a Message from the Director of Bands

Having announced my retirement as MSU Director of Bands in the spring of 2006, it is with a thoroughly different perspective that I now communicate with the MSU Alumni Band faithful.

This event will mark the conclusion of 41 years of teaching; with the first 16 years being in the public schools of Michigan, and the last 25 years at the university level. As MSU Director of Bands from 1993–2006, I have enjoyed the opportunity of working with School of Music Director James Forger, the School of Music faculty, and the spectacular alumni of this great institution. I have also loved every minute of the time I have been able to spend in the music-making process with some of the most talented and highly motivated students in the world. To become part of the MSU Band FAMILY, in the legacy of Leonard Falcone and Kenneth Bloomquist, is something I will treasure forever, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Alumni Band who have been so extraordinarily gracious in making Carole and me feel at home during our years in East Lansing.

I still cannot imagine my good fortune to have the opportunity to serve on the faculty at MSU! This continues to be a surreal experience!

Carole and I have no specific plans for retirement at this time, other than spending more time together and with family.

I look forward to many years of continued collaboration and contact with the MSU Alumni Band and am eager to continue to be of service in every possible way to our great alumni. GO GREEN!!!!

John L. Whitwell
MSU Director of Bands
a Message from the President

As this Memorial Day ends, thoughts turn to summer and the holidays we will be having. The MSU Alumni Band Association continues to meet and make plans for the coming fall.

This past spring, we held a very successful Alumni Band Spring Concert with the MSU Wind Symphony. There were approximately 90 alums returning to perform, including Dean Winters of Grand Rapids, being 93 years young. Thanks to all who were able to join us!

Another successful activity this past winter was the Holiday Spartan Brass. Manned by alums, the Holiday Spartan Brass performed at games for the hockey team, and the men and women’s basketball teams. It was great to see so many individuals involved.

Plans are now being made for this coming fall. There is the Alumni Band Golf Outing on Friday, September 9th. Plan now to attend. Fill out the enclosed form and return it as soon as possible. It is a great time together. That evening we will also host our third annual Alumni Band Dinner. See the article on page 5 and make your plans now to attend. It is a good, relaxing time. Bring your children; I hear that Sparty will be there.

Lastly, mark your calendar for the Alumni Band Fall Reunion with the Spartan Marching Band on Saturday, September 10th. See the enclosed form and make your plans now. Let’s see if we can get 400 to return and march.

Finally, in my first note in September, I encouraged all of you to get involved. It makes for a stronger organization. Participation has been good. Let’s see if we can top it this year: more for the Alumni Band Golf Outing, more for the Friday evening Alumni Band Dinner, and of course, Saturday’s football game. Go Green!

Gerald Spry
MSU Alumni Band Association President

MSU Bands Display at the MSU Museum

In conjunction with the MSU Sesquicentennial celebration, Val Berryman, curator for the MSU Museum, has created over thirty presentations entitled “Memories of Michigan State.” Most exhibits are in the MSU Museum, including one of the largest, portraying the history of the MAC, MSC, and MSU Bands. Most of the displays, showing the many facets of Michigan State history, are on the main floor of the museum. Others are located in the Union Building.

The entire project is superbly done—plan to spend a good hour viewing everything. The band presentation will certainly bring back memories, and you might even find yourself in one of the many pictures. The exhibit runs until December 30, 2005. The museum hours are: Mon.–Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sun., 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission to the museum is free; there is a suggested donation of $4.00 for adults.

Jack Nelson, Henry Nelson, and Ed Spink, alumni band members, aided in the preparation with help from Dave Catron and John Madden. For more information call (517) 355-7474 or visit www.museum.msu.edu/Exhibitions/Current/Sesquicentennial.html or msu150.msu.edu/
Jeff and Diana Glass Endowed Scholarship

Jeff Glass graduated from Michigan State University in 1983 with a B.S. degree in Computer Science. Jeff has always been an enthusiastic musician. He played tuba in the Spartan Marching Band for five years, and also played in the Spartan Brass, the Concert Band and the Symphonic Band. In 2000, Jeff and his wife Diana decided to establish The Jeff and Diana Glass Endowed Scholarship in appreciation of the positive experiences and support he received as a student at MSU.

