

TAU BETA SIGMA GAMMA OMEGA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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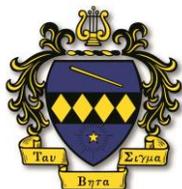
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

By Bethany Koch, Chapter President

Hi Alumni!

I am honored to be President of Gamma Omega this year! This year is a “New” year for us, from switching to a new athletic conference to gaining a new Director of Bands and Assistant Band Director. Our football team and our Pitt Band have embraced the transition from the Big East to the ACC, with two wins so far 😊 Maybe the band will not have to travel to Alabama again?!

Of course, everyone was sad to see our beloved Jack R. Anderson retire at the end of last year, but our new band directors have proven to be great additions to the Pitt Band. A native of Somerset, Pennsylvania, Dr. Brad Townsend graduated from Penn State University and was the Director of Bands at Oregon State for 11 years before coming to Pitt. Dr. Townsend has already improved Pitt Band by challenging us both musically and with our field shows. Mr. Matt Alosi, who received his B.S. at West Chester University and his Master’s at Penn State, served as Director of Bands at Gettysburg High School prior to joining the Pitt Band ranks.

At band camp, we had a great time getting to know our new members and directors. By the time we left Bradford, it was obvious that the Pitt Band was off to a great season! Although we were not able to perform our traditional pregame show for our first game against Florida State, our halftime show was phenomenal; it consisted of “Happy Days” and “1812 Overture,” complete with fireworks. Fortunately, we were able to perform both our pregame and halftime shows for the game against New Mexico! We sent a small pep band to Duke and will be sending one to Navy. The entire Pitt Band is looking forward to traveling to Virginia Tech in October!

MOTS and Hail to Pitt!

Bethany Koch

WELCOME TO THE ACC: STARTING OFF THE NEW YEAR!

By Maria Munsch, Vice President of Service

Greetings, Gamma Omega Alumni!

As the first few leaves start to turn color in Oakland, our TBS sisters are already reflecting upon two months of band-related fun. In mid-August, we returned home from a productive band camp to find that our new band uniforms had finally been delivered! For nearly two weeks we snapped, ironed, and sorted until all 270 of our Pitt Band musicians received new attire for our Labor Day debut. Collectively, our sisters logged 90 hours during this endeavor...more service than we typically complete until mid-October! To observers, our uniforms may appear identical to those worn previously, but band members can discern the brighter hues, stiffer fabric, and brighter embellishments.



The mellophone section sporting new uniforms and saluting the crowd after our halftime performance at the Pitt v. FSU game.

Although our new apparel is quite impressive, it is only the sidekick to the main attraction, our pregame and halftime shows! As always, our band delights in run cadencing onto the football field, high marching to our splendid school songs, and cheering our football team on to victory as they take the field. In addition, we've performed three halftime shows so far this fall: a "Welcome to the ACC" show, our Stevie Wonder spectacular, and a Homecoming presentation.

On Labor Day, we wowed the crowd with a musical medley entitled "Happy Days" and a great rendition of "1812 Overture", complete with fireworks! Our salute to Stevie Wonder included a medley of

"Signed, Sealed, Delivered" and "Sir Duke", "Uptight", and "I Wish". For the final number, we even performed a choreographed dance, which certainly provided our fill of booty shaking. If you'd like to see our encore Stevie Wonder performances, stop by the Baldwin band festival on October 5th or the Pitt at Virginia Tech football game on October 12th.



The Pitt Band and the Alumni Band perform school songs together in honor of Pitt's Homecoming celebration.

Most recently, we celebrated Pitt's homecoming by evoking thoughts of nostalgia with Fall Out Boy's "Thanks for the Memories". Then, we welcomed our Alumni Band onto the field as we serenaded the newly crowned Homecoming King and Queen with school songs. To cap off the show, we welcomed our beloved Jack Anderson to the ladder as we played our Alma Mater and left the field to the Panther Song. Homecoming is always a special time of year, allowing undergraduates and alumni to collaborate in celebration of our fine University of Pittsburgh. If we had the opportunity to march alongside you or perform for you this past weekend, thank you for joining us in Pittsburgh! And if you didn't make it into town for the Homecoming celebrations, rest assured that no one breaks the ranks, we sound the note, take up the cry with pride, and our Victory Lights shine as bright as ever.

