



KANSAS STATE University Bands



NEWSLETTER

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I am frequently asked by many when do I "start recruiting for next year?" Without hesitation I respond: "I started recruiting students and support for K-State bands the day I signed the contract in February of 1993!" The routine has not slowed or stopped! Now I have Dr. Wimmer, Courtney Grecu, many decades of fantastic graduate students, and thousands of band alumni who have assisted in that never ending process. The system works, the future is very bright, and great things are coming our way!

Our outreach is back in full "pedal to the metal" mode! We are back in the schools, bringing thousands of students on our campus through the Central States Marching Festival, Concert Band Clinic, Side-by-Side Concerts, Summer Music Camp, and Summer Auxiliary Camp! The band is on a roll!!

As many of you have known and heard throughout the years here at K-State, I have been very vocal about some specific needs of the program. First, we need a building! Second, we need a 3rd Band Director!! THEY BOTH ARE HAPPENING!!!

The "Tracz Family Band Hall" (TFBH) is nearing completion - end of April is the predicted completion time. We will take a number of months setting things up, moving equipment, instruments, etc. to the TFBH, with the grand opening ceremony will be Friday, September 8. This is the eve of the second home football game, as well as the weekend we invite alumni back to campus for Alumni Band Day! Announcements with details with certainly be sent out across all social media outlets, as well as through the band office. Courtney Grecu continues to be the spark and glue that makes us move forward and keeps us together on all these topics and projects, an amazing woman!

The Assistant Director of Bands position has been announced, advertised, and we will have someone in place this summer for the start

of Fall 2023! We will adjust all band duties to distribute between three full-time band faculty and reduce the weekly hours in our offices to - maybe 60?!?!? Dr. Bryan Pinkall (Director of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance), Dr. Chris Culbertson (Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Science), Provost Dr. Charles Tabor, and President Dr. Rich Linton were very instrumental in making these major accomplishments happen. Sincere gratitude to these great leaders for their support, understanding, and vision!!!

We also have 6-graduate students with the band program for next year. They will be introduced later in this newsletter. As you can see, the staff is growing. This program is busier than ever with football, basketball, volleyball, pub crawl, concert ensembles, classes, bowl trips, Big 12 Championships, NCAA tournaments, summer camps, recruiting, fundraising etc., etc., etc. Did I mention we teach a lot of undergraduate and graduate classes, as well?!?!? Still beats working for living!!!

There are many things to discover about the activities of this great band program: CSMF, CBC, TFBH, Sugar Bowl, Big 12 Championship, Coach Tang and the Cat Band, Coach Klieman and the marching band, guest conductors/clinicians/lecturers, Wabash on the Prairie, Band Camp Marysville trip, Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser doing leadership sessions this coming August for the KSUMB leadership team, and much, much more. The following pages are filled with things that will make you proud of YOUR K-State band program. Read on and enjoy!

GO CATS and GO BAND!

Frank Tracz

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Construction Update

February 2023

First and foremost, the “Tracz Family Band Hall” is scheduled to be completed at the end of April! We will take a few months to move all equipment and instruments, equipment, etc. to the new Hall. There is much to do to make get this lace ready for the PRIDE! The “Grand Opening and Dedication” is scheduled for Friday, September 8th, 2023. There will be a naming unveiling with the donors, dignitaries, band members, alumni band, parents, and supporters and fans of The Pride! These pictures represent the work being done as of February 12. Walls and drywall are up, insulation and acoustical spray is done, and painting is scheduled to start soon. We have been busy meeting with construction and landscaping crews with updates, etc.

The Brick Pavers will be shipped soon and a great display for the over 700-pavers is planned right outside the front doors of the Hall! As I walk through this facility (usually on a daily basis) I am overwhelmed by the fact that this is REAL and is finally a reality for the past, present, and future of this program. Simply breath-taking and new-inspiring.



Grand Opening and Dedication

September 8th, 2023
Alumni Band Weekend
K-State vs Troy

More info coming soon.

Learn More:

k-state.edu/band/thepride/bandhall

I’m extremely excited for the new band hall, as it represents the hard work, passion, and leadership that the members, directors, and staff have put into the program throughout the years. Our dedication does not go unnoticed, so I’m incredibly grateful to have a building that we all can call our new home.

- Farhan Chowdbury, Clarinet

The new band hall means a lot to me, it’s giving us a proper place to call home and a new place to make memories in the years to come. It has also shown how far the band has come and how much dedication we have.

- Ella Greenup, Piccolo

The band hall will allow us to get to the process of making music much faster due to there being one place where everything is stored rather than having multiple places to go prior to rehearsals. This new home is going to bring The Pride to a whole new level of musical and marching performance, and I am very excited!

- Kyle Grimes, Trumpet

It is very surreal to think of our next season finally in the band hall, but I am beyond excited and honored to be a part of the Pride during this historic time. To see it come to fruition after so much change and uncertainty during the last couple years is like the light at the end of the tunnel, and we couldn’t have done it without the generosity and support from the K-State family.

- Shaelyn Ryan, Tuba

The Tracz Family Band Hall makes me realize the impact the K-State Marching Band has had on the community and university. This band is so much more than playing music on the football field...members are tough, hard workers, leaders, and possess qualities that can’t be taught anywhere else. I can’t wait to see how this band hall adds to the institution that is the Pride of Wildcat Land for the next generations of members.

- Bailey Walke, Featured Twirler

This will take care of so many issues for us especially for the drumline and tubas who have to trek from McCain and back every rehearsal.

- Devon Autrey, Drumline

As a student and leader within the Pride of Wildcat Land, the Tracz Family Band Hall means so much to me as it will make organization much easier to manage for behind-the-scenes tasks we do every day, saving us an incredible amount of time setting up, tearing down, and preparing for all of what we do! This band hall will take the tradition of our band that so many value deeply and set an even higher standard for community, self-improvement, and fantastic music.

- Audrey Farrell, Drum Major





A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Big 12 Champions

December 3rd, 2022

What a game, what an experience for all!! From the battle back-and-forth, to the goal line stance heading into overtime, to epic field goal to win, it was a game that will be remembered for quite some time! As always, The Band was HOT! The PRIDE did a great job of supporting the team with pep rallies, ESPN GameDay, pre-game and halftime performances, and off course the legendary “stands activities” to support the team; nobody does it better!



Sugar Bowl

December 21st, 2022

A great season topped off with a tier one bowl game and a trip to the “big easy!” New Orleans was a fantastic experience for all with a fantastic hotel, the Caesars Superdome, Bourbon Street and Jackson Square, a fantastic parade, and a rally that we filled to the max! K-State knows how to go “bowling” and this trip was a highlight for us all! The PRIDE was spectacular on and off the field and once again demonstrated “purple pride” and quality all around!

