



encore:

UPCOMING EVENTS

2009 MSU ALUMNI CONCERT BAND REUNION

Date: Sunday, April 26, 2009

Location: Wharton Center, Great Hall

Reunion Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Registration and Hospitality

9:00 a.m. Rehearsal, Wharton Center
*Find a seat at the part you feel comfortable performing.
Music distributed at rehearsal; not mailed in advance.*

Noon Lunch (on your own)

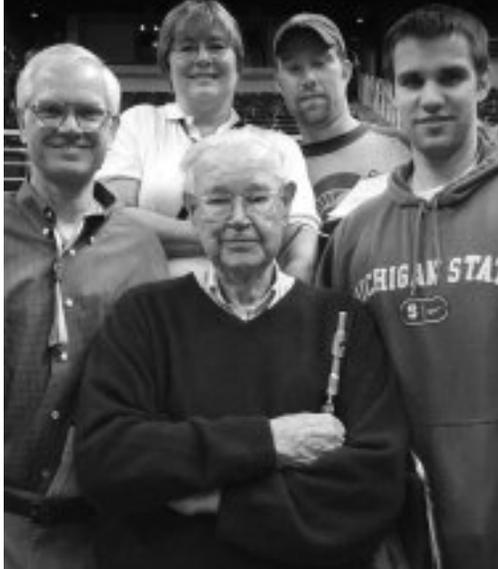
2:30 p.m. Arrive at Wharton Center
Arrive backstage and take your seat on stage.

3:00 p.m. Concert
*The MSU Alumni Band performs the first and the
MSU Symphony Band second. Wear "dress-up" clothes.*

2009 ALUMNI BAND FALL REUNION

Date: TBD

Three generations of Nelson's played in the band for the men's basketball game. From left to right: Jack, Nancy, Henry, Mike, and Matt. (Photo by Sharon Park)



FOR THE LATEST NEWS
AND INFORMATION, VISIT:
WWW.SPARTANBAND.NET/ALUMNI

a Message from the President

What a year for Spartan sports! The Capital One bowl game on New Year's Day capped a season for the football team which returned MSU to national attention. Women's golf head coach Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll was named Golf Association of Michigan (GAM) Player of the Year. Men's soccer head coach Joe Baum was named Soccer America Men's Coach of the Year and led the team to the Big Ten title. Men's basketball is off to the best start in conference play since 1977-78. MSU won the NCAA hockey championship last year. The MSU bands have been a big part of this success, playing in the bowl, basketball, and hockey games. The MSU Alumni Band participated in basketball and hockey games during the holidays in 2008.

I'd like to thank the following individuals for their exceptional contributions in 2008 to the association's success: Terry McKenney Person, past president, for her wonderful leadership these past two years and keeping us all on task; Tim Fox, member relations, for his outstanding work with the fall reunion; Gary Baron, our IT/data services guru, for all his efforts to keep our records up to date and providing timely advice; Gerry Spry, chairman of the reunion committee, for his leadership in helping to organize the fall reunion; Jack Nelson, member-at-large, for all his work on the homecoming parade and holiday bands; Greg Pell, treasurer, for organizing this year's tent gathering on Friday night after the SMB rehearsal (in the rain); Joe Levine, liaison to the directors, for his work on the photo CD last year and continued input and advice; Brad Halls for his work on the alumni band website, now part of the SMB website; Dale Bartlett and Lynn Brown for their efforts organizing the Alumni Band Golf Outing; Gordon Spink for his efforts with the MSU Alumni Association and SIG (Special Interest Groups); Betty Elliott, secretary, and Lynn Kelsey, member-at-large, for their help at fall reunion registration; Kim Hopkins, the real force behind the look of the *Encore*, making our publications look fantastic. Finally, many thanks to the MSU band directors who support this organization in so many ways. Mea culpa if you were left out!

I'd like to challenge all of our current members to join in the MSU Alumni Association membership campaign "We Dare YOU", an effort to raise membership. Let's specifically aim this at the MSU Alumni Band Association! Your alumni band membership helps to sponsor scholarships, alumni band activities, and outreach through the *Encore* and e-mail communications. Even if you can't return to campus for the various alumni band functions, join us in our efforts to support MSU and the bands through your annual membership.