Sincerely,

Maria Munsch, Vice President of Service

INTERVIEW WITH DR. BRAD TOWNSEND: OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF BANDS!

By Steven Guenther, Treasurer

Just who is our new band director? Dr. Brad Townsend has just come to the University of Pittsburgh after eleven years as the Director of Bands at Oregon State University. He runs our rehearsals and directs our performances, but we wanted to know more. Steven sat down with Dr. Townsend, called "Doc" by his students" to learn more.

Steven: What have you most enjoyed about leading the Pitt Band?

Dr. Townsend: I have really enjoyed the tradition of the band. It is clear how much everyone cares about the band and how hard everyone works to make the band the best it can be.

Steven: What is an interesting fact that most people wouldn't know about you?

Dr. Townsend: I love participating in musical theater. Recent roles I have performed include Max Bialystock in *The Producers*, Dr. Frank-N-Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Professor Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, and Charlie Brown in *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*.

Steven: If you could meet anyone in the world dead or alive who would it be and what would say to them?

Dr. Townsend: I would like to meet Nathan Lane. He is my favorite Broadway performer and I have really enjoyed everything I have seen him in. I would ask him to teach me to act as well as he does.

Steven: If you were stranded on a desert island, what three items would you take with you?

Dr. Townsend: I would take my iPad, sunblock, and my dog with me.

Steven: Where is your favorite place you have ever been?

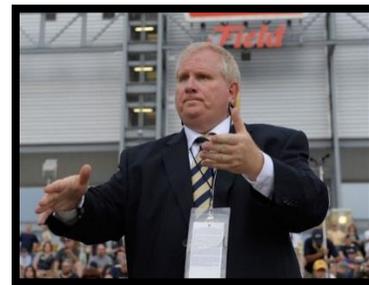
Dr. Townsend: I love Las Vegas, and I go there every chance I get.

Steven: What is your favorite think about living in Pittsburgh?

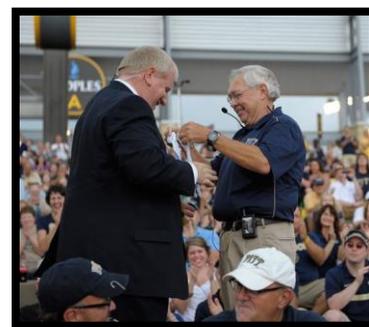
Dr. Townsend: I love how much there is to do. I like that I can easily get to a ballgame, or a symphony performance.



Dr. Townsend directing the band on his first day of Band Camp at Pitt Bradford



"Doc" leads the Pitt Band in performing the traditional Pre-Game concert outside of Heinz Field



Director Emeritus Jack R. Anderson passes on his white gloves to Dr. Townsend at the pre-game concert before the Pitt v. FSU game to symbolize the transition to a new era in the Pitt Band.

DOC'S FAVORITES!

Favorite movie?

Dogma

Favorite album?

The Book of Mormon

Favorite TV show?

The Newsroom

Favorite food?

Pizza

Favorite sport and pro team?

Football and the Steelers

MATT ALOSI: GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

By Danielle Burns, Treasurer

We all know that this year has heralded a huge change for Pitt Band. Current members, alumni, friends, family, and the Pitt community have watched the baton change hands from our beloved Jack Anderson to Brad Townsend, wondering what kind of exciting changes he might bring to our organization. However, in the midst of this tremendous transition, it may be easy to forget about other changes to the staff, namely the addition of Matthew Alosi, who has quietly filled the role of Assistant Director of Bands.



Matt Alosi standing on Heinz Field, ready for his first performance with the Pitt Band at the Pitt v. FSU game

Matt, or "Deuce", as he is affectionately called, is a Pennsylvania native, hailing from the small town of Shippensburg. He knew from a young age that he wanted to be a band director when he grew up, although perhaps for a less than conventional reason. "In fourth grade, I wanted to go to an away football game. I wasn't allowed to ride in a university car because of insurance reasons. So, my father called Dr. Bennie S. Truax, who was the director of bands at the [Shippensburg] university to see if I could ride to the game with the band. Bennie agreed and I was off to Bloomsburg with the SU Band." He wanted to be a college director from that point on, and for the next Halloween, even dressed up as Bennie Truax himself.

