



# ISU Alumni Band

SPRING 2020

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## A Note from the President

Generally, this Note from the President recaps where we have been and where we are going. I will do the same, as a reminder to you that in this time of uncertainty we can remember the good times and build hope for the future. But I want to start with the present.

At this time, we all are facing "new normals." Wherever you are at this moment, the uncertainty of when all of this ends can be tough. I want to remind you that we are here for you. We, your college friends, your band peers, are here for you. Use the Facebook page to watch marching band videos, or post photos of your time in band. Call or text someone and remind yourself of the crazy bowl game trip you took as college sophomores. Whatever you are feeling right now, I promise you, we are a family and there is someone to be there for you.

The active band is facing its own "new normals." Students turned in instruments at the end of March. Iowa State University has coordinated move-out from the dorms. Graduating seniors have had commencement ceremonies cancelled. I have been in touch with Doc, and he knows the Alumni Band will offer whatever help it can. For now, if you are in a position to help financially, the Iowa State Foundation has launched #CycloneStrong to provide emergency aid to students among other worthwhile goals. The website is here: <https://fundisu.foundation.iastate.edu/project/20443>.

We also are launching a new project in this newsletter called Matchmaker, to connect active band members with alumni band members in related career fields. Intended as a career connector, it has the added benefit at this time of generally connecting people in a time of social distancing. Please find information on this project on page 5.

Now a reminder of our past. We marched 300 strong this past October, and the photos in this newsletter will remind you of that beautiful fall day. Jay Chapman led another successful Alumni Pep Band season. His update is also later in this newsletter. We had our first Alumni Band game watches for the bowl game and two men's basketball games at breweries in Ankeny and Ames.

So where are we going? This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Iowa State Alumni Band. Homecoming weekend is October 17, and we have some amazing things in store. We plan on another successful (and zany) alumni pep band season. We will again schedule several game watches in the central Iowa area to cheer on our Cyclones.

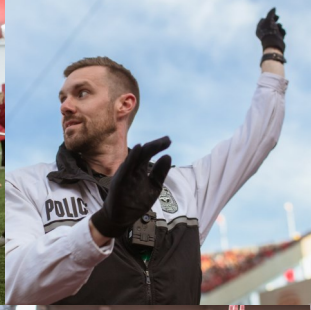
Between now and then, I know there are unknowns. We on the Board will do our best to keep you updated on the information you need to know. In the interim, do not hesitate to contact me at [kahuser@gmail.com](mailto:kahuser@gmail.com) with any questions or ideas you have on how we can continue to meet our mission of supporting the greatest bands in the nation.



# HOMECOMING 2019

By: Erin Kalkwarf

Last year, the Annual Homecoming Friday night social was held at Reiman Gardens. As usual, we shared stories, ate and drank, and the Varsity Band showed up to entertain us. We had a silent auction, which featured a quilt donated by Corrie Strasser, which was made from band memorabilia from her late parents (and former Alumni Band co-Presidents) Gale and Sue Chatterton. Lorna Livingston (a 1948 graduate) was recognized by TBS as an Honorary member. Lorna shared her story of “No Bobby Pins” at the Saturday lunch. If you haven’t seen it, check it out in our Facebook group. We also honored Dr. Michael Golemo “Doc” as a member of the Alumni Band, in recognition of 20 years of outstanding service to the bands. The weather was great for the game, unlike most others during the season, and we were spared from having an 11:00 am kickoff. While the football team came up short against Oklahoma State, the band always wins. The combined Alumni/Varsity/Storm song was Freebird, with over 700 on the field. It is always great to interact with the students and learn what old traditions are still going on and what new traditions they are starting!



# Alumni Pep Band 2019-2020

By: Jay Chapman

We are in strange times indeed. While one couldn't have foreseen how the 2019-20 ISU athletics seasons would end, the Alumni Pep Band started the season with a late-October practice with the Varsity Pep Band. It was a nice opportunity to get a first glance at some music that would eventually make its way into the alumni books, and paved the way for a mid-November alumni-only practice. It's amazing what a little practice can do!

Speaking of practice, the 2019-20 season saw a return of the pre-game warm-up and practice time! Something that was common in the late 1990s/early 2000s alumni pep band seasons found its way back into the routine. The opportunity to tune as a group helped to keep the group together, and more than a few times that one extra run-through of a song made it presentable to the public!