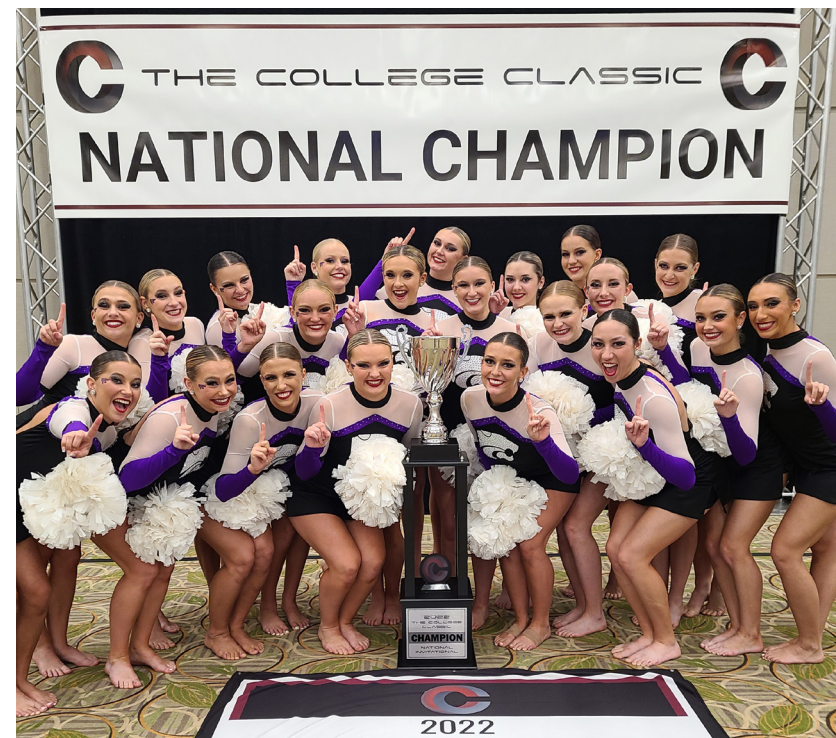


Classy Cats

National Champions

NCAA collegiate classification competed in several categories over two-day period for an esteemed judge’s panel.

The Classy Cats made finals in “Division 1A Pom” and “Division 1A Jazz.” They placed 4th in Jazz Division with a score of 90.00 and won the Pom Division with a score of 92.72, earning them a National Championship in this category, a first in program history! The Classy Cats also performed in the Pom Battle, an exclusive performance earned by having the highest pom routine score for all divisions at the College Classic and selected by the judges. The Classy Cats will be back at the Collage Classic April 7th and 8th, 2023 to defend their National Title.



Alumni at the Super Bowl

Former K-State Classy Cats, now Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders take their talents to the SUPER BOWL!

Congrats to:
Emily McDonald
Cooper Allison
Ashton Thomas
Maggie Kohlrus





Nationally Recognized Twirlers

Last summer, Feature Twirler Bailey Walke and Wildcat Twirler Lauren Birshbach travelled to the University of Notre Dame for the National Baton Twirling Association's National Competition. The week-long event hosted over 1,900 individual competitors and over 100 college twirlers from around the country. Both had a very successful competition after months of training and preparation.

Lauren placed 2nd in National Beginner 3-baton.

Bailey placed 3rd in Advanced World Open 3-baton and 4th in Advanced World Open 1-baton solo, qualifying for the national Twirl-Offs in both events. Her performance in 3-baton earned her a spot on Team USA that will compete at the World Baton Twirling Championships in Liverpool, England next summer.

New Uniforms

We have raised enough funding with the building to purchase new uniforms for the marching band. College uniforms last on average 6-8 years and we are going on year 12 of our present uniform; it is time. We are in the process of design with the uniform company, will have a student committee suggest changes, and we hope to get these in our hands for this coming fall. We will be using some of the old uniforms for banquet awards (great recycling and re-purposing!) but will be offering other uniforms to alums for a donation. Stay tuned!

New Sousaphones

The early purchase of tubas is starting to show its 30-year age and we are replacing ten of these instruments in time for fall. These will be stronger, with heavier braces than the ones we currently have. We will take eight of the older sousaphones and store them in Bramlage for basketball use. This will eliminate the need for students to transport them to and from campus and will save us some repair costs! The new sousaphones, along with the remaining, will be hung four per pillar in the "Tracz Family Band Hall." Very convenient and safe for the instruments and the students!



Concert Ensembles

The Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Concert Band, and University Band have been very busy with rehearsals and concerts with many guest conductors and composers here to work with our students and ensembles.

Guest conductors have included Dr. Jay Gilbert from Doane University, and Mr. Scott Freeby from Manhattan middle schools.

Guest soloists this year are Dr. Daniel Hinman KSU Professor of trombone, Dr. Amy Guffey KSU Professor of clarinet, Dr. John Kilgore Professor of trumpet, Chris Hovis, student on Tuba,

We will also be doing a "Side by Side" clinic and concert this coming April with Wamego High School Wind Ensemble under the direction of KSU MM graduate Mr. Chris Richmond!

Guest composers included Peter Meechan from Canada, and Aldo Forte from Virginia. The Wind Ensemble and the Wind Symphony will be performing pieces written by Peter Meechan. The Wind Ensemble will be performing the U.S. premier of Aldo Forte's "Sinfonia No. 1 for Band" written for the "Banda Municipal de music de Vitoria-Gasteiz ko Udal musika banda, Spain".



WHERE ARE THEY NOW



MADISON HINES SCHMOLL

Madison Hines Schmoll attended K-State from 2016-2020. She was an active member in the KState Bands all four years, serving as a member of Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, KSUMB, Trumpet Ensemble, and

the Prairie Brass Quintet. Madison also served as an assistant drum major for the KSUMB her junior year and head drum major her senior year. She graduated in the spring of 2020 with her Bachelors of Music Education and a minor in Spanish.

After graduation, she and her now-husband, Steven, moved to the Wichita area. Madison is the director of bands at Andover High School in Andover, Kansas. She teaches 5-12 band with her two colleagues at Andover High School, Andover Middle School, Cottonwood Elementary School, Wheatland Elementary School, and Robert M. Martin Elementary School. This is her third year in the district and her first year as head director. In her second year of teaching, she was selected as one of the Kansas Horizon Award recipients, which goes to outstanding educators in their second year of teaching.

Madison is incredibly grateful for the opportunities that she had during her time in the K-State Bands! Most importantly, she is grateful for the relationships that she built with fellow students, faculty, and community members. These memories and experiences have shaped who she is as an educator, musician, and human being.



NATALIE CROW

Natalie (Alton) Crow was a clarinet player or drum major from 2014-2018. She graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education from K-State and a B.S. in Bible and Leadership from Manhattan Christian College in 2018. She

absolutely loved her time in the marching band, wind ensemble, pub crawl band, and basketball band and would say being in band defined her time in college.

Currently, Natalie lives in Overland Park, Kansas with

her husband, Wesley Crow (trombone player 2015-2019). At the time of writing this, Natalie and Wesley are eagerly expecting their first child, a baby girl, in March! Natalie currently teaches 5th grade general education at Ridgeview Elementary School in Olathe, Kansas and has taught 5th grade for 5 years now. She is the math club sponsor at her school and has been a mentor teacher to student teachers from Emporia for the past two years now.