The scholarship was established to encourage and assist musically-inclined and academically-gifted students attending MSU. Recipients must participate in at least one of the following bands: the Spartan Marching Band, the Concert Band, or the Symphonic Band. They must also be members of the Honors College.

Contributions to the MSU Bands can be made directly to MSU Development. Checks should be made out to Michigan State University with the name of the endowment clearly noted on the memo portion of your check. Send your contribution to: Kristin Peterson, Assistant Director of Development, MSU Bands, Michigan State University, 102 Linton Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1044. Phone: 517-353-4725; email: peters30@cal.msu.edu. Need more information? Contact Kristin Peterson at the address above.

20th annual Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival

2005 marks the 20th annual Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival. This internationally renowned competition is held in honor of Director Emeritus Dr. Leonard Falcone, MSU Bands.

This year's competition, hosted by Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, will feature the student and artists finals on Saturday afternoon, August 13th, and will culminate with an evening concert and live broadcast in the Stewart Shell. This year's event debuts a euphonium solo, Fantasia di Falcone, composed by MSU graduate Jim Curnow and dedicated to the Grand Lady of the Festival, Mrs. Leonard (Beryl) Falcone.

As part of the 20th year celebration, there will be a fund-raising effort for the endowment fund. Please consider attending the special anniversary events and/or contributing towards the festival’s continued success. Checks may be made payable to the “Falcone Festival”, P.O. Box 15034, Lansing MI 48901-5034. All contributions are tax deductible.

For further information or questions contact Douglas Goodrich (517-321-1806 or DouglasD52@aol.com) or Beryl Falcone. Check out the web site at www.ferris.edu/falcone.

Special Honor

The MSU Alumni Band Association extends special congratulations to Mr. William Stansell (MSU School of Music, 1954), recipient of the 2005 spring semester College of Arts and Letters Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr. Stansell is founder and president of the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Twin Lake, Michigan.

2005 Homecoming Parade

Band coordinator Jack Nelson announced that the Alumni Band has already been asked to participate in next year’s parade, which will be on Saturday, October 8, 2005. This is a bye weekend for the football team. In lieu of the usual Homecoming Parade, MSU officials are planning a major Sesquicentennial Parade as part of MSU’s celebration of its 150th anniversary. The parade route will start in Lansing at the State Capitol and will end at MSU. The band will be riding in the parade on a large flatbed truck.

MSU Bands Commissioning Project

The MSU Alumni Band Board started a project to support ongoing commissioning projects by MSU University Bands. A pledge was made by the board for 2004 and an amount will be added each year.

As members of the Alumni Band, you can also make a contribution to this project. Make your check out to Michigan State University and in the memo portion of the check, indicate the following: AE0687—MSU BANDS COMMISSIONING FUND, and send the check to Kristin Peterson, Assistant Director of Development, MSU Bands, Michigan State University, 102 Linton Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1044 (Phone: 517-353-4725 or email: peters30@cal.msu.edu). By sending the check to MSU, you will receive a receipt for a state and federal tax deduction.

This is a very worthwhile project and all members of the MSU Alumni Band Association are encouraged to consider making a contribution.
Barann, Kris (Knas) (Trumpet, ’88) Allen Park, MI, is happily married with three children, and serves as finance director for the City of Allen Park.

Berry, Dave (French Horn, ’68, ’73) Detroit, MI, retired after 36 years in the Detroit Public Schools. He plays in the Dearborn Symphony, singing with Measure For Measure, and owns Handbell Services Inc., with wife Sue.

Bielot, Jr., Earl C. (Coronet, ’56) Sandusky, OH, shares that James Wiles, (Coronet, ’57) passed away from leukemia. He flew in the U.S. Navy and was a captain for American Airlines.

Blair, Geoffrey (Tenor Sax, ’89) Lansing, MI, was elected president of the 102 USCT Civil War Re-enactors Group.

Brown, Lynn (Flute, ’75) East Lansing, MI, is a counselor and hypnotherapist in private practice and owns a jewelry business, crystaljewelry.biz.

Catron, Gail (Flute/Piccolo, ’75) Haslett, MI, is back in school and studying all the time.

Clark, Dalin (Tenor Sax, ’88) Grand Rapids, MI, works as a writer/strategist, and with husband Wally welcomed their son, David, in spring 2004.

Craig, John E. (Snare Drum, ’71) Holt, MI, and his family perform in various orchestras and bands traveling to Puebla, Mexico as part of a 40-piece orchestra and 160-member choir.

