBAC and support us in our endeavors. Please note that membership in the Pitt Alumni Association does not grant automatic membership in the PBAC. We do encourage membership in both organizations. For more information on this, please feel free to contact me at [pittwedge@alumni.pitt.edu](mailto:pittwedge@alumni.pitt.edu) or the PAA at 800.ALU.PITT (800.258.7488).

As president of the PBAC, I also sit on the board of directors of the PAA. Our spring meeting was very exciting with many new projects announced and the success of various goals of the association and the board. A new Student Alumni Association will be kicked off to bring current Pitt students closer to all of us. The PAA banner program has changed and we're working to continue the PBAC's trend of winning the designation each year it has been given out. This fall, a major legacy project will be completed and new displays honoring Pitt's accomplished alumni and faculty will be unveiled in the Alumni Hall lobby. The PBAC is an affinity council of the PAA and a proud partner in support of the University.

You may notice that my name does not appear in the slate of officers proposed for the coming term of office. It has been a pleasure serving as the PBAC president over the past five years. I don't get away that easy, though. As per our bylaws, I will continue to serve in the capacity of immediate past president to advise the organization. I'm not going anywhere anytime soon. Thank you for your continued support and the honor to work with all of you.

Hail to Pitt!

Tony Roscoe – Outgoing President

## Pitt Band History Archiving

Historians from the four band organizations (Mu Kappa Upsilon, Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, and Iota Beta Kappa) have formed a committee devoted to historical archiving for the Pitt Band. This summer we will be sorting, organizing, and scanning all-important materials related to the history of the Pitt Band. The purpose of this project is to create an organized database of information, and for preservation of history. We will begin the project by sorting all materials located in the band room, but we are looking to find more information from outside sources as well. This is where Pitt Band Alumni can be of assistance! If you have any old pictures, slides, concert programs, documents, video, film, or any other relevant material that you would like to contribute to this archiving project please email [jjcost8@yahoo.com](mailto:jjcost8@yahoo.com).

Jen Costello – Pitt Band History Committee Advisor

**2006 – 2007 PBAC Membership, Merchandise and Event Registration Form**  
**Return to: Pitt Band Alumni Council – P.O. Box 7273, Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Band (e.g., 1950–53, 1992–94): \_\_\_\_\_ Years Graduated and Degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Registration**

I plan to participate in:

- PBAC Rehearsal & social at Trees Hall, Friday night, Sept. 22                       Alumni Band Day on Saturday Sept. 23

Instrument or Auxiliary Unit \_\_\_\_\_  I will bring my own instrument    I need to borrow an instrument

**MEMBERSHIP**

- PBAC Dues for 2006-2007 (\$20)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Dues cover Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2007. Dec. 2005 and all 2006 graduates receive their first year membership free! Please write free next to the dollar sign and return this form so we have your current contact information!)

**MERCHANDISE**

- Alumni Band Shirt (\$22 M–XL, \$24 XXL, \$26 XXXL, \$30 4–5XL)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # shirts ordered \_\_\_\_\_ size(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Alumni Band Hat (\$10 each)                      # ordered \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Donation to the PBAC Scholarship fund ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Checks for membership dues, merchandise, and scholarship fund, please make payable to “**PBAC**” and be sure to note in the memo what the check is for.
- Checks for family and friends tickets, please make payable to “**University of Pittsburgh.**” We are receiving the checks and orders for tickets this year and passing them on to the Athletics Ticket Office.

**Alumni Band Ticket Form – Family and Friends only. Alumni band participants tickets are taken care of.**

**Ticket Registration Deadline: Friday, September 8, 2006**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

	Quantity	Price	Total
Friend and Family Tickets		\$15	\$
		Handling	\$5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$

Please make all checks payable to the  
**“University of Pittsburgh”**

Send to:

**University of Pittsburgh – Athletic Ticket Office**  
**P.O. Box 7436**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15213-0436**  
**Attn: Alumni Band Day**

**Please Charge My Credit Card: (Please print clearly)**

Visa    MasterCard    Discover

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Return the form to:*

Pitt Band Alumni Council  
P.O. Box 7273  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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Return this form to:

University of Pittsburgh  
Athletic Ticket Office  
P.O. Box 7436  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-0436  
Attn: Alumni Band Day

Family and friends ticket orders must be received  
by **Friday, September 8, 2006**, to ensure a seat in the stadium.

**As a First Year Member**

As I approached graduation in April of 2005, I felt that after five years in college I was finally prepared to take the step into “the real world.” Everything seemed to fall into place rather nicely. I wasn’t in jeopardy of failing any classes and I had multiple job prospects in the Pittsburgh area; however, one thing still sat in the back of my mind as a reason not to leave school.