Band was never Natalie's major in college, but was a defining factor for her college experience. In the same way, band never became her paying job, but still plays a huge role in her career. Natalie shares that the leadership roles band provided showed her what a difference one can make, and were a large reason she completed her masters from Emporia in Education Administration. The leadership team of student staff, section leaders, and drum majors Natalie had the privilege of working alongside showed her the kind of people she wants on her team--gogetters and change-makers. Natalie says she strives to be that person to her team at work every day and has taken initiative to be part of special groups and cadres that are making decisions in her school and district. Natalie wants to say thank you to the K-State band for the fun times, life lessons, and life-long relationships! Also, she looks forward to seeing some of you at our alumni band day this fall--keep watching your emails and the Facebook group "Kansas State University Alumni Band" for information (Natalie is the alumni band treasurer).



MAGGIE KOHLRUS

Maggie graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, specializing in Sports Marketing National Strategic Selling and minored in Mass Communications. She spent

all four years on Classy Cats and was in leadership her fourth year. While on the team she traveled for three bowl games and two NCAA tournaments. Since graduating, Maggie has moved back to Kansas City and spent three years on Chiefs Cheer where she cheered her last game in SuperBowl LVII. As she closes out her professional cheer career she has taken on teaching classes at a dance studio in Overland Park and is embracing the next chapter of her dance journey.

Outside of dance, Maggie works full time for a logistics intelligence company as a Revenue Operations lead for the Sales team, where she has been for the last two and a half years. She and her fiancé love going back to Manhattan for games and the occasional "reminiscing" weekends as they hope to remain connected to Greek life and the Classy Cat organization.



KATIE DREILING

Katie is a proud alumnus of the KSUMB. Originally from Bennington, KS and she currently lives in Overland Park, KS. She attended K-State from 2018 to 2022, and graduated with her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. She was in band

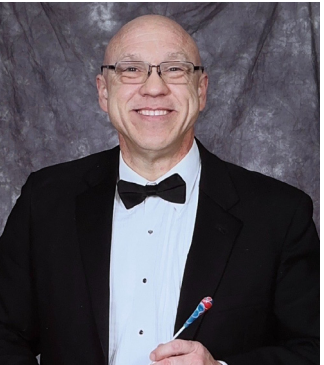
all four of her years in school, and was a baton twirler - Wildcat Twirler her first three years, assistant section leader her junior year, and Feature Twirler and head section leader her senior year. When Katie was 5 years old at a KSU football game with her parents, she noticed the twirlers and told her mom, "I want to do that!" She signed Katie up at Shannon's Stars Twirling Club in Salina, KS and Katie never looked back. Twirling with the KSUMB was an absolute dream come true.

Given that the engineering and marching band programs are recognized as some of the finest in the country, Katie always knew in her heart K-State would be the perfect fit. When someone asks her what her best memories of college are, her answer is always, "Anything marching band." During her time at school, K-State felt like her home and the marching band truly felt like her family. From walking into the first band camp as a freshman to waving to the crowd on senior night, Katie cherishes her time as a band member. You won't find a group of students that is more hard working, dedicated, kind, and fun. Her fiancé, Justin Koegeboehn, now have their own season football tickets and love spending fall Saturdays in Manhattan with their families (by the way, they met in band - she always heard that students in band are some of the best people - that couldn't be truer!).

Now, Katie works as a mechanical engineer at Black & Veatch, where she is in a rotation program for young engineers. Her first rotation is with a nuclear team, and she gets to work with clients and projects on design work and calculations for power plants involving a brand-new type of nuclear reactor. In addition to her career, she is still involved with baton twirling. She teaches lessons to young students in the Overland Park area, and is a proud member of Team USA 2023! The Junior Show Production Corp from Shannon's

Stars Twirling Club has been named to the 2023 USA Twirling Team, which will be representing the United States at the World Competition in Liverpool, England this August! This privilege was earned during the 2022 NBTA National Competition held at the University of Notre Dame in July. Essentially, they will compete with teams from numerous other countries in what could be called the Olympics of baton twirling! To add to the excitement, current KSU Feature Twirler, Bailey Walke, will be competing in the 3-baton event. For both of them, this will their first time to compete on an international level, and they couldn't be more excited to represent their states, country, and current and former K-Staters in this way! After the world competition, Katie will officially retire from competing. She plans to become a licensed NBTA judge and will continue to teach young twirlers.

Katie can't say thank you enough to her professors, Dr. Tracz, Dr. Wimmer, Sara Heptig, family, and friends. These people and so many more made her time at K-State so special, and Katie often wishes she could re-live those four years all over again. K-State helped her learn so much about herself and what she was truly capable of, and she will always hold the memories and lessons learned from school and marching band close to her heart.



SCOTT FREEBY

Scott earned his Bachelor and master's degrees in Music Education from K-State and is currently Director of Bands at Anthony and Eisenhower Middle Schools in Manhattan. Scott began his career as a full-time substitute in the Perry-Lecompton-

Williamstown District. Scott left Perry to teach for 4 wonderful years in the Herington, KS. After Herington, Scott landed his dream job in his hometown of Manhattan, Kansas - serving in the district for 32 years.

In his 36 years as a band director, Mr. Freeby has been awarded the Bob Srack Excellence in Teaching Award, The City of Manhattan Mayor's Teacher Award, a U.S.D. #383 Blue Ribbon Service Award, and was twice recognized as the North Central District Middle Level Educator of the Year. He was also the recipient of the 2007 Individual Artist Mini-Fellowship for Music Composition from the Kansas Arts Commission and in 2012, was nominated for the Secondary Level Kansas Teacher of the Year by U.S.D. #383.

Mr. Freeby has served as a guest clinician/conductor for Public School Music Festivals, the Kansas State University Concert Band Clinic, and as a judge for area

WHERE ARE THEY NOW CONTINUED

music festivals and 4-H music competitions. Scott performs professionally with the Thundering Cats Big Band, the Manhattan Barefoot Dixieland Band, the Manhattan Municipal Band, and as a free-lance trumpet artist for weddings.

Mr. Freeby enjoys composing for wind band, pep-band, brass ensembles and orchestras. His 2004 International Trumpet Guild premier of Enlightenment with the Kansas State University Trumpet Ensemble went on to be included in the repertoire of the Irish Guard Band of the Queen of England. Scott is married to his eternal sweetheart Diane, and they have three beautiful children and seven beautiful grandchildren.

Yearly compositions for his Middle School Bands include the use of Multidisciplinary Learning. Multidisciplinary Teaming of teachers immerse students in higher levels of discovery and learning - integrating involvement of multiple classrooms to bring holistic comprehension of an idea or subject. Scholastic disciplines involved in the Projects have included the Performing Arts of Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Visual Arts, Language Arts, Dramatic Arts, Technology, Science, Math, Social Studies, Physical Education, and the Gifted Program.

Scott plans to continue with his love of composing, performing, and most importantly, spending more time with his family. He hopes to serve as a guest clinician for honor groups and use his voice talents to be a storyteller at area schools and libraries.