DeBenedetti, Geanna Schlueter (Trombone, ’89) Lansing, MI, was married this past fall. Her husband is a PGA professional and they live in Northern California.

Dobbertin, James (Alto Sax) ’98 Grand Ledge, MI, was married past fall. His wife Leslie is a vice-president area manager for Pulte Mortgage.

Dye, Jim (Drum Major, ’51) Saginaw, MI, write that they are in fair health and hope to see everyone soon.

Emmons, Dennis (Clarinet, ’65) and Susan (Saxmith) (Flute/Piccolo, ’64) North Muskegon, MI, Dennis spends much of his time hunting and Susan plays her flute with friends while providing worship music for a church near her home.

Fisk, Al (Trombone, ’78, ’85) Rochester, MI, became one of only 135 music judges nationwide in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Freudigman, Aaron (Baritone, ’00) Canton, MI, is currently a durability engineer at Ford Motor Company. He and his wife Ami, former UM Color Guard member, were married in 2002.

Garrick, Kathleen (Alto Sax, ’96) Saginaw, MI, bought her first home in May 2004, added a puppy, Cooper, as a new “little sister” for her cat, Coal.

Gleav, Barbara (Duncan) (Alto Sax, ’89) Grove Pointe Woods, MI, currently teaches elementary vocal and instrument music in Roseville Schools. She also enjoys playing carillon at church. Her daughters Kristin and Katie are involved in music and sports, while Jim taught his first high school forensic science class.

Graham, Matthew (Tuba, ’01) Lansing, MI, is a research and development chemist for an international formulator/manufacturer/distributor of composite material. He is also a member of the Lansing Concert Band.

Hall, Julie (Chrisenberry) (Mellophone, ’89) Howell, MI, is a certified professional bridal consultant and special event planner. She opened her business in fall 2004.

Halls, Heather (Alto Sax, ’88) Waterford, MI, has two kids (8 & 7), crafts handpainted piggybanks, teaches saxophone to area students, plays in the church band, and volunteers in community groups.

Hedlund, Tom (Trombone, ’90) and Denise (Alto Sax, ’91) Lansing, MI, celebrated 12 years of marriage. They continue to play in the Dewitt Community Concert Band.

Helmer, Bruce (Clarinet Saxophone, ’48) Lansing, MI, is retired from the State of Michigan and a 12-year member of the Dewitt Community Band.

Hunter, George (Trumpet, ’94) Monroe, MI, still works for Solutia Inc., and is glad to be on the day shift and sleep like “a normal person.”

Jones, Kenneth (Altonium, ’79) Huntington Woods, MI, is in his 25th year working for SBC technician. He also plays in the South Oakland Concert Band. His children are also involved in music.

Koehn, Norman (Clarinet, ’68) St. Clair, MI, retired in 2000 after 33 years of teaching and coaching. He has been a substitute teacher the last four years, works in building construction on the side and has played in the Alumni Band the last two years.

Kressler, Peter (Trombone/Euphonium, ’65, ’71) Grand Ledge, MI, participated in last summer’s Alumni Concert Band European Tour and especially enjoyed the riverboat.

Lutsch, Andy (Trombone, ’85) Berthoud, CO, and wife ’Cille welcomed a new baby, Mason, in fall 2003. ’Cille still manages the Fort Collins Symphony. Andy teaches geometry, U.S. history, and middle school drama in Lyons, CO.

MacTavish, Kathryn Ann (Flute, ’67) St. Joseph, MI, reports that all is well.

Martel, Alice (French Horn, ’65) Lansing, MI, has a CD called “Dr. Alice Sings…” available from Elderly Instruments in Lansing. The CD has lively traditional music for kids about animals and other funny characters with vocals, banjo and guitar.

Marx, Gary (Trumpet, ’73) East Lansing, MI, reports that the Strolling Spartans are still going strong after 25 years.

McDaniel, Arlene (Alto Sax, ’84) Bath, MI, continues to work as a jazz pianist/private instructor. She has played at the Grand Hotel, Perry Hotel in Petoskey, and the Little Harbor Club in Harbor Springs.

McGhee, Danielle (Coble) (Color Guard, ’95) Durand, MI, is a stay home mom with boys Levi (6) and Miller (19 months).