The first gig of the season was a Sunday afternoon wrestling match against the #2 Iowa Hawkeyes. While Ian Parker and David Carr were both able to come out on top, the team score ended in favor of the other guys, 29-6. Next up was a women's match against the Golden Lions of Arkansas Pine Bluff. The game ended as a 50(!) point win for the Cyclones, but more importantly it saw the debut of several of the new songs like Centuries and Confident from the Varsity playlists.

The second of the three-gigs-in-three-days stretch was a senior day tribute to the Cyclone Volleyball team. The Big 12 didn't seem to show much love to the Cyclones on senior night as the #4 Texas Longhorns were the opponent for the afternoon. ISU started strong grabbing a close 25-23 victory in the first set, but seemed gassed at times during a tough 25-9 second set loss. While they kept it close in sets three and four, they never could quite get over the hump and went down 3 sets to 1.

The first day of December was initially tagged as the "Young Alum" pep band game, targeted to those newbies whose last year in band was ten years or less. But unfortunately many of those young band alums have new jobs, and jobs that are not within close proximity of Hilton Coliseum. So a cast of many of the "regulars" helped to fill in and play through the Cyclones' easy 71-53 victory over UNO.

The December double-header started off well as the men's basketball team took on the Fort Wayne Mastodons. Now that's a mascot! Possible NBA lottery pick Tyrese Haliburton was at his best in the game, pouring in 17 first-half points and assisting on several other key first half Cyclone baskets. The game was never really in doubt and ISU was able to pull away at the end to make it an 89-59 final.

The afternoon game was not quite as kind for the Cyclones. Despite the band's best cheers and efforts, the women's team let this one get away from them. Ashley Joens was Ashley Joens. The future honorable mention All-American had her (ho-hum) third straight double-double, but it wasn't enough. Adriana Camber showed flashes of who she'd be later in the season. But a terrible fourth quarter doomed the Cyclones and they fell to in-state rival UNI 71-63.

A "surprise" 12/31 game for the men's basketball team against Florida A&M was surprising in more ways than one. The athletic department struggled to secure a high school band for the NYE gig, so the Alumni Band stepped in to save the day. At least it saved the musical part of the day. But with Tyrese Haliburton out with an injury and a slow start to the second half, the Cyclones fell 68-70 to a previously 1-9 MEAC Florida A&M team.

2020 didn't get any better for ISU as the home conference basketball season started with the women taking on Texas on a Monday night in January. The women's team started hot, and the band kept the crowd rolling early. But despite the best efforts of Ashley Joens (who else?) and Kristin Scott, a fourth quarter rally fell a bit short as the Clones fell 81-75.

What is it with the Big 12 and having the men play KU at home over break? Again, the Jayhawks came to Hilton Coliseum ranked (this time #3 in the nation) with the majority of the Varsity Band and Cyclone Alley at home. The band was rocking, and the Wednesday night crowd was pumped to start the game. The effort from the ISU squad was there, but the points were not. The contest unfortunately got out of hand and Steve Prohm's squad ultimately went down 79-53.

## What's New for the 2020-21 Season?

First new item is a re-positioning of the drums to the "Varsity Band" set. The current configuration (near the director) has been around for almost 25 years of alumni pep bands, and was a holdover for the pep band set of the mid 90s. In an effort to keep the percussion and the low brass on the same page (not to mention the same downbeat!) we'll move the drums back near the sousaphones for the 2020-21 season. While we'll all probably applaud the change to help with the cohesiveness of the band, it will also entail the rest of the band lending a hand (or two or three) to our drummers to help with lugging the equipment up and down the stairs before and after each gig! Thank you all in advance for helping with that!

Next "new" item will be new t-shirts. Rest assured that your 2011-era cardinal shirts are still OK. But our inventory has been depleted, and the vintage logo we've used is no longer acceptable. So a slight re-design featuring the I-State logo on the same style and color shirt will make them virtually indistinguishable from our current shirts.

While not new news, we will plan to schedule at least one pre-season practice session for this year. They have helped tremendously and we'll look to do it again ahead of the 2020-21 season.