SOPHIA SHAAR

My name is Sophia Shaar, and I am a recent alumni of the K-State Bands Program! I attended K-State for four years and graduated in May 2022 with a degree in chemical engineering and a minor in chemistry. I participated in the band program throughout all

four years playing mellophone and French horn and was part of the leadership team in the marching band during my junior and senior years of college. I also played in the wind ensemble, and I had the privilege of working closely with the staff in the band office! My time in band was easily the highlight of my time in college, and while it kept me busier than most (sane) people, I would go back and do it again without question. Band helped me develop my confidence and strengths in a leadership role and brought me closer to some of my best friends that I wouldn't have met otherwise!

After graduating, I have moved to Bend, Oregon, to

start my career. I am currently working as a process engineer in the process and product development group at my company, Serán Bioscience. Serán is a small contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) that works with a variety of large and small pharmaceutical companies to develop and scale-up a manufacturing process of their drug at the pre-clinical stage. Many of the compounds that we work with are designated for oncology or other serious diseases! My team works to develop a spray drying process to produce amorphous solid dispersions of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) and excipient materials that are more bioavailable than the crystalline form of the API. Since starting in June, I have been training alongside a mentor and now have several clients and projects of my own where I act as the technical lead for my area of development! I am enjoying my job and living in the pacific northwest, and I am hoping to make it back for a football game or two next season to cheer on the Cats and the Pride and see the new band hall!



ASHTON THOMAS

Ashton Thomas graduated from K-State in 2021 with a BS in Human Ecology. She was a member of the Classy Cats Dance Team from 2016-2020, served as Head Section Leader her senior year, and was awarded Head Section Leader of the Year in 2020.

Ashton is passionate about dance and was the Assistant Dance Coach at Manhattan High School from 2018-2020, and continued as Assistant Dance Coach at Olathe East High School from 2020-2022. Currently, Ashton is in her second season as a Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleader under the direction of Stephanie Judah. Most recently, Ashton and her teammates cheered Kansas City to a Super Bowl Championship win! In addition to cheering for the Chiefs, Ashton is in her 3rd year of teaching at Denise's Dance Academy. Her choreography has won numerous regional and national awards for her solos, duets, and groups.

When she's not dancing, Ashton is an Executive Recruiter with Duffy Group, Inc. with a focus in Nonprofit Recruiting. She still loves working with the Classy Cats and assisting with choreography and performances. Her favorite memories from being part of the band are bowl trips and pregame on gameday. Ashton loved her time as a member of the Pride and is a proud alumni!

Supporters we lost in 2022

K-State Bands program also lost two more loyal supporters in 2022. Shirley Jacobson and Olivia Collins will be missed greatly, and the band program is forever grateful for all of their generosity over the past years.

Olivia P. Collins

Olivia P. Collins died Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at the age of 76 in her home of Meadowlark Hills, Manhattan, Kansas.

Olivia was born on October 23, 1946, in Weatherford, Texas to Georgie Layne Potter and Wilson Potter, who preceded Olivia in death in 2007 and 1997, as did the love of her life, Tony Jurich, in 2010.

Olivia graduated with honors from University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in journalism and was awarded her master's degree in human development and the family from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her Ph.D. in family life education from Kansas State University.

Her journalism degree was always important to Olivia. It was her first career and helped her express herself, connecting Olivia with the arts and nonprofit organizations whose causes she supported throughout her life. As her love for adolescents and young adults grew, she pursued advanced degrees where her true essence of teacher and mentor shone through, landing her in places and spaces she enriched with her open heart, critical mind, and remarkable ability to form meaningful connections.

Following her doctoral studies, Olivia remained at K-State serving in 4-H Youth Programs, UFM Community Learning Center, School of Family Studies and Human Services, College of Human Ecology Dean's Office, and retiring from the Staley School of Leadership in 2010, where she served as assistant professor and director of the nonprofit leadership focus, a program she co-founded.

Olivia was recognized throughout her career for outstanding contributions to education and developing youth, and for her community leadership. She was named

Leader of the Year from Kansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences in 1995 and recognized also by the National Council on Family Relations. Olivia received the university's "Putting Students First" Award and was celebrated by her Staley School students and colleagues with the Rost Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award and the Susan M. Scott Community Leadership Award. In 2014, Olivia received the Wildcat Pride Award for her advocacy of alumni relations from the K-State Alumni Association.

Olivia had an authentic way of accepting – and applauding – everyone for their unique gifts and talents. She paired this genuine and complete acceptance with an ability to raise expectations and challenge those she connected with to give and do their very best, making her the wisest and gentlest of mentors. When she retired, she so missed talking with students – although so many would keep in touch long after graduation, with notes, texts, and over coffee on visits back to town – that she would talk with everyone else, including former neighbors and colleagues, her favorite servers and bartenders, friends from long ago or just met – always happy to offer friendly advice and gentle nudges to any in need. Olivia was also quick to celebrate others, sending cards, gifts, plants and flowers to congratulate, console, or encourage. She would generously host a party, send drinks to someone's table or pick up the tab for their meal – just because and with delight; "Isn't this fun!"

Olivia was an only child and spoke fondly of her "four-square upbringing," running away only once – hiding in the bushes, struggling with who she wanted to be. Not so long ago she laughed that she was still in the bushes figuring out who she is. We know Olivia as an intelligent, caring woman who built family

throughout her life. She was an extraordinary partner to Tony Jurich, married for 23 years, and loving member of the Jurich clan, including those she is survived by: bother-in-law Peter Jurich; brother-in-law Steve Jurich and his wife Madeline and their children Matt, Maggie, and Jake, who has welcomed Olivia's kitty companion Bella into his home; and niece and nephew Fran and Peter Babrow.

There are many organizations to which memorial contributions may be made that would pay tribute to Olivia, including funds she herself initiated: Amy Button Renz Nonprofit Leadership Fund, Tony Jurich Community Commitment and Leadership Award, and Tony Jurich Marriage and Family Therapy Excellence Fund; and those she supported including the Meadowlark Good Samaritan Fund and Girls on the Run all may be sent in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502. Contributing to any cause or organization you care about would honor Olivia's philanthropic spirit and legacy of advancing the work of nonprofits to make lives better. Overtipping your bartender or server, as Olivia would often do, would also pay her tribute.

Olivia recently shared a poem by Mary Oliver that touched her heart, reminding her of Tony:

I believe in kindness. Also in mischief. Also isinging, especially when singing is not necessarily prescribed

This is also how Olivia lived her life. Her light lives on in so many.

Shirley Jacobson

Shirley Ann (Painter) Jacobson, 88, of Topeka, passed away Thursday, January 19, 2023.

She was born October 5, 1934, in Topeka, Kansas, the daughter of Eugene and Flossie (Jones) Painter. When born, Shirley weighed only 3

pounds and was not expected to survive. Living 88 years and beating cancer 3 times, her motto was "I sure showed them." She graduated from Topeka High School in 1952.

She was a member of the First Christian Church-Disciples of Christ, in Topeka.

Shirley bowled for over 60 years. She also taught classes to the Bowling Youth Group for several years.

She played in four different bands playing trumpet; Santa Fe Band (70 years), Fairlawn Road Swing Band, Topeka Polka Band and North Topeka Community Band.

Shirley created and founded the Painter Family Marching Scholarship through Kansas State University. This funds scholarships for trumpet players in the Kansas State Marching band, the Pride of Wildcat Land.

Shirley collected clowns and she loved to make people laugh.