Mortensen, James (Trombone, ’82) Brighton, MI, works for GMAC Insurance as a finance executive. Happily married for 20 years, he enjoys watching his three children (15, 12 and 6) grow up.

Orr, Kathleen (Alto Sax, ’96–’00) Kalamazoo, MI, made a career jump, and is now the marketing and new business coordinator for Jones & Henry, an environmental engineering firm.

Pell, Greg (Trumpet, ’66) Okemos, MI, retired after 32 years as sales director for MESSA within BCBS of Michigan. He is now a healthcare consultant, golfer, hunter, and a SMB Booster.


Pulter, Daniel (Snare Drum, ’81) Haslett, MI, and wife Paula celebrated their 20th anniversary in May 2005.
Friday Night Fanfare—Opus 3

September 9, 2005 • 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. • Hannah Community Center — 819 Abbott Rd, East Lansing • Reservation Deadline: August 1, 2005

Building on the success of the first two years of Friday Night Fanfare, this year’s pre-fall reunion event will be bigger and better—the best yet! Plan now to join with fellow MSU Bands alumni, spouses and friends for dinner and socializing on the Friday evening before the “big game.”

We’ve moved to a new location! This year’s Friday Night Fanfare will be held at the newly renovated Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. Just a short walk from the downtown, the Hannah Community Center is a former East Lansing public school that has been expertly restored to its full art deco splendor.

The Hannah Community Center is located at 819 Abbott Road, East Lansing, at the intersection of Abbott Road and Burcham Drive. The evening includes a great meal (catered by Tarpoff’s Catering—a Lansing tradition), beverages, dessert, door prizes, and watching vintage films of MSU bands, and a visit by Sparty with lots of time for photos.

Total cost for the evening—thanks to the Alumni Band’s underwriting of the event—will be $20 per person (children $10). Space is limited so it is important to get your reservation in early. Reservation deadline is August 1, 2005.

Use the registration form, below to reserve your place for Friday Night Fanfare—Opus 3. For further information please contact Joe Levine (levine@msu.edu) or check out the MSU Alumni Band web site (http://www.msu.edu/~alumband/). Make plans now to spend a great evening with friends at this year’s Friday Night Fanfare—Opus 3.

___ Number of adults attending (@$20/adult)

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _________________________________________________________

Phone Number: _________________________________________________________

E-Mail Address: _________________________________________________________

Food Preference: (indicate quantity) _____ Beef entrée _____ Chicken entrée _____ Vegetarian entrée

You can make a check out to MSU Alumni Band. Please send this form and your check to: Joe Levine, 1962 Pawnee Trail, Okemos, MI 48864.

Food Preference: (indicate quantity) _____ Beef entrée _____ Chicken entrée _____ Vegetarian entrée

Beryl’s Beat spring 2005

Resume, Jeannine (Alto Sax, ’81) St. Clair Shores, MI, recently earned her music education certification from Marygrove College and will begin teaching K–5 music at Laurus Academy.

Rice, Bob (Trumpet, ’72) Lowell, MI, retired from director of bands at Lowell High School last year and traveled with his wife to Europe on the Alumni Band Tour.

Roelofs, Don (Trumpet, ’56) Muskegon, MI, still plays the French Horn everyday and writes sacred choral music when the spirit moves him.

Schemm, Bonnie (Alto Sax, ’68, ’69) Bloomfield Hills, MI, still works at Roepner as a graphic artist. She also does invitations, resumes, business cards, etc. in her business, “Looks Good on Paper.”

Schluckbeer, Gary (Tuba, ’95) and Heather (Trumpet, ’95) Schaumburg, IL, recently returned from a trip to Eastern Europe.

Scholes, Mike (E-flat Trumpet, ’00) and Jenny (Trumpet, ’00) Lansing, MI, welcomed their first child, Anna, in summer 2004.

Sikorski, Jake (Trombone, ’90–’92) Battle Creek, MI, traveled to Salt Lake City last October to participate in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. He earned the trip by winning a gold medal for his march, *Vietnam Veterans of America*.

Stevens, Roger (Percussion, ’78) Midland, MI, and his wife Nancy celebrated their 25th anniversary with their five daughters, who are all musicians and have played in their dad’s bands. Roger is also a member of an adult percussion ensemble in Midland called The Resonators.

