



ISU ALUMNI BAND

Letter from the President

Hey Band!

Thank you! As we emailed to you in July, we decided to shift our Homecoming celebration to an online event after we were informed we would not be able to march on the field this year. The Board has received so much support through Facebook and email for this decision, and we appreciate your understanding. We know this is not an ideal situation. We know that all of us want nothing more than to see each other in person. We know that this year's Homecoming will obviously look and feel different. It is different. But it is our hope that we can meet three key goals through the online event on Friday October 9:

1. **Reminisce.** We are putting together video of halftime shows of year's past to show on the Zoom feed and we need your help! Keep your eye out for a Facebook poll/post asking your opinion on which shows you think we should track down and feature.
2. **Socialize.** We are using Zoom for the online event. For those not familiar, Zoom will allow us to create breakout rooms for smaller group conversations. We plan to use this feature to allow you to socialize in a smaller setting. Is there a specific group you want to talk to? Use that dedicated social time to create a separate Zoom and chat with your old rank. In this newsletter is a "How Do I Use Zoom" Q&A and contact information for us to find you "tech support" within the Alumni Band or from band students who have offered their tech skills. We are also planning on having a Facebook thread for the Saturday game to connect and chat.
3. **Inform.** Every year we receive updates from the Music Department and the Alumni Association on what's going on and this year is no different! In fact, this year we have a few additional surprise guests who we hope you will enjoy.

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So what do you need to do? We need to know if you're coming! When registration becomes available, please register at <http://www.isualum.org/bandreunion2020>. Registration is FREE, we just want to make sure we have the technology capabilities for the number of people. Reach out to your friends and fellow bandmates, let us know if Zoom is confusing for you (it's confusing for me, so don't feel alone!), and keep in touch on our Facebook page.

To finish this letter out on a positive note, I'm happy to announce that we are founding members of the National Association of Alumni Bands. This is a really cool opportunity for us to connect and learn from our fellow Alumni Bands. See page 6 for the press release and links for more details.

Communication is key for us right now with things moving quickly. Check out page 4 for the latest information about pep band and connect on our Facebook page for other updates.

Go Cyclones!
 Kelli Huser
 Alumni Band President
 kahuser@gmail.com



**Virtual Homecoming:
 October 9, 2020**



A Letter from Doc

Dear Cyclone Marching Band Alum –

I hope this finds you and yours safe and doing well. As of this writing, we are doing fine here at Iowa State and trying to offer “band” experiences to as many students as possible in a safe and responsible way.

How do you do that, you ask? You might have seen the ISU article on how the Marching Band is dealing with this. If not, check this out: <https://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2020/09/11/band>

Christian Carichner has been a wizard at finding solutions to the many problems created by COVID-19. The Marching Band has already been immensely successful this semester, due to his leadership, flexibility, musicianship, teaching skills, and his ability to answer questions that most people can't even begin to formulate!

Regarding the concert bands at Iowa State, we are doing some of the things the Marching Band is doing and some things that deal with rehearsing indoors. We are using bell covers, face masks, plexiglass shields, having rehearsals that last no longer than 30 minutes, having the students provide their own music stands, and providing them with paper folders and photocopies that do not need to be returned. Students rehearse at 8-foot intervals by participating in a brass choir, a woodwind choir, and occasionally a small, hybrid group. There are no more than 30 students in a rehearsal at a time and there are no concerts. Life is different.

We had two special events canceled. The first was a Wind Ensemble trip to Japan. We had 65 students signed up for a trip that was to take place this past May. We hope to reschedule at some point in the future. This would have been our first trip with the ISU Bands to Asia.

And the Wind Ensemble was planning a concert for this upcoming November 11 in State Gym, recreating a concert by the John Philip Sousa Band. That concert was to have been the 100th anniversary of when the Sousa Band actually performed in State Gym. The Sousa Band's only performance in Ames was a matinee concert on November 11, 1920. Who knew? We're hoping to have a 101st anniversary concert next year.

Like your profession, there are no conventions or conferences this year. There are no honor bands, travel for bands, parades, competitions, etc. Each of our faculty that teach applied lessons are each handling things differently through virtual lessons, lessons through screens, and a variety of other means that will mitigate exposure to the virus.