She is survived by her nephews and nieces, Greg (Ann) Painter, Dee Wilson, Sara (Jeff) Gragg, Bill (Darcy) Foster, Bruce Foster, Brad (Jan) Foster, Brian Foster, Danny O'Dell and Vicki Painter. A special recognition also needs to be acknowledged for Elsie Ingels, Shirley's dearest and closest friend for over 50 years. Elsie's care and support for Shirley, especially over these last few years was nothing short of phenomenal.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Eugene and Flossie Painter; siblings Glen Painter and Arlene Foster, and nephew, David O'Dell.

A memorial for Shirley has been established at the Kansas State University Foundation. Contributions may be sent to: KSU Foundation, 1800 Kimball Ave., Ste 200, Manhattan, KS 66502, please indicate fund M47431 in the memo line or to the American Cancer Society PO Box 42040, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-3000.

MARCHING PRIDE SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Long time band photographer and #1 supporter “Red” Skelton and Dr Tracz went to lunch one day and the meeting started like many other meetings with Red: “I have an idea!!” From this idea, the “Marching Pride Scholars” program was born!

All of you know the tremendous pride and passion that Red has for this band, and he has given more and done more for this band

than anyone can imagine. His love for the K-State Band as a whole is only surpassed by his love for each of his “Kids” in the band – all 400 plus! The idea is simple; the results and benefits are priceless.

One of the major issues all of the collegiate marching bands face is the retention of the older players. The Junior and Senior years become a challenge for students to not only schedule band in their day but also afford the cost. Most students will eventually have to make a choice between the band and a part-time job to stay in school. Thus, the “Marching Pride Scholars” is a great way to provide a \$500 scholarship to the upperclassmen who stay in the band.

It is simple: the more experienced and mature players/marchers that are in the band, the better the band can perform. As senior membership continues to grow with the

help of the “Marching Pride Scholars” program, I am confident we can help the upperclassmen students stay with The Pride. The eighth year of this campaign provided a \$500 scholarship for 158 juniors and seniors! We anticipate senior and junior marchers to number over 200 members in 2021! Your donation makes a huge difference and we are grateful.

All donations are tax deductible.



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ALL-STAR MARCHING BAND

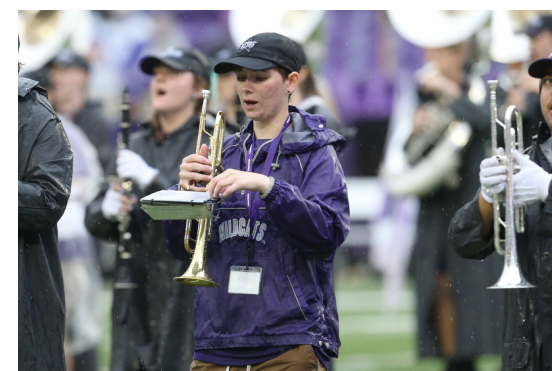
Over 175 high school students from more than 38 Kansas & Nebraska High Schools gathered at Memorial Field on Friday, September 9th and were ready to rehearse with the Kansas State University Marching Band as the All-Star Marching Band. These students were nominated by their directors and were selected to be part of this ensemble, with the opportunity to play in front of thousands of K-State fans on the September 10th game that was against a Big XII classic rival - Missouri.

During the Friday, September 9th rehearsal, the All-Star Band students learned music and drill for their own performance of Kelly Clarkson’s “Stronger.” They played through the tunes for the first time as an ensemble and quickly dove into learning their drill. Having set the entire show in less than two hours after working with K-State Director of Bands Dr. Frank Tracz, band graduate teaching assistants and K-State Marching Band leadership to put the music and drill together for a performance 24 hours later, the All-Star Band was joined in the last part of

the rehearsal by the entire 400 piece KSUMB. The rehearsal ended with a full run of halftime from both ensembles which included the joint All-Star Band alongside the K-State Marching Band in a performance of Olivia Rodrigo’s “Good 4 U.”

On Saturday, September 10th, these students got to experience a game day in Bill Snyder Family Stadium firsthand. Despite the inclement weather, everyone had a great day and these high school students will be future members of The Pride of Wildcat Land very soon!

Additionally, the K-State Bands also hosted its annual Band Director Day. Twenty Kansas band directors observed the K-State Marching Band’s Saturday, September 10th rehearsal, were treated to an early lunch, and got a seat to watch a classic Big XII rivalry against Missouri. A special thank you goes to Gene Taylor and everyone at K-State Athletics for making these events possible.



STAY TUNED

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GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Our Graduate Students work extremely hard to keep one of the country's best band programs strong.



**HOUSTON
FLEISCHMANN**

Houston is the graduate teaching assistant for the percussion studio and marching band program at Kansas State University. Houston completed his bachelor's degree in music performance from Washington State University in the spring of 2020, studying under professor David Jarvis and Dr. Danh Pham. After graduating from Washington State, Houston was appointed as the coordinator of percussion for the Seattle All-City Marching Band for the 2021 season after participating as a drumline staff member for many years in the program. In 2021, Houston also returned to Pullman WA to assist Dr. Chris Wilson and Dr. Troy Bennefield as an assistant drumline instructor for the WSU Cougar Marching Band. Houston brings an extensive range of experience in the marching and concert realm to Kansas State University being an accomplished member of the WSU School of Music, former member of the Washington All-State Marching Band, and has participated in countless other high level performance programs in and around the state of Washington; including the percussion section of the Washington-Idaho Symphony Orchestra



**BEN
RAJEWSKI**

Ben Rajewski is a native of Hays, KS and a 2020 graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor's in Music Education. Currently, he has served as the high school band director and middle school assistant at Winfield Public Schools in Winfield, KS for the last 3 years. He has played tuba in the Winfield Municipal Band for the last 3 years, as well as having played trombone in multiple athletic and concert ensembles at K-State. He has a beagle named Peanut Butter who enjoys accompanying him on outdoor hikes. He is very excited to return home to Manhattan as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and work with the K-State Bands!

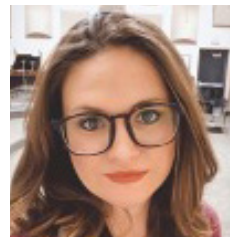


**RICH
EBERSOLE**

Rich is a graduate of Temple University where he majored in Music Education and Jazz Studies. Upon graduating, Rich moved to Arizona to begin his teaching career. He taught elementary band, strings and general music for two years before moving to the high school level. He experienced great success in building the band program at Dysart High School, from 11 students to 65 in 4 years. From there

Rich moved to Liberty High School in Peoria AZ, where he again grew the band program from 60 students to just over 120 total students between Marching, Concert and Jazz Bands.

Rich is married to Melissa, has a two year old son Elliot, and another on the way! Rich will be working with the band program while pursuing the Masters degree with an emphasis in conducting.



**HEATHER
BAKER**

Heather Baker, from Mishawaka, IN, seeks a doctorate in "Curriculum and Instruction." Currently, she is finishing her 10th year as an educator in the Indiana public school system. Throughout her career, Heather taught band at both the high school and middle school levels. She holds an undergraduate degree from Ball State University (Muncie, Indiana) and a Masters of Music Education degree from VanderCook College of Music (Chicago, IL). Heather's primary instrument is the clarinet.