In high school, Matt played the french horn and trumpet, and participated in band, chorus, and orchestra. He also performed in school musicals, and even snagged the part of Captain Hook in Peter Pan in his junior year. His involvement in music only intensified as he entered college, where he joined the marching band, concert bands, and choirs. After completing his bachelor's degree at West Chester University, he went on to teach music at Ridley Park Middle School for a time, following that up by working for Educational Programs Network, a company that sponsors concerts and festivals across the country. However, his heart ultimately lay in education; he went on to become the band director at Gettysburg High School, where he was offered many unique directing opportunities. "One of my favorite events each year was the Cermonial Brass performance at the Reenactment of The Gettysburg Address. We performed for dignitaries including Edward Rendell, Thomas Ridge, Ken Burns, Tom Brokaw, Richard Dreyfuss, Sam Donaldson to mention a few."

In 2012, Matt completed his Master's degree at Penn State with the intention of pursuing his dream, which was to become involved with a band program at the NCAA Division 1 level. Being from the Eastern side of the state, it is no surprise that Matt was not very familiar with the band program here at Pitt until he saw the assistant director position open up. Since landing the job and getting to know the students for the past month and a half, Matt has been incredibly impressed by the "culture of service" that exists, thanks to the organizations of Pitt Band such as TBS and KKY. And we, the band and its organizations, have been impressed in turn by Matt "Deuce" Alosi, the new assistant director of bands for the 2013-2014 season.

Matt conducts the band during the halftime performance of the Stevie Wonder Show



FALL 2013 MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATES: THE BETA BETAS!

By Hailee Kulich, Vice President of Membership

On Sunday September 29th, the Gamma Omega Chapter hosted first degree and welcomed seven new MCs. Cali, Cory, Emma, Katie, Laura, Mary, and Taylor are part of the Beta Beta class. This class of seven is the largest class our chapter has seen in over two years. At first degree, the MCs learned who their Bigs are, what family they are in, and were (of course) given plenty of awesome gifts. They are beginning their eight-week MC process, in which they will learn about the Sorority, learn about our Chapter, and will eventually become Sisters themselves. Here's a bit more information about each of our MCs:



(Clockwise, starting at top center)

Katie Oeler: sophomore piccolo, engineering major,
Big Sister: Maria Munsch, Tiger Lily Family

Taylor Hellmann: sophomore color guard, biology major,
Big Sister: Jessica Reed, Moon Orchid Family

Laura Farr: sophomore trombone, neuroscience major,
Big Sister: Bethany Koch, Moon Orchid Family

Cory Zipprodt: sophomore bass, German major,
Big Sister: Molly Finn, Tiger Lily Family

Emma Hayes: sophomore color guard, pharmacy major, Big
Sister: Brandi Owens, Snapdragon Family

Cali Sietzinger: junior color guard, studio art and
psychology major, Big Sister: Danielle Burns, Snapdragon Family

Mary Tkach: sophomore bass, geology major,
Big Sister: Hailee Kulich, Venus Fly Trap Family

**Second Degree will be on Sunday 20 October, 2013 at 1 PM in
the Band Room in Trees Hall. All alumni are invited and
welcome to attend!**



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONORARY MEMBERS!

By Molly Finn, Recognition and Leadership Chair

In the September of 2013, the Gamma Omega chapter of Tau Beta Sigma extended honorary membership to three deserving individuals: Dr. Brad Townsend, Matt Alosi and Tina Foremsky. All three individuals have supported the work of the University of Pittsburgh Marching Band and the associated band service organizations, namely Tau Beta Sigma.