The next MSU Alumni Band activity is when we share a concert with the MSU Symphony Band on April 26, 2009 at our spring reunion. Find more information about the concert in this issue of the *Encore*. You can also show your support just by being a member of the audience. Every time you return to this beautiful campus to participate in an event, invite another alum to join you!

In closing, I'd like you to check out the new website address, where you can update your address and email, in addition to joining the Alumni Band Association. That way, you'll be assured of getting the latest issue of the *Encore* and all emails updating our activities. I encourage you to participate in the activities and support the efforts of the association to keep the tradition going forward. I look forward to seeing you at the concert band reunion in April.

Bill Sachs, MSU Alumni Band Association President

MSU Alumni Band Association



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Dear MSU Band Alumni,

It goes without saying that we have the best band alumni in the country. Your obvious pride in the MSU band program is displayed on a regular basis throughout the year. We love hosting you in the fall and spring for the annual events and we also appreciate your willingness to sub in for the Spartan Brass during the holidays. Your contributions to the Spartan Marching Band saxophone fund made it possible to reach our goal in total in record time. I know everyone had a deep sense of pride when the new saxophones were unveiled this past fall.

2009 brings a very full winter and spring. The Symphony Band recently performed as the conducting symposium ensemble at the MSBOA Conducting Symposium held in conjunction with the Michigan Music Conference. Our students performed outstandingly with pure professionalism. Our presence in the state of Michigan is widely appreciated by the public school music educators.

As many of you know, in March the Wind Symphony will be traveling to Austin, Texas to participate in the national conference of the College Band Directors National Association held at the University of Texas. The Wind Symphony was chosen to perform the final concert of the conference. Other ensembles performing at the conference include The University of Texas, University of North Texas, Oklahoma State University, University of Georgia, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, University of Missouri-Kansas City, West Texas A&M University, and Baylor University. As always, a trip like this requires a substantial financial commitment. We are certainly receiving support from the College of Music and the University Provost office. We are still looking to raise additional funds. If you have the means, we would certainly appreciate any financial help given to support this event. If you would like to make a contribution to the Wind Symphony travel fund please forward to:

Rebecca Surian
Director of Development
College of Music
Michigan State University
103 Music Building
East Lansing, MI 48824

Thanks so much for your support of the MSU band program.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sedatole
Director of Bands

Stay Informed *and* Reconnect *with* Facebook



The MSU Alumni Band has a Facebook site which is drawing friends and alumni. Keep up to date on events and announcements, reconnect with friends, post your messages, ideas, and thoughts.

The web site is: <http://www.facebook.com>. You will need to create a profile, if you haven't already. It's free, and fast. Once you log in, search the site for the page name "Michigan State University Alumni Band."

See you online!

Beryl's Beat *winter* 2009

Billig, T. Patrick ('79, *Baritone*) made a third tour of China with the Windiana Concert Band in June '08, and attended the IGEB conference in Luxembourg in July '08.

Carl, Carrie ('94, *Mellophone*) is in her 15th year of teaching 7th grade life science in Hastings. She and her husband have a daughter, Kaylie (2).

DeBenedetti, Geanna ('89, *Twirler*) and her husband manage Las Positas Golf Course and the DeBenedetti Golf Shop in Livermore, CA. They are excited to have fellow band friend Sue Aula living close by so their kids can watch old Rose Bowl tapes with them!

Dineen, Michael ('84, *Trumpet*) cruised the Mediterranean in September and celebrated 20 years with Fedex Trade Networks as a customs broker in November.

Fisk, Al ('78, *Trombone*) has taught 30 years of vocal music in Hazel Park, MI and has been married to Bonnie (PT) for 25 years.

Gillette, James ('71, *Trumpet*) is retired superintendent of schools in the Grand Rapids area. He now lives in Pentwater, MI and performs as a chorus and quartet member in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Gould, Bob ('90, *Trumpet*) and **Susan (Weigandt)** ('91, *Alto Sax*) share that Bob is in his second year teaching at MSU after switching jobs in the summer of '07 from the life of a TV photojournalist. He loves working in the School of Journalism and having great summers off with Susan and their two kids, Isaac & Ilene.