Heather and her husband, Dan, have two young children: Bryant (5) and Charleigh (3). Dan taught high school choir for many years and earned several notable awards as an outstanding educator. Now he works as the Executive Producer of Heart of America Productions, LLC, hosting performance events for elite choirs across America. The Bakers are very excited to be a part of the Wildcat Band Family next Fall.



**TYLER
LEE**

Tyler is originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tyler earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Trombone Performance from Kansas State University (2019), his Master of Music degree in Trombone Performance as well as a Graduate Certificate in Wind Band Conducting from the University of Central Arkansas (2021,2022).

While at K-State, Tyler participated in the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Pride of Wildcat Land, Cat Band, CJE, KSU Symphony Orchestra, Brass Ensemble and Trombone Choir, as well as the Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity.

During his time at the University of Central Arkansas, he served as a graduate assistant with the band area. He assisted with the day-to-day operation of the UCA band program and was on staff for the Bear Marching and the Purple Rage Basketball Band. He was also heavily involved in the trombone studio at UCA, performing with the Natural Slides trombone choir, the top trombone ensemble at UCA.

Tyler was part of featured performances with the Natural Slides trombone choir that have been with world-renowned trombonists at the International Trombone Festival in Columbus, Georgia in 2021 as well as being a staff member/performer at the International Trombone Festival that was hosted at UCA in 2022.

Tyler's professional associations include the Arkansas Music Educators Association, Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association, Texas Music Educators

Association, Kansas Music Educators Association, College Band Director's National Association, International Trombone Association, the Conductor's Guild, and Kappa Kappa Psi - National Honorary Band Fraternity.

Tyler is in his second year at Kansas State with the band program, and is currently working on a second master's degree in Music Education with Teaching Certification.



**SHARYN
WORCESTER**

Sharyn Worcester has a diverse and extensive career in music education, performance, and adjudication throughout Kansas. She holds a Bachelor's of Music Education degree and a Master's of Music Education in Instrumental Conducting from Kansas State University where she studied under the direction of Dr. Frank Tracz, Director of Bands, and Dr. Jacqueline Fassler-Kerstetter, Associate Professor of Horn. Ms. Worcester currently serves as the Lead Academic Advisor for the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance at K-State. In this role, she facilitates the academic progress for all undergraduate majors and minors in these degree tracks. As part of this work, in 2019, she presented "Music Beyond High School," at the Kansas Music Educator's Association In-Service Workshop to provide resources for educators to prepare their students for college music programs or careers. Additional duties include membership in the Music Course and Curriculum Committee and the Music Recruitment Committee, as well as advising Sigma Alpha Iota, the International Music Fraternity for Women.

Prior to her appointment at K-State, Ms. Worcester served nine years as Instrumental Music Director at Junction City High School where her teaching duties included marching band, concert band, wind ensemble, music theory, music appreciation, and piano classes. Her bands have performed across Kansas and the United States including the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., the Fiesta Bowl Parade in Tempe, Arizona, and the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tennessee.

Ms. Worcester performs as a member of the horn sections in the Manhattan Municipal Band and the Salina Symphony. She has performed in a myriad of musical pit orchestras throughout Kansas, which most recently includes Junction City High School's production of Anastasia.

Ms. Worcester resides in Manhattan with her husband, Ben, their ten-year-old son, Harley, and their husky/shepherd, Riley.

SUMMER < camps >



MUSIC CAMP

JUNE 11 - 15, 2023

At K-State's Summer Music Camp, students in grades 5-12 are invited to K-State's Manhattan campus to rehearse with experts, perform for a crowd, and have some summer fun. Not only will campers get to know the K-State Band family, but they will also return home as strong performers who are excited about band. The camp staff is composed of the finest musicians and teachers from the area, including college music students. They are chosen for their interest and ability to inspire and teach talented young musicians. Students perform in one of three large concert ensembles and a variety of chamber ensembles. Students can experience dorm life by staying on campus or commuting from home.

For more information and registration, contact K-State Bands at (785) 532-3816, or visit k-state.edu/band/camps



LEADERSHIP & AUXILIARY CAMP

JULY 9 - 12, 2023

Summer is the perfect time to make sure your band or auxiliary team is a fine-tuned machine. Join K-State experts this summer to rehearse, network, and grow as both a performer and leader. This camp is designed for students currently in grades 9-12 in a variety of band and auxiliary groups including drum majors, section leaders, percussionists, and color guard. The camp staff is composed of current and former K-State Marching Band Drum Majors, Color Guard, Drumline, and various band program staff. Staff members supervise all student rehearsals and activities throughout the day and evening.

For more information and registration, contact K-State Bands at (785) 532-3816, or visit k-state.edu/band/camps



For more information and registration: www.k-state.edu/band/camps

K-STATE SUMMER MASTERS PROGRAM

The Kansas State University Music Department is excited to offer graduate-level courses this summer. This year we will be first year of our hybrid model. Students will do the majority of their learning online but will come to campus for a one-week residency (June 17-23, 2023); the best of both worlds! These classes are designed to appeal to music educators at all levels who wish to improve their knowledge in a variety of skills, techniques, and concepts while earning their master's degree or continuing education credits. The Summer Master's Program has a wide variety of courses to offer, including graduate studies courses, music theory and history courses, and music education courses.

For more information about the K-State Summer Graduate Study Program, please visit our website at online.k-state.edu/programs/music-masters



ALUMNI BAND WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the K-State Alumni Band!

We've been a little quiet since the last reunion in 2021, but we're excited to get things rolling again here in 2023. And we're also excited to see you all this September in Manhattan at Bill Snyder Family Stadium for the Alumni Reunion! Full details will come when registration opens, but mark your calendar for September 9th, 2023, K-State's second home game of the season. This will be a special weekend for the KSUMB and Alumni, with Band Director Day that same Saturday (you can do both!) and the opening ceremony for the new Tracz Family Band Hall that Friday. I look forward to seeing you there!

The best place to stay up-to-date on happenings is on our Facebook group, as well as the official KSUAB website at www.ksualumniband.org. On the KSUAB website, you can find the sign-up form to join our email list so you can receive news and updates.

We did get to see many of you at the two basketball games we helped cover this season (while the football Cats and KSUMB were in Dallas winning a Big 12 title and in New Orleans at the Sugar Bowl!), and we were joined by some really strong high school students. We even got to be there for an incredible game, when the men's basketball team opened Big 12 play with a big come-from-behind victory over West Virginia!

The KSUAB also provided our regular donation to the KSUMB Golf Tournament. And it was great to be able to award our annual scholarship in person again this year, with this year's recipient being head drum major Daniel Smith. We purchased several bricks in your honor for the new Tracz Family Band Hall, and we are so excited to see the new, permanent home for the KSUMB finally come to fruition!

As always, we want to make sure we can reach you so you have all the latest news. Make sure you follow the K-State Alumni Band Facebook group, and if you are not on our email list, or you know someone who is not, please head over to the KSUAB webpage and get signed up so we can make sure we are keeping you as up-to-date as possible on all the goings-on with the K-State Alumni Band. We're also looking for ideas and ways to make the Alumni Band better, stronger, and more active. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to send me an email at president@ksualumniband.org.