In spite of all of these restrictions and obstacles, our students would be the first ones to tell you how meaningful their band experiences are at Iowa State. There is simply no substitute for the opportunity to make music with your friends, even if you have no performances scheduled and your fellow musicians are eight feet away from you. There is something about making music that speaks to your soul, and those of us who participate in a band – at any level – understand this completely. Know that, through band, we are trying to create musical experiences at Iowa State that will have a powerful impact on our students and provide them with lifelong memories. Hopefully, these are the same types of experiences that YOU recall from your time at Iowa State – without the virus.

Hey, sorry to ramble for so long. Please know how grateful we are to you for your steadfast support of the ISU Bands. We have received extra support this year from many of you and know that we are grateful for your generosity.

We will miss seeing you all in person at Homecoming, but hope you will “tune in” to the virtual Alumni Band Reunion on Friday evening, October 9. Alumni Band President Kelli Huser and the Alumni Band Board have done a terrific job in providing and offering support to the ISU Bands during this crazy time. We are indebted to them, and to all of you for your continued support and concern.

Let's continue to stay connected – and hope to “see you” on October 9.

Go Cyclones!

Mike Golemo
Director of Bands
Professor of Music
(and as of last year, Honorary Member of the Alumni Band!)

JOIN US FOR THE 39.5TH ANNUAL

HOMECOMING REUNION

It's
Virtual!

Schedule:

5:00pm—6:00pm

Blast from the Past: Alumni Band's favorite shows through the decades

6:00pm—7:00pm

Zoom Mingling: Make your own group or let us put you into a group to meet new fellow alums!

7:00pm—8:00pm

Celebrity Cameos: Welcome from the President, update from Doc and Christian, update from Alumni Association, special messages from special guests, and more!

[Register Now!](#)

Note: All times shown in Central Standard Time

What is Zoom and How Do I Use It?

The virtual Homecoming event on Friday October 16 will use Zoom to connect Alumni Band members near and far.

Q: So what is Zoom?

A: Zoom is a video-conferencing site. You can create an account for FREE and use the service for FREE to participate.

Q: How do I use it?

A: Go to the Zoom FAQ page here for common questions and answers:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206175806-Top-Questions>

Q: What do I need to do prior to October 16?

1. Follow this link and create an account: <https://zoom.us/signup>
2. We will send you a link both through email and Facebook. On October 9, you will click the link and join the meeting.
3. That's it!

Q: What if I still have questions?

A: We have tech support! Please contact kahuser@gmail.com to get you set up with an Alumni Band member or a current student who has offered to provide one-on-one help to make sure you are all set to go for the meeting.

Alumni Pep Band Update

Is it time for basketball already?!? No it's not, but it already time to start thinking ahead to pep band season! As with everything else in the collegiate world - sports-related or not - things are in flux. We went from seven home football games, to eight, down to six, and back up to ten. Let's hope that's the end! Of course plans for all indoor athletic events are not yet finalized, and may not be final for a while. Please stay tuned to our ISU Alumni Pep Band and ISUCF'V'MB Alumni Band Facebook pages and your email for updates. If you do not regularly get emails on Pep Band events and would like to be included, email Jay Chapman at chapmanjay@mchsi.com and he will add your email address to the list.



Elections

Fortunately, the alumni band began doing electronic voting years ago, so going virtual for our election this year will be no problem! An email will go out to everyone who signs up for the virtual event (look for the link in the Letter from the President) to submit your ballot electronically.

If you are interested in running for a position on the board, please contact President-Elect Kevin Beichley at kevin.beichley@gmail.com. Don't want to email or talk to Kevin? You can also nominate yourself for an office at this link: <https://forms.gle/bGMcvmK3qBBSCeh27>

A special note from the President-Elect to recent alums who are interested in running for a board position:

You don't need tons of free time or years of experience in the Alumni Band to run for office, all you need is a desire to help serve the band. Reach out to me or another board member if you have any questions about what we do or how much time it takes to do it. Recent Alumni make up a huge part of our participating members and having voices on the board that reflect all our members is important to help us plan events that appeal to the entire alumni band family.

