



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **July 7, 2011**
Mixer
Meet the New Director
Black Lab Pub
- **Aug. 19, 2011**
Feed the Band
- **Sept 3, 2011**
UCLA vs UH
Robertson
- **Oct 22, 2011**
Homecoming
- **Oct 28, 2011**
UH Marching Band Concert
- **Nov. 19, 2011**
Reunion

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Tailgating 2011** 2
- Note from the President** 3
- July Mixer Info** 3
- Music Notes** 4
- 2011 Distinguished Alumni** 4
- Feed the Band & Basketball** 6
- Alumni Spotlight** 6

ALUMNI BAND AID

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

JULY 2011

New Director for Cougar Band

The Spirit of Houston Cougar Marching Band, Cheer and Dance is thrilled to announce the addition to the Moores School of Music of Troy Bennefield, A.B.D., Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of Bands. Mr. Bennefield received his B.S. in Music Education from the University of Alabama where he graduated *cum laude* and was selected as the Most Outstanding Music Education Student. In 2004, Mr. Bennefield received a Master's Degree in Percussion Performance from the University of Oklahoma.

He is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Instrumental Conducting at the University of Oklahoma. As a Doctoral Conducting Associate, Mr. Bennefield worked with all large ensembles, the chamber winds and assisted the music education faculty with teaching and evaluation.

Mr. Bennefield also arranged music and designed drill for the marching band and developed online public relations for the organization. From 2004 to 2009, Mr. Bennefield served as the Associate Director of Bands and Percussion Coordinator at

Alpharetta High School in suburban Atlanta. Under Mr. Bennefield's direction, the percussion program became an integral part of the fine arts curriculum with ensembles featured at the 2009 ASTA Convention and 2008 GMEA convention, and with students consistently earning spots in state and region honor bands. In 2007, he was honored as the Alpharetta High School Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Bennefield remains committed to developing the band profession through clinics at professional association conferences, publications in *The Instrumentalist* and *Georgia Music News*, and by serving as the GMEA District V Band Chair.

A drum corps veteran of the Spirit of Atlanta and the Glassmen, Mr. Bennefield taught for two summers with the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps. In 2005, Mr. Bennefield taught with Odyssey Percussion Theatre in their first year of WGI competition, finishing 6th in World Class Finals. Mr. Bennefield is a member of CBDNA, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Mu Alpha, Kappa Kappa Psi (honorary), Tau Beta Sigma (honorary) and the Percussive Arts Society.

"Troy brings a great deal of energy and enthusiasm and has a marvelous background in Music Education" says David Bertman, Director of Bands. "Coming from the University of Alabama and OU, his experience will be a marvelous asset as we continue to grow, develop and reconnect to the great history of the University of Houston and the Spirit of Houston". Bertman further states, "During the hiring process, one of Troy's outstanding qualities was his understanding of the importance of Alumni involvement. I know the UH Band Alumni will welcome him as warmly as they did me, as we begin a new era for the Spirit of Houston Cougar Marching Band, Cheer and Dance and the University of Houston Band Department."

Band Alumni will have a chance to get to know Mr. Bennefield on July 7th at the Meet and Greet. See Page 3 of this newsletter for details.



Tailgating 2011



**Trey & Jennifer
Garrison**
Tailgating in Style!

*By: Jennifer Garrison
Percussion/Twirlers 1990-93*

Your Spirit of Houston Alumni are gearing up for another exciting season of 2011 Football season tailgating! We tailgate at each home game. Mark your calendars for the following dates for some good times and good food: September 3rd (UCLA) and 24th (Georgia State); October 8th (East Carolina), 22nd (Marshall), and 27th (Rice); and November 19th (SMU).

You will be able to find us at our regular tailgating pad, located directly in front of the Scott Street main entrance to Robertson Stadium, between the stage and the President's area. Look for our banners. As most game times are not yet available, we typically begin approximately four hours prior to game time.