Hanson, Lora ('01, '05, *Trumpet*) is currently a veterinarian in Allen Park, Michigan and lives in Canton with her husband and daughter (3).

Heisler, Amy ('93, *Alto Sax*) loves life in Arizona, plays sax in the Arizona Wind Symphony and works in arts advocacy.

Holmes, Julie ('84, *Color Guard, Mellophone*) began her third year as an assistant professor in the College of Education at Louisiana Tech University.

Hunter, George ('94, *Trumpet*) continues to rescue Siberian Huskies and works for Solutia Inc. (formerly Monsanto Chemical Co.) He hopes all is well with everyone.

Idle, Scott ('03, *Percussion*) shares that aside from his full-time job, he is the director of the Chicago Bulls Stampede — the official

drumline of the Bulls, and leads the Chicago Bears drumline.

Kanicki, Carolyn ('80, *French Horn*) began her 26th year of teaching — 16 years in her current position at St. George Elementary in Tenants Harbor, ME — teaching instrumental music, grades 5–8.

Koehn, Norman ('68, *Clarinet*) looks forward to Spartan band alumni events, and the “goose-bumps” and spirit he feels when the music is played. Substitute teaching, hunting, fishing and home projects keep him busy, along with the great memories of MSU, and all the past and present, sensational music directors.

Koning, Paul D. ('79, '81, *Percussion*) just moved back to Michigan after 27 years. It's great to be home and in the East Lansing area! Go State!

Langdon, Gary ('65, *Trumpet*) after 33 years of teaching math, art, & science, began teaching band & english in recent years. He is now in his 36th year of teaching after 2.5 years as a chemical engineer for Dow Corning Corp. While completing his BFA in studio art in 1969, he met his wife, Laura. They have been married 38 years and have five children. All but one attended MSU!

Lunde, Robert ('93, *Baritone*) works for Volkswagen of American and lives in Rochester Hills, MI.

McCaffrey, Jim ('80, *Percussion*) and **Susan** ('81 *Alto Sax*) now have BOTH kids in band at Forest Hills Eastern (Grand Rapids). Max, 13, is a future MSU Drumline member, while Megan, 11, is just starting flute, so may end up in the alto sax section someday.

Melnick, Vicki ('91, *Alto Sax*) was promoted to assistant director of Student Athlete Support Services at Ohio State in 2007.

Morehouse, Robert ('56, *Trumpet*) turned 81 this August. He's still kicking that golf ball around and looks forward to seeing everyone!

Nielsen, Erik ('73, *Trombone*) shares that his son, Patrick, has finished his first year at MSU and has been accepted into the Honors College.

Ohrt, James ('73, *Percussion*) retired from East Detroit High School Bands after 22 years and 35 years of teaching. He plans to get his “chops” back and enjoy his family more. He and his wife Diane look forward to more time with the grandchildren and their cottage.

Perry, David ('97, *Alto Sax*) moved into a new house in Royal Oak with border collie “Fly.” He works as a 3D artist at BAE Systems.

Pulter, Daniel ('81, *Percussion*) shares that his son is in his second year as a snare drummer in the SMB.

Reeves, Jodi ('85, '93, *Mellophone*) works as a pediatric emergency nurse in Sparrow's brand-new pediatric ER and loves it! Hope and Faith began kindergarten this year and Jodi continues to play in the Lansing Concert Band.

Ressler-Maerlender, Jessamyn ('99, *Mellophone*) is married to Josh Goldblatt (MSU '02). They live in Atlanta, GA, where Jessamyn works for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in Emergency Operations. They have a brilliant & charming baby boy, Marcus.

Rongo, Lauren ('72, *Flute*) is recovering from the loss of her husband, Tony (MSU, '86). She teaches flute at Saginaw Valley State University, and has two sons: Anthony and Adam. Anthony is a para-pro in the Bay City School District. Adam is a jazz studies major/saxophone at Chicago College of Performing Arts.

