



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- 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:

KKΨ & TBE	2
President's Note	3
2011 Scholarship Winners	3
Tailgating	4
Music Notes	4
2011 Concert	4
3rd Annual Feed the Band	5
Alumni Spotlight	6

ALUMNI BAND AID

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 11

SEPTEMBER 2011

The “Bennefield Years” Begin

*By: Chris Foster
Tubad & Horn 1996-02*

As you read in our last issue, a new era is beginning for the Cougar Marching Band. After eleven years under the tutelage of David Bertman, the entire Spirit of Houston family is welcoming Mr. Troy Bennefield who is the new Assistant Director of Band and Director of Athletic Bands. Mr. Bennefield has a strong history of working with powerful collegiate marching bands, having earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama and his Master’s Degree from the University of Oklahoma. He has recently moved to ABD status in pursuing his Doctorate of Musical Arts from OU. Mr. Bennefield and his wife Michelle met with the Spirit of Houston Alumni Association at our summer happy hour in July. Many there were impressed by his energy and drive toward moving the Cougar Marching Band forward into the future.

I was able to sit down for an interview with Mr. Bennefield in his new office in the Moores School of Music. We spoke about his vision for the marching band moving into his first football season. Having studied the recent history of the University of Houston and its forward strides in academics

and athletics, he is strongly aware of the need for the band’s national reputation to grow at the same level. He spoke of how, for decades, the Cougar Marching Band has had a tradition of excellence, both on the field and in the stands.



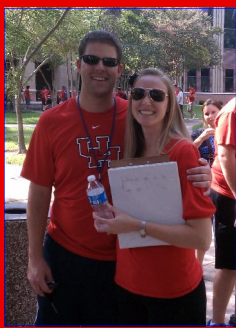
Troy Bennefield conducting the wind ensembles of the University of Oklahoma while completing his graduate degrees in instrumental conducting.

He plans to take that tradition and spin it into a national reputation for excellence, starting by using the marching band to improve the total fan experience at Robertson Stadium. Mr. Bennefield has plans to have the Spirit of Houston involved in many aspects of the pre-game festivities, including playing a concert to rev up fan energy

and lead them into the stadium so that more people are involved in watching the pre-game show. He also plans on involving the Spirit of Houston in giving back to the local community. The band already has commitments to work with Generation One, a Third Ward-based volunteer program.

We then spoke about his specific plans for the 2011 football season. He spoke of the band’s enrollment this year as being a primarily a ‘young’ group’. There are a lot of new members joining and he wants their first year to be the start of a growth for the marching band toward the “next level” as performers and as the university’s ambassadors. As someone who has lived in the heat of Alabama, Atlanta, and Oklahoma, he has been in communication with Dr. Craig Bales, the Spirit of Houston’s medical advisor, regarding protecting the students during this summer’s record heat and drought. He said that he is considering all options with the band’s summer rehearsal schedule. Also, this year, the band will be issued white Nike Dri-fit polo shirts to wear under their uniforms and a ball cap to wear in the stands to help keep them cool. *Cont’d Pg. 2*

The “Bennefield Years” cont’d...



**Troy & Michelle
Bennefield**

In fact, as a precaution, the decision has already been made that the band will perform the first home game on September 3rd (a 2:30 pm kickoff) wearing their white polo shirts instead of heavy uniforms. With regards to halftime, Mr. Bennefield says that the first home game will feature what he describes as “hot tunes” and that they are also planning to pay tribute this season to the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 2001.

For Cougar Brass, he wants to work with the Athletics department to

increase the group’s role in being the spirit leaders at basketball games and also begin working with the Cougar volleyball team. In all things, he said that his ultimate goal is to never lose sight of how marching band is a powerful social and educational experience for college students.

Personally, the Bennefields love living in Houston. They are foodies and love exploring Houston’s vibrant restaurant community. Mr. Bennefield has finished the classroom coursework of his doctorate from OU and

is moving into work on his dissertation. In the near future, we will be able call this new era the “Dr. Bennefield years”.