Our menu will vary from game to game, but be prepared at some point this year to eat something like barbecue ribs, pulled pork, burgers and squealers (these have

the bacon in the meat), hot dogs, gumbo, chicken, and many varieties of sides and sweets. We guarantee the food will be tasty. We also provide beverages of the soda, water, and adult variety.

All Spirit of Houston Alumni and their guests are welcome to our tailgating events, and all we ask is for your presence and an optional donation to defray costs. Come by, meet band members and alumni, watch the team and band enter the stadium, and have an all around great time!

2011 Football Schedule

- Sept 3—vs UCLA
- Sept 10—at North Texas
- Sept 17—at LA Tech
- Sept 24—vs Georgia St
- Sept 29—at UTEP
- Oct 8—vs East Carolina
- Oct 22—vs Marshall
- Oct 27—vs Rice
- Nov 5—at UAB
- Nov 10—at Tulane
- Nov 19—vs SMU
- Nov 25—at Tulsa

Tailgating Emphasis for 2011

*By: Trish Mims
Tenor Sax 1979-80*

Yep, summer just started and the specter of fall and all of it's hectic flurry seem like a mirage in the distant future with an unending run of fun summer nights, parties, vacations, long weekends, beaches, and sun tan lotion between us and school starting again. But we all know the next time we look up football season will be here and summer will be a distant memory.

It's impossible for some of us to make every exciting UH Cougar Football Game. So this year we are going to try something different with our Band Alumni Tailgating. We will have several "mini reunions"

with emphasis on different groups at different home games.

All Alums are welcome at all of our tailgates, and we will still host our regular all alumni Reunion on November 19th at the UH vs SMU game. But hopefully if you can make only one or two games this season you can try to make one of our emphasis tailgates if you were part of one of the selected groups for this season. Maybe you can fit in Reunion and Homecoming too? We'd love to see you. With Case Keenum back this year hopefully the season will really offer a lot to cheer about!

Look for more details on these games as the season gets closer.

Our emphasis groups for the 2011 Season are:

September 24, 2011 UH vs Georgia St 2000 Graduates

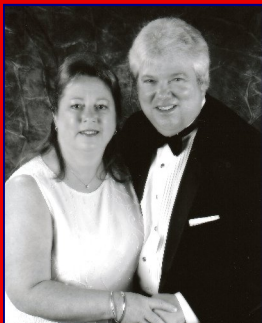
You've been out for 10 years—time to come back for a visit!

October 8, 2011 UH vs ECU Dolls, Cheer, Guard, Letters, Twirlers

any of our alums who didn't actually carry an instrument but you were still a vital part of the Spirit of Houston!

October 27, 2011 UH vs Rice KKY-TBS

You always were the heart and soul of the Spirit of Houston—come back for a visit!



Chris & Trish
Mims

A Note from the President

By: *Chris Mims*
Clarinet /Frumpet 1978-80

These are the most exciting days at the University of Houston since admission into the Southwest Conference and winning the Southwest Conference Championship three of the first four years we were members. It is almost impossible to pick up a paper or attend any activity without reading or hearing about the great things that are happening at our University. And with all of that good news, the best news of all is happening very quietly but is about to make a huge blast. To know more about these great happenings, you will want to attend the Happy Hour on Thursday,

July 7th at the Black Lab restaurant. (See article below). Let me give you a hint of one of the most exciting things happening. I recently had the opportunity to meet with Margo Wolanin, MBA. She is the new Senior Director of Development for University Advancement. She comes to us from Ohio State University with quite an impressive resume of accomplishment. She is bringing a brand new philosophy to the University of Houston that seeks to build lifetime sustainable support for the university in order to make it less vulnerable to budget limitations and bad economies. Her goal is to make as much of the university as self sufficient as possible. We are

privileged that one of her first areas of concerns is the Spirit of Houston. She has been working with David Bertman, Dean John Roberts, and some influential alumni to move us one step closer to making the Spirit of Houston not only self sufficient but also one of the most prestigious college band programs in the United States. If you would like to know about what is happening, come to the Happy Hour on July 7th or watch for more information about how you can participate in our Alumni Band Aid as Margo will become a regular contributor to our publication starting with the next issue. If you just cannot wait until then you may contact Margo at mjwolani@central.uh.edu.

