



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

• **Jan. 22, 2011**

**Basketball Gathering
UH vs UTEP
7PM
Hofheinz Pavilion**

• **Mar. 26, 2011**

**5K Fun Run/Walk
On Campus**

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ALUMNI BAND AID

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Why Do We Exist??

By: Matthew Cushing
Trumpet, 1992-1997

Why does the Spirit of Houston Band Alumni group exist? Good question. I'm sure there could be as many answers to that question as there are people who are alumni of this great organization.

So, why DO we exist? Why do so many people give freely

of their time, energy and resources? For me, it is for the "kids" that are in the Spirit of Houston now. I come to football games and other activities on campus to see these "kids" grow, get an education, and become tomorrow's leaders. I see it as my responsibility to help them become tomorrow's leaders, to help them to learn and to grow. To pass on what

I have learned. How do we do that? We play together, work together, build relationships with generations past and present, and give back to our university and to the "kids" whenever possible. If you have something to pass on, and all of us do, I hope you will join us and be part of building tomorrow's leaders today.

Reunion 2010—We Ate, We Saw & We Loved

The game against Mississippi State on Saturday October 9th may not have been memorable, but the pregame and halftime performances provided the Cougar Band Alumni with some great memories. We had a good representation from various years in band. This year we honored our past drum majors. Mark Stevens, drum major 1977-78 led the Spirit of Houston in playing "Feeling Stronger" during halftime. "El Cid", a favorite during the years Robert Mays led the band, was played during the pregame performance. Alumni

gathered at the Moores School of Music before joining the band at rehearsal on the practice field. A delicious barbecue lunch provided by Triggs was shared with current Spirit of Houston band members. After lunch, alumni ventured over to the tailgate pad for drinks and conversations before gametime. Thanks to the reunion committee, Cathy Coers Frank, Mike Story, Iris Story and Rhonda McKenzie Pitts for their hard work preparing for this year's reunion. If you missed it this year, make plans to attend next year.



Tailgating 2010



Mike Casella &
Mike Story Tailgating

Despite the odd schedule with two Friday games and the football season not being quite what we had hoped, the Band Alumni experienced a definite increase in tailgating participation this year.

Because of our prime location and welcoming atmosphere, our tailgates became the pre-game hub for both Band Alumni and the families of current Band members.

It was exciting; the week of a game, e-mail inquiries would begin, asking "what's on the menu" and "what

time do I need to be there?" Our menus varied from pub grub to hamburgers to gourmet barbecue, and we became known across the tailgating community as "the pad with the good beer." Our Shasta Colas were also a big hit. Attendees came ready to eat, drink, and cheer on the Band and Team as they entered the stadium. The Spirit of Houston always put on a good show for us.

We had a core group of regulars, in addition to many weekly surprise visitors. Each tailgate became

its own mini reunion party where stories of past and present were shared. All of our participants seemed to have a truly great time.

The Spirit of Houston Band Alumni wish to extend a special thanks to everyone who made our 2010 Tailgating season such a great success. We look forward to seeing you all again for the 2011 season, and if you have any suggestions about how to improve our tailgating events, please let us know.

10th Annual Concert & Silent Auction

Friday night October 29th, 2010 the Spirit of Houston rocked the Moores Opera House on the University of Houston Campus with another phenomenal show.

According to the MC, David Bertman, this is the 10th production of this outstanding event. From the comments made by audience members, everyone was impressed

with the talent and creative ability of the amazing kids in the University of Houston Spirit of Houston group – Band, Cheer, Dance and Guard. The University is attracting some top student talent who will no doubt be the stars of tomorrow in the professions they choose to pursue.

