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# The Frog Horn

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## Reflections on Homecoming 2004- “The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the TCU Bands”



By: Mark Sakovich, President TCU Ex-Bandsmen Association

What can I say? The turnout for the events that took place on October 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2004 was incredible, awe-inspiring and truly amazing! To quote the late TCU Coach Jim Wacker, “It was Unbelieeeeeeevable!”

The Jazz Ensemble Concert on Friday at 12:00pm set the tone for the events that followed over the next two days. The Ensemble gave probably one of their finest jazz concerts. Curt Wilson was in rare form as well, both directing and entertaining the crowd. The students had a great time performing both jazz standards and cutting-edge music. A large number of Band Exes and other Alums attended. Then on to the Homecoming Parade Friday evening! Several Exes marched behind the Band for the entire parade route while Ex-Bandsmen dignitaries rode in convertibles following the Exes. From there it was on to the Gala! And what a Celebration it was! Estimates for attendance ranged from 250-350 people. **EASILY one of the largest gatherings of Ex-Bandsmen EVER!** While the audience reminisced over old times, the Jazz Ensemble gave another outstanding concert. From the memorabilia to the food and drink to the entertainment, this was one outstanding event! How could this EVER be topped? But it was...

Pre-game rehearsal Saturday afternoon at 2:00pm for the Alumni Band provided another pleasant surprise - **over 100 Ex-Bandsmen showed up for the Alumni Band!** The reception from 3-4:00pm following rehearsal proved to be the biggest surprise of the weekend with (are you ready for this?) **400-500 people attending!** This number included current Band members, Exes, parents, and others. Although there was no formal program for the reception, the Tau Beta Sigmas performed a couple of songs, much to the delight of the crowd. But the day wasn't over yet...

The Alumni Band and other Exes marched with the Band from the Student Center into the stadium. The Pre-game show was tremendous with **120+ members of the Alumni Band** performing together with the TCU Marching Band. Then the UH Band and TCU Band combined forces to perform the National Anthem, with “Prof” Jacobsen conducting! Can you imagine the sound from close to 500 Band members performing together? It brought tears to the eyes of many... At half time, Wendy Davis, Councilman for the City of Fort Worth presented a Proclamation to the Band announcing that Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004 was “The TCU Band’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Day”. The Marching Band performed a routine that had music and marching from various times in the 100-year history of the Band. And on top of all of this, the TCU football team defeated the University of Houston in a thrilling game!

On Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, the TCU Wind Symphony performed a concert in Ed Landreth Auditorium entitled, “Musical Milestones” Celebrating 100 years of the TCU Band. Sam Bogart (the voice of the TCU Band) gave a narrative throughout the concert and Director of Bands Bobby Francis conducted the Symphony along with guest conductors Dr. Jim “Prof” Jacobsen and Maestro John Giordano. Also in attendance was famed composer and former conductor of the UNT One O’Clock Lab Band, Leon Breeden (a TCU Alumnus and member of the TCU Band of Fame). Many people in the audience said that this one of the finest performance by the Wind Symphony. A great reception followed the concert in the lobby of the Walsh Center.

So how to sum all this up? Basically, it was one great time! If you made any or all of the events, I think you would have to agree. Of course an event like this doesn't just happen by itself. It took countless time and efforts of many people. Notably the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee (Chairman Andrew Rhodes, Bobby Francis, Prof Jacobsen, Brian Youngblood, Curt Wilson, Barbara Dunlap, Carolyn Ulrickson, John Stuckey, Ray Toler, Pat and Dave Huff and myself.) Also helping tremendously were Kathy Smith, Dr. Peter Sakovich, Rick Wilshire and Toni Parker. Special thanks must be given to the hundreds of Ex-Bandsmen that attended the events and made these events a huge success! Thank you all!

**Homecoming 2005:** Is there any way to top 2004? Come to Homecoming 2005 and find out! **TCU Ex-Bandsmen** members and their families are invited to a barbecue luncheon in the Walsh Center on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to celebrate the **101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the TCU Band!** The Alumni Band will meet on the field of Amon Carter Stadium at 2 p.m. for the pre-game rehearsal. Following rehearsal, members can meet at the Student Center at 5 p.m. and march into the stadium with the Horned Frog Marching Band. Cost of the luncheon is \$8 per person or \$20 per family (couple plus children). Please RSVP to Mark Sakovich at (817) 428-0837 or by e-mail at [LCCC18@aol.com](mailto:LCCC18@aol.com).

**Jim and Wyn Jacobsen Fund Update:** Success!!! We have reached and surpassed the \$100,000 level! Currently the Fund is at \$150,000! What does this mean for the TCU Band? The disbursement for 2005 was \$5,960.77 and was used to help pay for the production of the 100-Year DVD and CD. For more information on how you can help, please contact Adam Baggs, Assistant Dean for Advancement, College of Fine Arts TCU, P.O. Box 297044, Ft. Worth, TX 76129. Adam's phone number is 817-257-5332. You may also go to our web-site at: [www.exbandsmen.tcu.edu](http://www.exbandsmen.tcu.edu) for more information on the Jacobsen Fund and how it benefits the TCU Band. On to the next goal of \$250,000!!!

**What to wear to the events?** The attire for Saturday's Homecoming events is khaki pants or blue jeans with a purple or white shirt. How about wearing your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary t-shirt or polo shirt that day?