Go Cats!

JT VanGilder

President - KSU Alumni Band



UPCOMING CONCERTS AND EVENTS

APRIL			
1	Color Guard Clinic		
8	Color Guard Clinic		
22	Color Guard Auditions KSU DL Experience Camp 3		
23	Wind Symphony/Wind Ensemble Concert	7:30pm	McCain
26	Concert Band/University Band Concert	7:30pm	McCain
28-30	Classy Cat Auditions		
MAY			
6	High School Drumline Mini Camp		McCain
20	Drumline Auditions		McCain

Concerts

At K-State, we are very excited to have five active concert bands! Each band performs two concerts per semester. The Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, and Concert Band are all audition-based groups composed of both music majors and non-music majors. The two University Bands are made up of non-music majors and music majors playing secondary instruments. These University Bands are conducted by junior and senior music education majors who are mentored by Dr. Tracz, Dr. Wimmer, and the graduate students.

Auditions

The KSUMB holds auditions for the Classy Cats, Color Guard, Twirlers, and Drumline in the spring and early summer. Auditions for wind players will occur during band camp, which starts the Tuesday before classes begin in the fall. For more information about these auditions, please visit www.ksu.edu/band

Camps

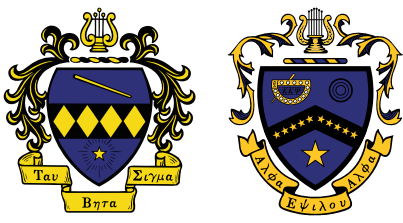
We offer many camps that cater to just about every middle school and high school musician out there. The Drumline Mini-Camp is a great event to attend if you plan on auditioning for the Drumline or if you want to learn more about marching percussion. The two summer camps we offer are very popular among students across Kansas. Our Summer Music Camp is an honor concert band camp that is a ton of fun. The Leadership & Auxiliary Camp is incredible training for aspiring student leaders and auxiliary members of the band. More information can be found on our website - www.ksu.edu/band

2023 SUMMER/FALL SCHEDULE

JUNE			
11-15	K-State Music Camp		McCain
JULY			
9-12	Leadership & Auxiliary Camp		McCain
15	Marching Pride Classic	9:00am	Colbert Hills
AUGUST			
11-20	Marching Band Camp		
SEPTEMBER			
1	Purple Power Play		
2	K-State Football v. SE Missouri State		Bill Snyder Family Stadium
8	TFBH Dedication		
9	K-State Football v. Troy - Alumni & Band Director Day		Bill Snyder Family Stadium
17	Wabash on the Prairie		
23	K-State Football v. UCF - All-Star Marching Band		Bill Snyder Family Stadium
OCTOBER			
14	Central States Marching Festival		Bill Snyder Family Stadium
21	K-State Football v. TCU - Harley Day		Bill Snyder Family Stadium
27	Homecoming Parade		
28	K-State Football v. Houston - Homecoming		Bill Snyder Family Stadium
NOVEMBER			
11	K-State Football v. Baylor - Fort Riley Day		Bill Snyder Family Stadium
18	K-State Football @ Kansas		Bill Snyder Family Stadium
25	K-State Football v. Iowa State - Senior Day		Bill Snyder Family Stadium
26	Marching Band Concert		
DECEMBER			
2	Big XII Championship -		AT&T Stadium - Arlington, TX
10	Band Banquet		

TBD Bowl Game - Late Dec/Early Jan

A LETTER FROM KAPPA KAPPA PSI & TAU BETA SIGMA



Happy Spring from the Brothers and Sisters in the Epsilon Pi chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi and the Delta Kappa chapter of Tau Beta Sigma! These chapters are part of a national honorary service organization dedicated to serving and promoting college bands, musicians, and their surrounding communities.

Over the summer and fall semester, we assisted the marching band by issuing and organizing uniforms, setting up and tearing down for rehearsal, working the 50/50 raffle fundraiser, selling merchandise with the Pride Store, and more to help the band season run smoothly. We also had the chance to travel to two major post-season games! Our chapters worked with the band leadership to tag luggage and issue per diem for our trips to both the Big 12 Championship and the Sugar Bowl. After returning from the Sugar Bowl, we collected uniforms and have been sending these out for cleaning to wrap up our help with the marching band this season.

Tau Beta Sigma is currently working on fulfilling our Focus on Five campaign, which is a series of eight service and outreach projects to promote musicianship in our school and the surrounding area. Completing each of these projects earns the chapter a stripe or lyre piece, which represents the Tau Beta Sigma flag. In December, we had the opportunity to perform holiday music at a local nursing home. We will be hosting a Women in Music panel, featuring three of our woodwind faculty, where they will speak to the chapter about their careers and ways for chapter members to stay involved in music. In April, we will host a festival for beginning band students to come learn about their instruments and receive instruction from members of the chapter.

Kappa Kappa Psi is working behind the scenes to prepare for the move into our very own “Tracz

Family Band Hall” this Spring. This includes uniform cleaning, inventory, score library reorganization, and Cat Band binder overhaul. This semester, we are placing a focus on brotherhood and re-education. Just this semester, we have played KKY Jeopardy and listened to our newest members present the projects they completed throughout their education in the Fall.

Both chapters are currently working to send delegates to four district and national events happening this spring and summer. This spring we have District Day hosted in Ames, Iowa, and Midwest District Convention hosted in Overland Park, Kansas, only about two hours away from our campus! In March, our Tau Beta Sigma chapter will be hosting a recording event for anyone wishing to audition for the National Intercollegiate Band, which performs the first night of our national convention.

This semester, we are planning concert receptions and gifts for our guests in the concert ensembles. We are so excited for the opening of the Tracz Family Band Hall this semester, and will be assisting the band staff with the move in. We are ready for an amazing semester and are ready to continue our service to the bands!

Alumni members, please feel free to reach out to us! Our mailing address is 226 McCain Auditorium, Manhattan, KS, 66506. You can also send us a message on Facebook or Instagram, visit our website at k-state.edu/kkymb, or send us an email at kkymb@gmail.com.