2011 Football Schedule

- Sept 3—vs UCLA
Emphasis: Band Directors
- Sept 10—at North Texas
- Sept 17—at LA Tech
- Sept 24—vs Georgia St
Emphasis: 2000 Grads
- Sept 29—at UTEP
- Oct 8—vs East Carolina
Emphasis: Dolls, Cheer, Guard, Letters, Twirlers
- Oct 22—vs Marshall
- Oct 27—vs Rice
Emphasis: KKΨ & TBΣ
- Nov 5—at UAB
- Nov 10—at Tulane
- Nov 19—vs SMU
- Nov 25—at Tulsa

KKΨ & TBΣ Set to Host Annual SWD Convention

*By: Chris Foster
Tubad & Horn 1996-02*

Over the past sixty years, the Cougar Marching Band has been served faithfully by the members of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. This spring, the UH chapters are hosting the annual Southwest District Convention for the fraternity and sorority. They were elected to this honor by the other chapters in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and New Mexico, defeating a rival bid put in by the chapters at Texas Tech. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the realigning of the states into geographically named districts and in addition to bringing over 1,200 student members to UH, it promises to be one of the best-

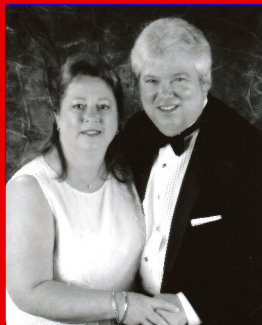
attended alumni gatherings for the fraternity & sorority in many years. The convention is scheduled to take place on campus April 20-22, 2012. The UH chapters are helping fund the convention by selling ads in the convention’s program. Any and all Spirit of Houston alumni and friends can inquire about purchasing an ad by contacting the convention’s coordinators: Rolando Cruz from Kappa Kappa Psi (ricruz2@uh.edu) and Dominique Estevez from Tau Beta Sigma (dmlecats@hotmail.com).

Per the national policies of the fraternity and sorority, all alumni wishing to attend the convention must be Life Members or members of the official alumni associations. For more information on how to

join, you can visit <http://www.tbsigma.org> or <http://www.kkpsi.org>



Ryan Albert (Trumpet '14) and Dominique Estevez (Trumpet '13) represent UH at the 2011 SWD Convention in Norman, Oklahoma.



Chris & Trish
Mims

You will notice a
new name this year.

&

We also have a
brand new
Facebook page

A Note from the President

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

The 2011 football season is just a few days away. Have you gotten your season tickets? It's not too late! Last season, five of the six home games were sell outs before game day so if you want to be at the most exciting place in Houston this fall, start planning now. The season kicks off on Saturday, Sept. 3rd at 2:30 PM against the UCLA Bruins. We have a score to settle with them and we need a wild and woolly packed house to make them wish they never heard of the Houston Cougars!

You'll notice a new name this year; we are no longer the Cougar Band Alumni Association. As of September 1, 2011, we will

be known as the Spirit of Houston Alumni Association. We have always been inclusive of all the spirit groups but the name was not inclusive. Now with the new name, we hope that all Spirit groups, Band, Cheer, Dance, Dolls, and Mascots will realize this is your alumni home. We also have a brand new Facebook page in keeping with the changes in our name and on Facebook; look for the "Spirit of Houston Alumni" page and become a fan. A big thank you goes out to Chris Foster for getting this up and running so fast.

A new year also brings new board officers. Your board officers for 2011-2012 are: President, Chris Mims; Vice President/ President Elect, Jennifer

Zuber-Garrison; Treasurer, Mike Story; and Secretary, Becky Young Marsh. If you have any ideas, questions, or just want to get more involved, feel free to contact any of the officers or board members. Their contact information can be found on the Spirit of Houston website: www.uhbands-alumni.com.

2011 Scholarship Winners

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

This year we received over two dozen applications for our scholarship awards, which honor past directors Robert Mayes and Bill Moffit. I wish we could give scholarships to everyone who applied. Our dream is to give a scholarship to every student

in the Spirit of Houston. I hope you have a desire to do the same and will help by sacrificing just a small amount each year toward this goal. If every person gave just \$100.00 a year, we would have over \$200,000 a year for scholarships!

To learn more about how you can help us accomplish

this goal, email chris-mims1031@gmail.com.

Congratulations to this year's recipients: Lithia Garcia; Andrea Sanchez; Joseph Cherwick; Scott Dupre; Katie Jenkins; Karen Young; and Sammy Butts.

Tailgating 2012 About to Kick Off!

*By: Jennifer Garrison
Percussion & Twirler 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 tents and banners. As most game times are subject to change, we typically begin approximately four hours prior to game time.