Schemm, Bonnie ('68 & '69, *Alto Sax*) and Leonard welcomed their second grandchild last March — Olivia Ruth Schemm. She's the first “Schemm” girl since 1943! Leonard is landscaping all around the house, and Bonnie continues to work outside the home. They are looking forward to a nice vacation!

Shubel, Courtney (Hagen) ('03, *Big Tens*) teaches 2nd grade in Williamston, MI. She and her husband Robb are enjoying their new son, Nolan, born in the spring of 2008.

Spry, Gerald ('64, *Percussion*) completed a four week western tour of the Grand Canyon, Grand Tetons and Yellowstone — played with the Birmingham Community Band, and continued as director of the Waterford New Horizon Band.

Stevens, Julie ('84, *Tenor Sax*) is a family practice/hospice/autism doctor in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Stukey, David ('97, *Percussion*) teaches social studies at St. Johns High School, and is drumline instructor for the marching band. He is the proud father of Nick (6) who entered 1st grade this year.

Sutton, Gary ('67, *Trombone*) and Lil celebrated 53 years of marriage this year. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-

Beryl's Beat *winter* 2009

grandchildren. One granddaughter, Jamie, will be in the SMB for her 2nd year. Lil & Gary are still moving music groups through the country with their company, Sutton Travel Consultants. Gary actively performs with the New Reformation Dixieland Band.

Thoma, August ('76, *Alto Sax & Clarinet*) is director of bands and adjunct instructor of music at Rochester (MI) College. Daughter Megan is a senior in the SMB on Alto Sax.

Webb, John ('70, *Euphonium*) and Beverly are alive and well in the musically active city of Bay City, MI. Go Green!

Wisner, David ('59, *Trumpet*) moved from Orlando to Clearwater, FL in 2007. He plays in six regular meeting bands and subs from time to time in other groups.

Welcome Jim Barry, MSU Alumni Band Vice President

Jim Barry is our new vice-president, succeeding Bill Sachs. Jim retired in June, 2006 after 33 years as an instrumental music teacher. For 31 years, he served as Director of Bands at Okemos High School. A native of Roseville, Michigan, he graduated from MSU in 1973. He played under Harry Began, Kenneth Bloomquist, and Dave Catron in the Spartan Marching Band, Symphony Band, and Spartan Brass. He earned the Master of Music degree from MSU in 1983. He is a past state chairman of the American School Band Directors' Association and a past president of the MSU Alumni Band, having also served as its secretary-treasurer. Jim now plays trumpet in the Lansing Concert Band, substitute teaches and adjudicates band and orchestra festivals. Jim and Linda, who retired in June 2007 after 30 years as an Okemos elementary school teacher, have resided in Okemos for 33 years. They are very proud of their children, Kimberly and Mark.

Tenor Saxophone Donated to SMB in Honor of Jim Oliphant, Class of 1969

by Bonnie (Graham) Schemm



(Photo taken by Bill Sachs)

Leonard and I have been best friends with Jim Oliphant and Kathy (Chagnon) Oliphant since we were all music students at MSU in the '60s. A few years ago, Jim — the best man in our wedding — was diagnosed with frontal lobe dementia. He was 57 years old at the time — WAY too young. Not long after, it was necessary for him to move into a nursing home for memory-challenged patients.

It hit all of us pretty hard — not just the four of us, but all of our circle of MSU friends. Jim was the most intelligent member of our group and had a better memory than all of the rest of us put together. And, even though he disliked playing board games, he was the one guy in the room you wanted most on your Trivial Pursuit team! It's hard to explain how helpless a disease like this can make you feel, especially when it affects someone you've been so close to for more than 40 years. I felt like we needed to do something lasting for both Jim and Kathy (probably the strongest woman we know), but what?

Then, last summer we received the appeal from the College of Music to purchase silver horns for the Spartan Marching Band saxophone section. I thought, how "cool" would it be to donate a tenor in Jim's name? (He played tenor sax in the SMB from 1965–68 and 1966 Rose Bowl band.) While I knew there was no way we could afford to buy one on our own, I couldn't get the idea out of my head to honor him this way. After a couple of days, an idea came to me: if about a dozen of us would contribute around \$100 each, we could buy a tenor in Jim's name.