Meet the Director Mixer

When:

Thursday,
July 7, 2011

Where:

Black Lab Restaurant
& Pub
4100 Montrose
Houston, TX 77006

Time:

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Come visit with your old and new band alumni friends. Meet the new Director of the Spirit of Houston, and some very special guests from the University and Alumni and maybe even a few special surprises.

Light snacks will be provided with a cash bar.

We can't wait to see you there!



Music Notes

Chris & Lindsey Allen
 Welcomed
 Brinley Lynne Allen
 April 13, 2011
 8 pounds, 4 ounces, 20 inches
 Welcomed with joy and love by
 Chris, Lindsey and
 big brother Landen

Ben Proko
 was united in marriage with
 Katie Sims
 June 9, 2011

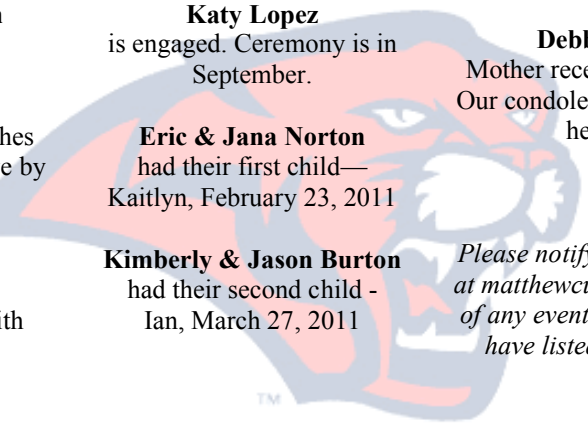
Katy Lopez
 is engaged. Ceremony is in
 September.

Eric & Jana Norton
 had their first child—
 Kaitlyn, February 23, 2011

Kimberly & Jason Burton
 had their second child -
 Ian, March 27, 2011

Debbie Alvarez
 Mother recently passed away.
 Our condolences to Debbie and
 her family.

*Please notify Matthew Cushing
 at matthewcushing@yahoo.com
 of any events you would like to
 have listed in this column.*



2011 Distinguished Alumni

*By: Chris Mims
 Clarinet Frumpet 1978-80*

On April 30, 2011, the University Houston Alumni Association gathered at the Omni Riverway Hotel to honor it's own. This year's honorees included our own Director of Bands, David Bertman. We all know the huge role that David plays in the Moores School Music as Director Bands and leading the Spirit of Houston. David received his bachelors degree from the University of Oklahoma and then received his Masters degree from the University of Houston in 1998 only to return two years later

to take the reins of the Spirit of Houston which now includes not only the Cougar Marching and Cougar Dolls, but also the Mascots and Cheerleaders. David has built an unprecedented relationship with not only the athletics department but every branch of the university and the alumni. Under David's leadership, the Spirit of Houston has exceeded it's past glory days in ways no one, including himself, could have imaged. You never know when or where you will see the Spirit of Houston. The Spirit of Houston's reputation is no longer limited to the football field on Saturday afternoons.

In addition to his duties as director of bands and the Spirit of Houston, David is also the conductor of the Moores School of Music Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting. In addition to the alumni association, David has been honored by the Delphian's Society, The Moores Society and in 2003, he received the Bill Yeoman Award in addition to numerous faculty awards.



This year's honorees included our own Director of Bands, David Bertman.

2nd Annual Feed the Band

By: *Chris Mims*
Clarinet /Frumpet 1978-80

Join us Friday night, August 19th in the court yard in front of the Moores School of Music. We are inviting all Band Alumni to join us as we serve the band an end of summer band celebration dinner and meet the band of today and alumni of tomorrow.

This was probably the highlight of the year for the alumni that participated last

year. Iris Lively Story said, “This is so much fun! I am sooooo glad I came out. They look so young!!!”