Ballot Positions for 2019-2020

Secretary

Duties: Keep minutes at meetings and distribute them to all members of the Executive Board, carry out correspondence, and complete other duties as assigned

Newsletter Editor

Duties: Chronicle the meetings and appearances of the Alumni Band by coordinating with the Music Department and the Board in publishing the newsletters

Public Relations Specialist

Duties: Propose and execute public campaigns to make the public aware of the good works and good times of the Alumni Band

Directors at Large (3 positions available)

Duties: Advise and consult as a part of the Executive Board at all meetings and carry out other duties as assigned

From in Front of the Hash to On the Front Lines



BAILEY BECKNER

Piccolo '10

Child, Adult, and Family Services

Before Bailey Beckner ('10 Child, Adult, and Family Services) became a surgery recovery nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, she spent her days on the practice field and her weekends at Jack Trice Stadium playing the piccolo. She recalled one weekend spent in that city in East Iowa (boo, hiss) during which it felt like nothing went right. The day started with breakfast: warm sub sandwiches from the night before. And it only went downhill from there. It was hot, it was rainy, and the band wasn't even allowed to perform for fear that Dinkles would harm the cleat-trodden, rain-soaked field. But somehow, despite how awful it may have been 10 years ago, now it's one of her fondest memories. One can only hope that the memories we're all making this year may feel the same in 2030.

In March, when things started shutting down, Bailey was actually away from the hospital for two weeks. When she came back, she says "everything was different." Not only had non-essential surgeries been cancelled, decreasing their patient load, but the hospital had been forced to rearrange its departments to accommodate their influx of COVID patients. This meant she and her colleagues were forced to do pre-operative procedures at multiple locations in the hospital and staff from other departments were working in their space.



Most people can relate to the frustration that came with everything having to change seemingly overnight, but Bailey says some positives have come out of this crisis. "We've grown kind of closer because we're all in it together!" Her colleagues have been very conscientious of looking out for one another and making sure everyone is okay. Older nurses or staff who are at higher-risk don't take COVID cases; when their colleagues test positive, everyone checks in (from a distance) and makes sure they're all taken care of.

As esteemed members of the Iowa State University Alumni Band, we're always looking for ways to help. When asked, Bailey kept it simple: "Honestly, just wear a mask in public. Follow the CDC guidelines...this is real, real stuff... If you really want to help, and you want to help your health care providers, get this done sooner. Let's work together as a team!"

Do you have a memory you'd like to share? Has something interesting happened in your life? Do you pick up your instrument more than once a year? If so, email allisonlenselink@gmail.com for a chance to be featured in the next Alumni Spotlight!

Varsity-Alumni Mentorship Program

It's not too late to sign up for the newly-renamed Varsity-Alumni Mentorship Program (VAMP)! After filling out this short survey, you will be paired with a current member of the band based on a highly scientific algorithm that takes into account your section, career path, and general disposition. Follow the link below to fill out the survey!

<https://forms.gle/kFzqFteo2z58Cuap7>

The Iowa State University Alumni Band is Proud to Be a Charter Member of the Newly-Organized National Association of Alumni Bands

Alumni organizations from college bands across the nation have formed a National Association of Alumni Bands to share best practices and provide leadership and coordination for such programs. Leaders from alumni band groups announced the formation of the NAOAB with a mission “to serve as the indispensable advocate for alumni bands across the U.S.” The association’s goal is to develop and enhance peer connections to solve issues, develop strategies and provide a conduit for alumni band leaders to learn how to better serve their constituency and members.

Alumni of America’s leading college and university marching bands carry on their premiere collegiate experience in marching band through such alumni associations. The groups not only engender financial support for the current band but also provide an outlet for ongoing performances by alumni musicians.

ISU Alumni Band is proud to be one of 24 Charter Members of the new organization.

“Our vision with NAOAB is to help the leaders in collegiate alumni band programs grow and better understand best practices from other organizations and to help those who want to start their alumni bands, from the ground-level,” said Geof Sloan, newly elected president and chair of the organizing committee. The organizing committee was formed at the Alumni Band Symposium hosted by the University of Washington Husky Alumni Band in May 2019. During the past year the committee followed a rigorous process of writing the governing documents and bylaws that formally created NAOAB.

President: Kelli Huser, ‘09
Past President: Erin Kalkwarf, ‘05
President-Elect: Kevin Beichley, ‘09, ‘10
Secretary: Nicole Barbee, ‘08
Treasurer: Chris Colvin, ‘02, ‘05
Public Relations: Gianni Giglio, ‘17
Newsletter Editor: Allie Linselink, ‘17
Directors at Large, 1st year:
 Zachary Bennett, ‘17
 Emily Worthington, ‘11
 Joe Waters, ‘10
Directors at Large, 2nd year:
 William Polzin, ‘10, ‘13
 Chris Davidson, ‘09
 Sarah Roltgen, ‘14
Pep Band: Jay Chapman, ‘90
Director of Bands: Dr. Michael Golemo
Associate Director of Bands: Christian Carichner

2019-2020 ISU Alumni Band Board Members