We plan on preparing Tex Mex for the UCLA game. Our menu varies 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 Spirit of Houston current members and alumni, watch the team and band enter the stadium, and have an all around great time!



Music Notes

Janet Chandler Jones (Cougar Dolls 1975-1979) is the National Champion for racewalking (1500M and 5K) for her age group in the

National Senior Games. Janet won two gold medals at the event held in Houston in June. Congratulations, Janet!
Casey Tucker (Tubad 1995-8)

married Christy Hough on June 24th, 2011 in Georgetown, Tx.

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

2011 Marching Band Concert

*By: Chris Mims
Clarinet Frumpet 1978-80*

On Friday, October 28th, in conjunction with the annual Marching Band Benefit Concert, we will hold our annual silent auction to raise scholarship money. We always

have Cougar memorabilia which will include such as items as autographed balls and posters. We are looking for other items for the silent auction as well. It does not matter how big or small every item provides money for students.

If you can donate something for this year's silent auction, please contact Trish Mims at phantomdach@earthlink.net. We need all items by October 15th. Thanks for your help and Go Coogs!!!

If you can donate something for this year's silent auction, please contact Trish Mims at phantomdach@earthlink.net.

3rd Annual Feed the Band

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

The setting? The beautiful garden in front of the Moores School Music. Weather? 104 degrees and sunny. The crew? Spirit of Houston alumni . The cast? The 350 members of the 2011 Spirit of Houston.

Despite the heat, the Spirit of Houston had been in long rehearsals, from early in the morning until well after dark, for the past week in preparation for the 2011 season. To show our appreciation, the Spirit of Houston alumni braved the heat and sun to prepare a bbq dinner of chicken, sausage and hot dogs for the nearly 350 members of the Spirit of Houston.

This is just one of the many projects the Spirit of Houston alumni does to support our spirit groups. Later in the year we will recognize our seniors with a dinner before their final home game and in the spring we host a dinner for 10 to 20 students to network with them and build relationships for the future. If you would like to be a part of these activities, contact Chris Mims at chrismims1031@gmail.com





Spirit of Houston Alumni

1603 Windloch

Richmond, Tx, 77406

Chris Mims, President

Phone: 281-344-9407

E-mail: chrismims1031@gmail.com

Nancy Derr Hess, Corresponding 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

- Spirit of Houston Alumni Association
- Spirit of Houston Alumni Association Executive Board

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

College sweethearts Matthew and Lisa Cushing met while marching in the (then) Cougar Marching Band during the “Mayes Era” and began dating during the Spring of ’95. They married on campus at the A.D. Bruce Chapel in January of 2000.

After playing the trumpet and marching in the Katy High School Tiger Band, it was an automatic choice for Matthew to begin marching at UH in the fall of ’92. He became a member of Kappa Kappa Psi in the Fall of ’94 and while serving in KKPsi, also held the positions of Alumni Secretary, Vice President, and Membership Chair – aka “Pledge Trainer”. He also enjoyed being a member of Cougar Brass.

While attending UH, he was also very active in his church and its active campus ministry at UH. He has a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies from UH and a MS in Instructional Technology from UHCL. He has held numerous jobs in Spring Branch Independent School District for the past 12 years including: classroom teacher, instructional technology specialist, math interventionist, campus technology representative, and school improvement specialist for math and science. In October of 2010, he left Spring Branch to work for

Region 10 Education Service Center with the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN). Matthew’s job is to now oversee contracted course reviewers and the Course Review process for the TxVSN.

Lisa began marching at UH in the fall of ’95, playing the piccolo for three years and later joined Cougar Brass for several seasons as well. Lisa graduated from UH with a BS in Technology, with a focus on Graphic Communications. After graduation she worked for a small graphic design company as the vendor relations specialist. During this time she helped several friends with their wedding flowers. As a result she began Petals by Design in 2003, a boutique floral company that specializes in fresh floral designs for weddings and special events. In 2009, she left the graphic design company to focus on running the business full time. While most of the business is focused on helping brides with beautiful wedding flowers, in recent years she has been excited to work with the University of Houston (specifically the College of Technology and C.N. Hilton School of Hotel & Restaurant Management), providing flowers for multiple special events.

Both Matthew and Lisa stay busy with floral deliveries and installations most weekends, and try attend as many UH and Spirit of Houston functions as the business’ schedule will allow. Go Coogs!