Yes indeed it is fun and yes indeed they do look young but so what some us look old now. (Not Iris though) Watch for the exact time to be announced in August. Last year we started feeding the band around 5:00 PM. I know this is early but it is a Friday, so if you can get off early and come out, I promise you a great time.



**2010
 Feed the Band**

Friends, Food and Basketball

By: *Nancy Derr Hess*
Cougar Doll 1976-1980

On Saturday January 22nd, the UH Band Alumni hosted an event at the UH vs UTEP basketball game. Thanks to UH Athletics Marketing for furnishing us with our suite. It was great to see so many of our alums from so many different eras of the band come out to enjoy an evening together.

Great munchies were provided and although the outcome of the game was not what we would have hoped, it

was fun to get a chance to visit with friends and for some to join in and play with the Cougar Brass.



**Iris Story &
 Jay Berman
 (The ORIGINAL Cougar
 Brass Drummer)**

If you were unable to join us this year we hope that you will be able to make it next year. Watch for the dates to be published in an upcoming edition of the Alumni Band-Aid.



**Gus, Claudia &
 Is Paredes**



**Chris Foster &
 John & Lisa McGill
 Verinder (Color Guard/
 Flute 1995-99) & son Ben**





Spirit of Houston Alumni

1603 Windloch
Richmond, Tx, 77406

Chris Mims, President
Phone: 281-344-9407

E-mail: chrismims1031@gmail.com

Nancy Derr Hess, Recording Secretary
Phone: (281) 395-1587

Email: hessn@yahoo.com

**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, Guard, 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 on Rusty and Nancy (Derr) Hess. They met in the fall of '77 when they were both pledging KKY and TBS, four years later they married and became another of many "Cougar band couples." Both Rusty and Nancy were members of the UH Band from 1976-1980. Rusty was a trumpet player and section leader and served as Vice President (pledge trainer) for KKY. Nancy was a member of the Cougar Dolls and served as Co-Captain her senior year. She was also Treasurer and Secretary of TBS. They both have very fond memories of the "road trips" to the Cotton Bowls, Garden State Bowls and other games. "Going on those trips together, with no entertainment except ourselves, really helped us to form very lasting bonds with one another. When we have our reunions it gives us some great memories and stories to reminisce about."

Today they are the proud parents of two more "Cougars". Ashley (Dec. '07) was a one year member of the Spirit of Houston Band and served four years as "Sasha", the female UH mascot. Dusten is currently studying at UH and is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and played on the UH Rugby team. Rusty and Nancy

both serve on the Spirit of Houston Alumni Board and have been very active with the planning of homecomings and reunions over the past few years. They also assist Trey and Jennifer Garrison with tailgating at the home games. You can see them most Saturdays in the fall cheering on the Cougars at home and some away games (Tulsa 2009 was the most exciting on- the-road win ever!).

Both Rusty and Nancy have pursued careers in education. Rusty has had a very successful career serving as director of bands for Liberty H.S., Channelview H.S., Galena Park H.S. and Springs Woods H.S. Currently he is the Director of Performing and Fine Arts in the Spring Branch Independent School District. In his spare time, he likes towait a minute...he HAS no spare time. But if he did, he would continue with his lifelong hobby of electronics. He enjoys being a home wine-maker and currently is experimenting with hydroponics gardening .

Nancy Derr Hess has taught in Liberty ISD, Galena Park ISD and is currently a teacher of Gifted and Talented students in Katy. She also stays active participating with the Gulf Coast Destination Imagination Program as well as Fund for

Teachers. Last year she was awarded the Plank Fellowship Award for the Houston area by the Fund For Teachers organization. In her spare time she likes to do scrapbooking and other craft projects.

Being on the Spirit of Houston Alumni Board has been very special for both of them. It has given them the opportunity to give back to an organization and a school that means so much to them both. It has also given them a chance to reconnect and make new acquaintances with people who share a common bond~ a love for UH and the band program. They hope that more people will reach out and reconnect with the organization by attending one of the reunions or tailgate with us at future games. Go Coogs and Go Band!