Leonard and I talked it over and decided to give it a try. Leonard talked to Bill Sachs, who thought it was a great idea, and so we were on our way. Bill talked to and e-mailed some of the other guys in the '66 Rose Bowl band, and I wrote letters and e-mails to some other friends, and in no time at all, we had the \$1200 necessary to buy a tenor.

All the while, we all kept the project a secret from Kathy. Then at the College of Music Open House last fall, with the help of Rebecca Surian, Development Director for the College of Music, we presented the check ("signed" by all the donors) to John Madden prior to the SMB's march to the stadium. Kathy was there with us, and we presented a "Publishers' Clearing House-style" check to her as well. She was very surprised and very touched — you'll probably notice some tears in the photo — and has framed the check and hung it in Jim's room at the home.

Leonard and I would like to thank John, Rebecca, and especially the MSU Music Alumni and friends who helped us reach our goal:

Hubert (Tex) Arnold	Gary Baron and Diedra Garlock
Dave and Sue (Hill) Berry	Howard and Karen Stuckey
Jeffrey Cutter (<i>colleague of Jim's from his Warren Consolidated teaching days</i>)	
John and Elaine (Tucker) Gradowski	Keith Hudson
Dick and Trice (Powers) Page	Judy Peters
Bill and Ann (O'Brien) Sachs	Marty (Martha) Scharchburg

"Jim's horn" will be engraved with the words ... "Friends in honor of Jim Oliphant 1969."

Our next goal is to get a photo of the SMB student sax player in uniform with "Jim's horn," frame that and hang it in Jim's room, too!

Dear Alumni Band Member,

I am writing an oral biography about Leonard Falcone, and am aware that many of you were in Falcone's concert band some years ago. I'm sure that you have a story or two to tell about this great musician, and I, for one, would appreciate hearing it (or them)! Just about any memory you could recount would be helpful. Perhaps you can recall a conversation you had with him, or an event during a rehearsal, or an insight you had about him and the circumstance under which you had it; if you were in the marching band, perhaps you have a story of an experience there.

Don't be shy about sending me more than one story — the more, the better. I would like very much to get several stories from you. If you are concerned about how you have written the story (grammar, etc.), just let me know that you would like it to be re-written. Quotations — actual things you remember Dr. Falcone saying — would be a great asset in fleshing out the portrait of this man.

Thank you in advance for any recollection of Leonard Falcone you can provide. I have added (see right) a list of questions as memory joggers. If you can shed insight into any of the topics or stories, or if you have a couple of your own, it would be wonderful!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rita Comstock

encomstock@comcast.net

1-978-261-5099

MSU 1968

MSU Concert Band 1964/1965/clarinet

PS: Also, someone called me last spring to say that he had a newspaper announcement of Falcone's engagement/wedding. I had just walked in the door from a vacation when I answered the phone, and I wrote that person's name down on a piece of paper — which I can no longer find. Would that person please contact me again? I'd like to ask him some further questions. Thanks!

Dr. Falcone Questions:

What human qualities were most influential in shaping the way he lived and influenced his times?

Describe his appearance, habits, features, gestures, and way of talking.

Any surprising behaviors or actions?

What obstacles did he overcome?

What risks did he take? What were the outcomes? How did he handle risk-taking?

List three or four personal traits. Which quality or trait proved most troubling and difficult? Which quality or trait was most beneficial?

He has been described as a "perfect straight man" because of his ingenuousness. Can you think of a time his honesty and innocence turned something he did or said into a good laugh or even into the stuff of legend?

He also has been described as kind and caring with his students. Can you tell a story about a time you saw this trait in him?

Did he make any mistakes? If so, what were they and how would you have acted differently if you were in his shoes?

What are the most important lessons you might learn from the way he lived?

If you can learn something about the quality of a person's life by the adversaries he makes, what do you learn of Dr. Falcone's life?