The marching band was the reason I chose Pitt coming out of high school. After marching here for five years and in high school for five years prior to that, I had no idea what I was going to do with my life now that it was approaching the end.

In the months that I contemplated this question, the PBAC visited band practices to talk to seniors about staying involved with the band after graduation. I knew that it was something that I wanted to do eventually, but I wasn’t sure that it was the best decision to get involved right away. It would never be the same as marching, and I wondered if it would in fact make it harder for me to transition away from marching. After three years of leading the band as Drum Major maybe some time off would be the best thing for me.

It didn’t take very long for me to decide and I attended my first meeting only months after graduation. I thought it was wonderful seeing different generations of band alumni come together for the common purpose of serving the band and the University that we are all a part of.

As the University as a whole is on a campaign to gain more alumni support, I feel that it is equally important for our band program to gain as much support as possible. As a student, it always amazed me how dedicated and generous our alumni were. Whenever the band needed something, there was always someone there to help us. It’s for these reasons that I am now proud to be an alumnus and hope that I can continue to support the band program in the way that it has been supported in the past.

I feel that through the recruitment of newly graduated members we can stay close to the student body and never lose sight of what the students need. Equally important however, is the retention and recruitment of Alumni who have been graduated for a few years. It is these alumni who know the traditions of the University and can be sure that we are always staying true to our past as well as looking to improve our future.

Hail to Pitt,  
Jason Donovan, ENGR ’05

**Our 2005 – 2006  
Scholarship  
Donors  
(con’t from p 2)**

Harry Smith  
David Snyder  
Herbert Soltman  
Randy Stadtfeld  
Joe Stemm  
Jenn Tompkins  
Karen & William  
Turcan  
Wendi Wiley  
Mark Willoughby  
Kim Wilson  
George Witkovich  
Aldo Zini

**Altogether, \$3,119  
was raised last  
year for the  
scholarship fund.**

**Many thanks to all  
of our donors!**

**Proposed Slate of PBAC Officers 2006–2008**

**President: Ryan Minster, CAS ’98, SIS ’03G**

Ryan played bass in the band as an undergraduate from 1994 through 1998 and was a squad leader. Ryan works for the University of Pittsburgh as a Research Specialist in the Department of Human Genetics in the Graduate School of Public Health where he is currently pursuing a doctoral degree. He has served as the PBAC Treasurer since 2001. In that same year, Ryan became the sponsor of the Tau Beta Sigma chapter at Pitt. Finally, he has volunteered on the game-day operations staff of the band since 2000.

**Vice President: Katie Welsh, ENGR ’05**

Katie played flute in the band from 2001 through 2005 and was both a squad leader and section leader. She works for Federal Express as a Service Engineer. Katie joined the PBAC immediately upon her graduation and took no time in volunteering for opportunities. She worked with both the Events and the Communication committees during the past year. As a member of these teams, she coordinated several events for the PBAC that were very successful. Katie also volunteers on the game-day operations staff.

**Secretary: Jason Donovan, ENGR ’05**

Jason played the trombone in the band from 2000 through 2001 when he was a squad leader. He was picked as the drum major in 2002 and continued in this role until 2005. Jason now works as a methods Engineer for Bombardier Transportation. He also joined the PBAC immediately following graduation and became involved in both planning and execution of our various projects and events. Jason continues to volunteer with the Pitt Bands as a Drum Major Coach and Drill Technician.

**Treasurer: Carol Nichols, A&S ’05, ’06G**

Carol played clarinet in the band from 2001 through 2005 and served as a squad leader. Carol just finished her master’s degree in Computer Science this spring. Carol was asked to serve on the PBAC Bylaws committee this past year. She now heads the Policy and Procedures committee and was integral in the formation of this important group.



## Pitt Band Alumni Council

P.O. Box 7273  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
www.pbac.net

**Tony Roscoe (SHRS '99)**

*President*

**Bonnie Alspach (SHRS '96)**

*Vice President*

**Becky Yuhás (CAS '99)**

*Secretary*

**Ryan Minster (CAS '98, SIS '03G)**

*Treasurer*

### 2006 Panther Football

#### September

2	Virginia	7:00 pm
8	at Cincinnati	8:00 pm
16	Michigan State	3:30 pm
23	<b>The Citadel (Alumni Band Day)</b>	<b>TBA</b>
30	Toledo	TBA

#### October

7	at Syracuse	TBA
13	at UCF	8:00 pm
21	Rutgers (Homecoming)	TBA

#### November

4	at USF	12:00 pm
11	Connecticut	TBA
16	West Virginia	7:30 pm
25	Louisville	TBA



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