Stewart, Kenneth (Trombone, ’79) and Jan (Baritone, ’94) Grose Ile, MI, reports that their son Andy is a squad leader in the SMB trombone section and their son Bill attended Interlochen Arts Academy for his senior year.

Strecher, Dr. Victor (Tenor Sax, ’53) Ann Arbor, MI, is a retired professor and dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University in Texas. He and his wife Barb moved back to Michigan to be closer to their son. Dr. Strecher flies his MSU flag from their condo balcony and wears his MSU shirts while kayaking the Huron River.

Thoma, August (Alto Sax, ’75, ’76) Rochester Hills, MI, is still the director of bands at Rochester High School and adjunct instructor at Oakland University.

Voelkner, Andy (Trombone, ’94) and Tricia (Tenor Sax, ’97) Farmington Hills, MI. Andy is a police officer with the Taylor Police Department. Tricia is the instrumental music director at Edsel Ford High School. They have a daughter, April (3½), and two dogs, Maestro and Melody.

Walker, Chris (Trumpet, ’01) Midland, MI, still works for Pfizer as a pharmaceutical sales representative.

Wikman, C. William (Clarinet, ’49) Muskegon, MI, still plays in the West Michigan Concert Winds.

Woloson, Susana (Trombone, ’85) Rochester Hills, MI, currently plays trombone in One Beat Back swing band and baritone in the Heritage Concert Band. She is completing Toastmasters public speaking training as well as pursuing voiceover work.
Since the last issue...

MSU ALUMNI CONCERT BAND REUNION

On April 17th, eighty-eight former band members returned to campus for the 18th Annual MSU Alumni Concert Band Reunion. This is our semi-annual opportunity to renew old acquaintances and to share another musical experience. This year’s program was shared with the wonderful MSU Wind Symphony.

In keeping with the policy of the MSU Alumni Band Association, an Alumni guest conductor is invited to direct the Alumni Band at this event. This year’s guest director was none other than Mr. Gerald Spry, current president of the Alumni Band Association and former director of bands at Waterford (MI) High School. Gerry did a fine job conducting a piece entitled “Ammerland” by Jacob DeHaan.

Other pieces on the program were:

American Fanfare
  conducted by John T. Madden
  John Wasson

Cake Walk from Suite of Old American Dances
  conducted by Ken Bloomquist
  Robert Russell Bennett

Ode and Epinicion
  conducted by Dave Catron (this piece was commissioned to honor Dave upon his retirement from the MSU Music Department)
  James Curnow

In a surprise move, Dave Catron rehearsed John Phillip Sousa’s University of Illinois March but when it came time to perform the march on the program, Dave passed the baton to Ken Bloomquist to conduct. Ken was honored to accept the baton and conduct the selection that is dedicated to his Alma Mater.

The Alumni Band portion of the program was closed out by John Whitwell conducting the MSU Shadows and the MSU Fight Song.

2007 Alumni Tour Band

The MSU Alumni Tour Band is going to Western Canada June 18–June 28, 2007! MSU band alumni are encouraged to participate in what has become a popular excursion every three years. Past tours have included such countries as Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary and Switzerland, and several concerts each tour have been performed in major European cities. MSU Professor Emeritus Kenneth G. Bloomquist conducts the band, Lauralee Campbell, through her agency Travel by Design, develops the flight and land packages, and Dale Bartlett manages/organizes many other aspects of the trip.

The Western Canada itinerary features Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, and Vancouver, and their attractive concert venues.

Cost and detailed itinerary will be available soon and payment arrangements will be similar to past trips with a $100 per person “early bird” deposit due this summer to guarantee a reservation. If interested, contact Dale Bartlett by phone 517-332-4495 or by email bartle17@msu.edu.

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Surf on over to our web site

Next time you’re on the web, stop by the MSU Alumni Band web site. You’ll find information about upcoming events, a digital copy of the newsletter, email addresses of members, and lots of pictures!

http://www.msu.edu/~alumband

Change of home or email address

To keep you informed about the MSU Alumni Band, please let us know when you move or have a change of email address by calling (517) 484-1899, mailing a note to MSU Alumni Band, c/o Beryl Falcone, 413 Lancer Lane, Lansing, MI 48906, or sending an email to Gary Baron at: tzyilm7@attbi.com.