A few thank yous are in order:

1. To Alan Spohnheimer and his ever-present cookies!
2. To our drummers for making the efforts to be available for every gig. You are on an island there, so we need more of you!
3. Really every single one of the people who attended any of the 2019-20 pep band gigs to fill up our ranks. We continue to get great feedback from the crowd and our efforts are very much appreciated by the athletic department. You all are the reason for those kind words.

To those who haven't had it back for pep band in a while:

We encourage everyone to pick just one game a year and try and make it back. Maybe make a weekend of it. Or make it a mini-vacation. Or maybe even a mini-band reunion. Call up some of your band buddies and pick a weekend game. Head out early Friday afternoon and meet up in Ames for some FAC-ing or check out campus. Play for the game and do dinner with the gang afterwards. Your favorite pizza place may still be there. Catch up one last time for Sunday brunch and vow to do it all again next year. Your band family misses you, come visit us.

GO CYCLONES!



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

This alumni spotlight is a transcription of *The Story of No Bobby Pins*, as told by Lorna Livingston at Homecoming 2019 upon being named an Honorary Member of Tau Beta Sigma.

[After World War II,] Edgar got rid of all the women, except the two bell players. And so...he had no men playing bells - well first of all, we don't play bell music in a major key, we play the Bb cornet music and we have to transpose it, lower a note and add two flats, we could do that with no problem. He couldn't find a man that could do that. He had to take all the men that could play keyboard, he auditioned, he advertised, he pleaded. It didn't do any good. So he called the two of us in, he was going to do us a *favor*. He was going to let us be in the marching band... At that time, our uniforms were all black, and we had a black, like a policeman's cap, so we had to turn in our all black uniforms. Well...what had happened was on our first home game, that fall of '46, we had a rehearsal Saturday morning, and after rehearsal, the microphone said "The Iowa State 1946 120-piece All-Male Marching Band."

Well, it just happened that the two bell players were on the East side facing the stadium and we were supposed to remove our caps when they entered. So we did that, and I said to Helen, "Let's skip the bobby pins this afternoon." We both had long dark hair, to our shoulders, at that time, it wasn't this color then. And so we did that. And of course, our hair fell down, right in front of everybody. Well that's when he had to do something to get rid of us. So we had to turn in our black uniforms. And he put us in white drum major uniforms with the tall hats and all, and the braid across. But we had to march in front of the block, between the block and the twirlers, and their white uniforms. So now, he had an all-male black marching band, and we had to march in front, so we weren't part of the band. So at our first reunion in 1980, I had my nametag on, and my graduation in '48. And the man who was, at that time, head of the music department asked me "What instrument did your husband play?" I said, "He played the radio." He said, "Well we didn't have women in the marching band in '48." I said, "You had two of us." And I told him that story, that Edgar didn't want women in the marching band, so he put us in these white uniforms...And he said, "I always wondered why when we had to buy new uniforms for the marching band, the bell players had to be in at least white drum pants." So that's the story of no bobby pins.



*Do you have a story from your time in band you wish to share? Did your experience in band help you get a job or meet someone famous? Have you done something noteworthy to promote (the) band? Send in your stories to [allisonlenselink@gmail.com](mailto:allisonlenselink@gmail.com) for a chance to be featured in the next Alumni Spotlight!*

# *Alumni-Varsity Matchmaker*

*In times like these, it's more important than ever to have a large web of support on which we can lean. Having been in the Iowa State Marching Band gives us the opportunity to have a large, nationwide community that we can draw upon when needed. If we can perform Freebird as a 700-person ensemble, we can do pretty much anything.*

*This matchmaker is intended to match members of the Alumni Band with members of the Varsity Band. As alumni and "real adults," we have experiences to share, advice to give, and stories to tell. There are things we wish we had known as a sophomore in college and things they don't teach you in Physics 221 (the Venn Diagram of which includes things both physics-related and not). Furthermore, fostering relationships with Varsity members will give us new perspectives, and bring new voices into the Alumni band as they graduate.*

*The link to the survey can be found below. It takes less than 10 minutes and is totally voluntary. Varsity band members will fill out a similar survey, and matches will be made! Finish the survey by Memorial Day (May 25) and we'll have the match to you by the first day of summer (June 20)!*

<https://forms.gle/zVnsmDL8qxDABqNLA>

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## 2019-2020 ISU Alumni Band Board Members



 ISUCF'V'MB Alumni Band