Discuss to what extent Dr. Falcone shaped the lives of the gifted people he mentored.

To what extent did he act by a personal philosophy? Were there times when his belief system was challenged and/or difficult for him to follow?

Can you describe a challenge he faced? How did he handle the stress of challenge?

What sorts of things inspired him? How do you know?

How did he react to the important events in his professional life? (concerts, published works)

What was his relationship with those he worked with/for (Hannah, Revelli, Moffett, Stansell, etc.)? Is there a story/event you could relate?

Did you ever see him angry? Can you describe the scene and the cause of his anger?

Did he have any hobbies or favorite non-musical activities? If so, what were they?

Do you have any travel stories about him?

How did he react to happy and/or unhappy events? How did they change his life?

Do you know anything of his goals and dreams? At what point in his life did he have this dream or goal? Was it achieved or not? How? What was the outcome?

In what ways was he an influence to MSU, American culture, the "band movement", and/or his profession?

To what do you ascribe his success as a conductor? A musician? A man? Was luck ever involved?

Do you have any stories about his personal/home life — his engagement, wedding, the birth of his daughters, his dinner parties, his relationship with his family, etc.?

Did you ever see him make a mistake musically or in any other capacity? How did he react to mistakes — his own and others'?

2010 MSU Alumni Tour Band

The MSU Alumni Tour Band continues to build the band personnel and travel group for the 2010 trip to Italy in 2010. This destination to Italy is particularly appropriate given the first trip destination was Italy in 1985. Thus, the year 2010 will celebrate the 25th year the tour band has been actively traveling out of country, enjoying the scenery and playing concerts. The itinerary includes Milan, Venice, Florence and Rome with concerts in each city. Ken Bloomquist will be on the podium (he has conducted on every tour). This trip should be another exciting and enjoyable tour for the band and spouses/friends. To receive a 5% discount off the basic cost of the trip, a \$200 payment is required before March 1, 2009. Contact Lauralee Campbell at 517-332-4790 or lcamp13@comcast.net. Also, you may contact Dale Bartlett at 517-332-4495 or bartle17@msu.edu.

Alumni Band Returns *to the GLI*

After an absence of several years, the Spartan Alumni Brass returned to the Great Lakes Invitational (GLI) in Detroit to play for the Spartan Hockey Team. Since the student Spartan Brass was not available due to playing in the Capital One bowl on New Year's Day, the Alumni Brass were called upon to fill in. On Dec. 27 & 28, 2008, band members rode a Dean Transportation Coach to Joe Louis Arena and met up with members from Metro Detroit. The hockey team defeated North Dakota in the Saturday game and lost to U of M on Sunday, but as always the Spartan Alumni Band won.



It was an unusual year as the students had a four-week break and the marching band was at a bowl game. The Alumni Brass played for eight events: two men's basketball games, two women's basketball games, two hockey games at Munn arena, and two hockey games at the GLI. 117 members participated in one or more of the events with four members participating in all eight. Bands varied from 25 to 53 players and family members were invited to attend the hockey games at Munn bringing the total alumni band contingent to 80 for one of the games.

Thank you to all who participated. We have received many compliments and notes of appreciation for our support of Spartan spirit. Many thanks to directors Jim McCaffrey and Bob Rice, and to Jack Nelson for organizing the bands and handling the details.

Since *the* Last Issue



The MSU Alumni holiday band plays at a men's basketball game at the Breslin Center. (Photo by Jack Nelson)



The MSU Alumni holiday band plays at a hockey game at Munn Ice Arena. (Photo by Jack Nelson)



Check Out *our* New Web Site

Next time you're on the web, stop by the MSU Alumni Band's new web site. You'll find information about upcoming events, a digital copy of the newsletter, email addresses of members, and lots of pictures! www.spartanband.net/alumni

Change of Home *or* Email Address

To keep you informed, please let us know when you move or have a change of email address by calling (517) 484-1899, mailing a note to MSU Alumni Band, c/o Tim Fox, 1850 Snyder, East Lansing, MI 48823, or emailing Gary Baron at: tyzilm7@msualum.com.