Lily Linville *Hannah Mancini*

President
Tau Beta Sigma

President
Kappa Kappa Psi

2023 SEASON AWARDS

Section Leaders of the Year:
Layne Steffen
Josh Diazdeleon
Chris Hovis

Music Instructors of the Year:
Kyle Grimes
Jessica Minnich

Marching and Maneuvering Instructors of the Year:
Farhan Chowdhury

Assistant Section Leaders of the Year:
Jessica Vanstory
Katherine Bailey

Harry Erickson Award:
Bailey Walke

Rookies of the Year:
Cameron Nelson
Tegan Stratton
Josh Grimes

Wabash Award:
Daniel Smith

KKY/TBS Bandsman & Bandswoman:
Tyler Long
Taton Bennett

Most Inspirational:
Daniel Smith
Josh Diazdeleon

Rod Funk Memorial Scholarship:
Josh Murdock
Porter Herold
Blake Davis
Brooke Prockish

Alumni Band Award:
Daniel Smith

Alumni Band Award:
Tyler Long

Fight Like a Band Girl:
Rachel Woodbury

Phil Hewitt Award:
Daniel Smith
Taton Bennett
Audrey Farrell
Tyler Long

Marching Pride Award:
Drumline

EMAW Award:
Sousaphones

Section of the Year:
Classy Cats
Trumpets

Grit Award:
Jae Seefeldt
Nathaniel Chaput

Helping Hand Award:
Ben Mullinnix

Wildcat Loyalty Award:
Josh Cook

Director’s Award:
Dr. Bryan Pinkall

Lifetime Loyalty Award:
Jim Muller

Wefald Award:
Rebecca & Charles Claar



Dr. Frank Tracz

Hometown
Cleveland, Ohio

B.A.
Ohio State University

M.A.
University of
Wisconsin-Madison

PhD
Ohio State University

Public School teaching
experience in DeForest,
Wisconsin

High School experience at
West Geauga High School
in Chesterland, a suburb of
Cleveland, Ohio

First college teaching job was
at Syracuse University in NY as
Assistant Director of Bands

Director of Bands at
Moorehead State University
in Kentucky

30 years
Director of Bands
Kansas State University

41 years of Marriage to
his wife **Geralyn Tracz**

Three daughters
Jessica, Kelley, & Carly

Became a Grandpa to
Caden Tracz-Kelly on
December, 11 2020



A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE DIRECTORS

The academic year of 2022-2023 began with high hopes and lots of promise - it certainly delivered! Dr. Wimmer and I have been very busy doing all the necessary things to continue this great band tradition and help it propel forward into the future. Recruiting, fundraising, and getting the "word" out to many is the main reason our year is filled to capacity! Enrollment is steady, and we are coming out of the "pandemic funk" that seemed to have engulfed us all.

What we do as directors has certainly developed and changed over the years and even more so coming out of the COVID-19 era. But as time moves on, we adjust and change to keep the band program strong and viable.

The year in rearview mirror:

- The entire KSUMB travelled to Marysville the Friday of band camp week to rehearse and clinic high school, bands from the region. The event culminated that evening with a performance by the PRIDE, then a joint "Band Day" concert with all the high school bands in attendance.
- "Wabash on the Prairie" was a new adventure for us as the KSUMB teamed up with the Manhattan Municipal Band to present a sunset concert on the prairie to support the "Sunflower Children's Collective". A couple hundred people attended the concert, and we look forward to doing this again this Fall!
- We celebrated the new "Tracz Family Band Hall" with an official groundbreaking that was the beginning of the construction and renovation of the west side of the historic Memorial Stadium. Alumni, high school students, dignitaries, and donors all attended the special "hammer throw down" event!
- Central States Marching Festival was a huge success with almost 40-marching bands performing, 16-clinics given by the band staff, and a fantastic performance to end the day by the PRIDE! Over 15,000 people attended the event with almost 4,000 band students performing throughout the day. What a great service and recruiting day!
- The 5th Annual "All-Star Marching Band" was another high success with almost 200-high musicians on the field with the Pride. It was a great performance and they got to sit through the pouring, cold rain as the game against Tulane didn't quite end the way we had hoped...
- The Classy Cats won a D1A National Championship in Pom at the College Classic National Invitational in Orlando, FL last spring, and are gearing up for a repeat this spring. The team was also one of three selected for the exclusive Pom Battle. They also earned 4th place in D1A Jazz dance category. Over 60 schools participated in the College Classic National Invitational, who puts on this event every year to showcase the skill and dedication of collegiate dance teams from across the United States. Hats off to these incredible young ladies for their talents, work ethic, commitment, and dedication to being the best - they are and now the country knows it!!! Speaking of the "best," Coach Sara Heptig-Evans has done an incredible job with this team. NOBODY does it better than her. Thank you and congrats to Sara and the National Champion Class Cats!

- Our Summer Music Camp and Auxiliary Camp were huge successes as numbers continue to increase post-COVID. Dr. Wimmer directs these camps and many of our staff and students assist. We anticipate even higher numbers this summer!
- The "Marching Pride Golf Tournament" was another great success with over 100-golfers and a profit of almost \$30,000 for the MPS Fund; Red Skelton would be very proud!
- "Trumpet and Mellophone Day" was on November 5th as we beat Texas and lock in another Wildcat Victory!!!
- The BIG XII CHAMPIONSHIP trip and game was special in every way! The band was awesome, the team had an epic goal line stance and a winning field goal in overtime, and we got a bid to the biggest bowl game to date - The SUGAR BOWL! The Sugar Bowl trip and performance was an extremely memorable and exciting trip for all. The game did not end the way we had hoped but the band was once again ready to compete at the top band level - and yes they did...WOW!
- The Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Concert Band, and University Band continue to have very successful concerts! Many guest conductors and composers, and new literature written for us was performed. We will be doing a "Side-by-Side Concert" with Wamego High School, Chris Richmond conductor, the last concert this semester. Special guest soloists K-State Professor of Trombone, Dr. Daniel Hinman; K-State Professor of Clarinet, Dr. Amy Guffey; and K-State Professor of Trumpet, Dr. John Kilgore all performed with the Ensembles. Dr. Jay Gilbert, retired Director of Instrumental Music at Doane University, guest conducted the Wind Ensemble. We have guest composer Peter Meechan from Saskatchewan, Canada with us for our March concerts. Former Air Force composer Mr. Aldo Forte will join us for our April concert, as we perform the American premier a piece he wrote for a professional ensemble in Bonda, Spain last year.
- The "Concert Band Clinic XXX" was a huge success after a 2-year absence due to COVID-19. We had over 500-students in 6-honor bands, as well as 65-band directors here for rehearsals, clinics, and concerts. It was great to have this fantastic experience back on campus and the staff, students, KKY and TBS, faculty, and all involved did a fantastic job making it happen!
- The Manhattan Municipal Band had another great year of fantastic concerts at the Larry Norvell Band Shell. This was the 102nd year of this MHK gem and the crowds loved it! Almost 95-members performed 10-concerts with guest soloists and lots of summer band fun!
- Dr. Tracz and Dr. Wimmer continue to guest conduct, lecture/teach, recruit, fundraise, and promote all things K-State bands across the country at various universities, public schools, conferences, etc. Busy people are successful people!!!

We will continue to work diligently to educate our students, provide them and our fans with great bands, and promote this great University and band program all around the globe!

Thank you, Go Cats, and GO BAND!

Frank Tracz *Alex Wimmer*



Dr. Alex Wimmer

Hometown
Gretna, Nebraska

B.A.
University of Nebraska-Omaha

M.A.
Kansas State University

PhD
Kansas State University

Public School teaching
experience Gretna, Nebraska

High School experience at
Gretna High School and the
Assistant Director of Bands at
Gretna Middle School

Received the **Jack R. Snider
Young Band Director Award**

Served on the **Nebraska
Music Educators Association
Leadership Academy**

His wife **Anna**, who teaches
Middle School Band/Choir at
Rock Creek Middle School

Two daughters
Addison (7) and Anora (5)