DOCTOR BRAD TOWNSEND, DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Dr. Brad Townsend, a graduate of Penn State and the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign and a native of Somerset, Pennsylvania, became the director of bands at the University of Pittsburgh in the summer of 2013. Prior to joining the ranks of the Pitt Band, Dr. Townsend directed numerous elite marching bands at various schools including Temple University, Ramapo High School, Murray State University, Iroquois High School and most recently, Oregon State University. While at Oregon State University, Dr. Townsend served as a western district governor for Kappa Kappa Psi. Upon his arrival at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Townsend took charge of the band, while remaining mindful of the band's long-held traditions and operations. In addition to allowing for a smooth transition upon his arrival, Dr. Townsend has upheld the caliber of musical and visual performances by the band through various exercises in focus, repetition and retention. The hard work and dedication to the Pitt Band and Kappa Kappa Psi exhibited by Dr. Townsend merits honorary status in Tau Beta Sigma.



MATT ALOSI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BANDS



Matt Alosi, a graduate of Penn State, became assistant director of bands at the University of Pittsburgh in the summer of 2013. Prior to joining the Pitt Band staff, Matt directed the Gettysburg High School Marching Band. Matt often functions as the "behind-the-scenes" staff member in the band. While he assists on the field with drill and music instruction, Matt also coordinates most trips and logistics for the band. Matt, along with Dr. Townsend, has expressed appreciation and support for the associated band service organizations including Tau Beta Sigma, Kappa Kappa Psi and Mu Kappa Upsilon. Matt's hard work for the Pitt Band hardly goes unnoticed and thus, Tau Beta Sigma gratefully extended an honorary status to Matt.

TINA EAVESFOREMSKY, OPERATIONS STAFF

Tina Eaves Foremsky joined the University of Pittsburgh Marching Band as a trumpet player in 1992 and has since dedicated her life to the band. Tina was a brother of Kappa Kappa Psi at Lockhaven University prior to transferring to the University of Pittsburgh in 1992. Upon her arrival in the Burgh, Tina helped with the re-founding of Kappa Kappa Psi at Pitt. Since graduation, Tina has helped further the success of the Pitt Band in numerous ways including loading/unloading the truck on game day, managing band members in the stands, and videotaping at the games. Tina's long-term commitment to the band, as well as to Tau Beta Sigma's brother organization Kappa Kappa Psi, surely warrants Tina honorary status in Tau Beta Sigma.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: CANDY VERNILLE

By Jessica Reed, Traditions and Ritual Chair

Candy Vernille is an outstanding member of our alumni and a very helpful hand to the Pitt Band. Marching for five years in the band (2005-2010) Candy grew into leadership roles such as Section Leader and "Flute Mom." Candy became a sister of Tau Beta Sigma in the spring of 2006. During her time in TBS Candy served as the Traditions and Ritual Chair, Historian Chair, and the Vice President of Membership. After graduating and retiring from marching with the Pitt Band Candy came back to help out with the staff. Currently she is in her third season of helping Jen Costello as part of the Pitt Band Video crew. Although, she really does enjoy filming the Pitt Band her goal is to return next year to help out with marching and drill instructions. She has an eye for details and the knowledge needed to instruct these things.



**Candy with her younger sister Sylvia
before the Pitt v. FSU game**

She also wants to be a person the band members can turn to when they need guidance. Candy says; "I've always had a passion for taking care of others. I care about these kids, and I know I plan on being here awhile." She hopes that by continuing helping out as part of the staff of Pitt Band she can encourage others to return as staff as well to help our wonderful organization.

GAMMA OMEGA GOES DIGITAL!

By Corry Casperson, Historian and Alumni Chair

Gamma Omega has embraced the digital age and we are actively becoming a paperless organization. All documents, such as minutes and order forms, are posted for Sisters as both documents on Wiggio and as GoogleDocs. Additionally, all alumni newsletters will be posted as PDF files and as GoogleDocs in our alumni Facebook group.

Want to interact with the Sisterhood? We have a chapter email, GammaOmegaTBS@gmail.com, but we are also very active on social media! Most of you are already on our alumni Facebook group, but do

not hesitate to add a fellow alumni if you notice they are not yet a member. Follow our Twitter and Instagram accounts: [@GammaOmegaTBS](https://twitter.com/GammaOmegaTBS) for updates, fun pictures, and Pitt Band news.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Interested in being profiled in the next alumni newsletter? Email Corry at clc201@pitt.edu!

INFORMATION

Have information that you would like passed along to the active Sisterhood? Email Corry at clc201@pitt.edu!