In attendance were many alumni and School of Music Staff including Dr. David A. White, Moores School of Music Director, and Lynn Lamkin, Moores School of Music Associate Director. Alums in attendance included Cathy Coers Frank, Mike and Iris Story, Randal Sitton, Roxanne Wiener Tiner, Rusty and Nancy Hess, Chris and Trish Mims, Trey and Jennifer Garrison, Gwin and Rhonda Pitts, Sandra Glenn, Carol Wells, Dwayne Davis, and just returned from California Tommy Stringer. The Story's brought a school

bus full of kids from their school district to see the Spirit of Houston Show and hopefully do some recruiting for future students. Way to go Mike and Iris!

A Wine and Cheese reception was held in the Green Room prior to the concert for all 100 Yards of Band supporters and a few other special guests. The Silent Auction spearheaded by Trish Mims and Roxanne Tiner netted the UH Band Alumni Scholarship Fund a little over \$3000. Bidding was aggressive on a few items and everyone involved had a great time trying to best their competitors to the limit that their pocket book would allow!

If you weren't able to join us this year, watch our website www.uhbands-alumni.com for details on the 2011 concert. It's truly a show you won't want to miss!



Living the Pride—Homecoming 2010

**Band Alumni win
“Best Alma
Mater Singing”
In the 2010
Homecoming
Tailgate
Challenge**



**Trey & Jennifer
Garrison**

Once again the Cougar Band Alumni participated in the 4th annual Homecoming Tailgate Challenge. Going with the Homecoming theme of Live the Pride, we transformed our tailgating pad into a “hall of honor” highlighting the accomplishments of many of our alums and displayed reasons why we are proud to be a cougar. Red, white and cougar paws were everywhere. Our chefs, Trey and Jennifer Garrison prepared a feast of baby back ribs, pulled pork, sausage, potato salad, slaw and baked beans. Jane Fitz and Nancy Hess prepared homemade desserts. The competition must have had a gourmet chef because it was

hard to compete with the excellent meal provided by our crew. When the judges arrived we serenaded them with a 4 part harmony version of the Alma Mater. We were excited to receive the Tailgate Challenge Award for best performance which awards us \$250 towards our scholarship fund. Our friends in the Fort Bend/Technology Alumni once again took the Grand Champion. This is our 4th year to receive a banner for winning one of the competition categories. In past years, we have received Most Spirited. This was the first year the Alma Mater was added to the competition. Thanks to our alums spanning many years of

band participation for joining us. We had several come out just to tailgate with us. If you have not had a chance to come out and participate in a homecoming game you need to come out and experience it for yourself. It is a very fun and festive atmosphere. Unfortunately the team fell short in their loss to Tulsa but a great time was had by all prior to the kickoff. Make plans to join us next year as we take on Ft. Bend/Technology for the grand prize of \$2500 in scholarship funds.



**Tent Decorations
by Nancy Hess**



Senior Recognition

Do you remember your last home game with Band? For some of us that last game was just a year ago, for others, many more than that. Saturday, November 12th was the last home game for forty dedicated members of the Spirit of Houston.

For years, the Spirit of Houston Alumni has wanted to do something to thank our seniors for their years in the band. Finally, we were able to do just

that. Hopefully, this will become a tradition that both the current Spirit of Houston and alumni will look forward to each year. After starting the year by hosting a BBQ to end summer band, the alumni prepared a special meal for our Spirit of Houston seniors to celebrate their final home game with the Spirit of Houston.

The forty seniors gathered together and were served a home-cooked meal by alumni

members. Each senior was also presented a boutonniere, made especially for our seniors by Spirit of Houston alumni board members, to wear on their uniforms.

We look forward to welcoming these wonderful seniors as our newest alumni. Thanks to all our alumni who made this day special for our seniors.



Chris Mims, Rhonda Pitts, and Iris Story Serving the Seniors

Spirit of Houston 2010 Seniors

Johnathan Alvarez—Trombone
Correan Barker—Flute
Katie Booth—Mellophone
Joy Brown—Clarinet
Sammy Butts—Trombone
David Carr—Trombone
Edwin Castillo—Trumpet
Chelcy Cotton—Flute
Sheila Dawson—Flute
Matthew Dittman—Flute
Scott Dupre—Drum Major
Richard Durham—Tuba
Carter Frederick—Trumpet

Joy Gargis—Saxophone
Margaret Guttman—Clarinet
Elizabeth Harrison—Color Guard
Gerald (Scott) Harvey—Trombone
Damon Haywood—Saxophone
Charlie Humphrey—Saxophone
Taylor Jett—Twirler
John St. Julain II—Trumpet
Cameron Kubos—Drum Major
Lindsey Langford—Flute
Elizabeth Lawson—Twirler
Molly McClung—Flute
German Morfin—Tuba

Thomas Neal—Trombone
Lee Redfearn III—Saxophone
Aaron Renzenbrink—Mellophone
Steven Rosario—Baritone
Jacob Rudisill—Trumpet
Joshua Saenz—Trumpet
Jonathan Salazar—Tuba
Amanda Sellers—Flute
LaTasha Smith—Clarinet
Devin Thornton—Tuba
Jordan Tuggle—Drum Line
Adrianna Vargas—Drum Major
Emily Whaley—Drum Line
Maurice Williams—Clarinet





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**THE BAND OF
YESTERDAY TODAY!**

The Spirit of Houston Alumni Group is an organization whose primary function is to raise scholarship funds for deserving students and to provide a fun outlet for all Spirit of Houston Alumni—Band, Dolls, Corp, Cheerleaders, etc to meet and fellowship at home games and other events.

STAY CURRENT AND CONNECTED:

uhbands-alumni@yahoo.com

FACEBOOK PAGE

- **Cougar Marching Band Alumni, University of Houston—The Facebook Page**

CHECK OUT THESE OTHER UH BAND

INTEREST GROUPS ON FACEBOOK

- **Univ of Houston Band Annex**
- **Stars of David**
- **The Bill Moffit Fan Club**
- **University of Houston Cougar Marching Band—The Robert Mayes Years**

See our website for all the latest info!
www.uhbands-alumni.com

Alumni Spotlight

This month's Alumni Spotlight is focused on Dr. Randal Sitton. Randal has been an active member of the UH Band Alumni Group since its inception. If you have someone you would like to see in our spotlight please email Patricia Mims at phantomdach@earthlink.net.

Dr. Randal W. Sitton is a Senior Management Analyst in the Office of Management and Budget at the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County TX. He has also worked as an Industrial Engineer with the United States Postal Service and taught Industrial Engineering classes at the University of Houston (Houston, TX) and Lamar University (Beaumont, TX). Dr. Sitton has earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Industrial Engineering and Chemical Engineering, and Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston. He is a Life Member in the University of Houston Alumni Association, a member of the UH Industrial Engineering Department Industrial Advisory Board, and a member on the boards of the UH Cougar Marching Band

Alumni Organization and the UH Moores School of Music Society. In addition, he was the 2008-2009 President of the UH Engineering Alumni Association and the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished UH Industrial Engineering Alumni Award.

Randall started playing the baritone horn (his father's from his college days) in 6th grade, and played Bill Moffit's Sound Power music at Sharpstown Junior High School and Sharpstown Senior High School, including marching Patterns of Motion shows during high school. When he got to UH, his parents bought him a new euphonium to play which he still has to this day.

Randal played in the UH Cougar Marching Band from 1978 to 1981, with three years under the direction of Dr. Bill Moffit. Some of his most memorable band-related moments include:

- Spending the night in Palmer Texas after the 1979 Cotton Bowl – affectionately known by those band members who where there as the “Ice Bowl”.
- Celebrating the 1980 Cotton Bowl win over Nebraska

- Visiting New York City during the 1980 Garden State Bowl (his first trip to the Big Apple)
- Getting to chauffeur Bill and Jeannette Moffit from their hotel to “100 Yards of Band” receptions when they were in town for reunions; according to Randal, “a true treat to get to spend personal time with one of the finest band directors ever and his wonderful wife.”



*Merry Christmas &
Happy Holidays*



*From the
Spirit of Houston
Alumni!*