**Pre-Game Update:** We want you! The Alumni Band will be performing at the pre-game show. You do not need an instrument. You do not need to be able to play (but can if you want to). Join us on the field for the pre-game and help fill in one of the letters in "TCU"! Rehearsal for this event will be on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 2-3:00pm on the field at Amon Carter Stadium.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD/CD Orders & Souvenir Items:** The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD and CD will be on sale at the BBQ luncheon. The price for the DVD is \$25 and the price for the CD is \$20. You can get both for just \$40! What a steal! We will also have the Anniversary Lapel Pins for sale at \$10 each. These are really sharp!

**Band of Fame Inductee:** This year's inductee is Dr. Marion "Mo" Trout, Class of 1978. Dr. Trout is the Director of the Purdue University Jazz Studies Program. Dr. Trout directs the Purdue Jazz Band, the Jazz Lab Band, the Concert Jazz Band, and the Fall Concert Band. He also teaches a Jazz Theory Workshop and Jazz History. Mo received his master's degree from the University of North Texas in Music Education in 1982 and Doctor of Musical Arts degree (Trumpet Performance) from the University of North Texas in 1991. In addition to his responsibilities at Purdue, Mo is an active clinician, adjudicator, soloist, and guest conductor for jazz bands, concert bands and orchestras throughout the Midwest and Southwest. He has conducted All-State Jazz Bands in Oklahoma and Indiana. He is a member of the International Association of Jazz Education, the Indiana Music Educators Association, and the International Trumpet Guild.

Mo is married to Amy Brandfonbrener, a violinist who does freelance playing in Chicago and Indianapolis. They have three sons – Jonah (age 12), Asher (age 10) and Eli (age 5) and live in West Lafayette, Indiana.

**Speaking of Anniversaries:** The Beta Delta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the Spring of 2007. More details on this event will be sent to former members of the sorority shortly. Congratulations in advance!

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**A Note from Andrew Rhodes (Chairman of the 100-Year Anniversary Committee):** Words cannot express the fun I had working on the 100-Year Celebration Gala. When Mark called me during the spring to ask if I'd chair this group, I wasn't sure what to expect. The committee, Barbara Dunlap, Carolyn Ulrickson, John Stuckey, Ray Toler, Pat & Dave Huff, Mark Sakovich and the band staff, Bobby Francis, Prof Jacobsen, Brian Youngblood and Curt Wilson were OUTSTANDING. Each contributed in countless ways but some specific things stand out for me: the Huff's spending time in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram morgue finding pictures and working on the history; Carolyn and Barbara coordinating the food and decorations; John, our communications guru, reaching out to the Exes from the '20's, '30's, and '40's; Ray providing much needed insight as we began the process and planting seeds that germinated into the Gala; Mark keeping the publications rolling and timely; Bobby, Brian, and Curt helping with ideas and encouragement, not to mention a lot of 'behind-the-scenes' work with the TCU administration; and finally Prof - he was a constant presence, like the rolling tide, encouraging us along and challenging us to not think small but to shoot for the stars. Each person brought unique gifts and talents to bear for the greater good. THANK YOU ALL!!!!

Besides the committee members, many others helped including our collective spouses and of course, Sean Foushee. I believe all would agree that the DVD was worth the wait. Thank you Sean. Upon reflection, a lot of what I learned about leadership and teamwork came from my time with the TCU Band. Thank you for this opportunity. To those that helped, please know you have my heart-felt thanks.

GO FROGS!!!!

**Tickets?** As in years past, if you march in with the band and sit with the band, you will not need a ticket to the game. If you need a ticket to the game, we will have 100 upper deck seats available for \$10 each. The \$10 will get you a reserved upper-deck seat, a hot dog and a drink! What a deal!!

**Notes From Bobby Francis (Director of Bands at TCU):**

At the time of this writing, the TCU “Horned Frog” Marching Band has been on campus for 5 days and things are going great! We have 10-15 more members that last year which increases the size of the band to about 190. We keep working to break the 200 mark and then beyond. In the last 6 years, the band has grown from 112 to 190, so we can’t complain! The drumline is huge – 10 snares, 6 tenors, 5 bass drums, 6 cymbals, and 10 in the pit!

I want to thank Mark Sakovich, Andrew Rhodes and the entire 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for their time, creativity and overall brilliance in planning an amazingly successful celebration of the Band’s Centennial. All of the anniversary events were well attended and I hope everyone had a great time. Thanks also to Sean Fouchee for his exhaustive research and great talent writing, filming and editing on the 100-Year Anniversary DVD. Also thanks to Brian Youngblood, Associate Director of Bands for collecting the material for the 100 Year CD which features the “Horned Frog” Band performances from the last few decades. If you were not able to order your 100-Year memorabilia, go to the TCU Band Website for ordering information (<http://www.band.tcu.edu/>).

We want to welcome James McNair to the band faculty. James will be serving as Assistant Director of Bands/Coordinator of Instrumental Music Education. He has taught for many years in the Richardson, Lewisville, and Grapevine-Colleyville School Districts. He is an accomplished trombonist who has been a member of the “President’s Own” Marine Band in Washington, D.C. and currently performs in the Richardson and East Texas Symphonies. He will bring a tremendous amount of quality information to our students.

Great things are planned for the Marching Band, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band for this year. We invite you to visit the School of Music website for concert dates and times. We would love to see you at our concerts!

The TCU “Horned Frog” Marching Band will be travelling (all of them) to Norman on September 3<sup>rd</sup> for the TCU vs. OU football game. We won’t be able to make it an overnight trip, so we’ll be leaving at 3:30 a.m.!!! The Band’s exhibition show is entitled: “Adventures in Time” – Music by Stan Kenton. It is incredibly exciting music which features high-powered brass, exciting woodwinds, and phenomenal drumline. Matt Garrett, one of our band graduate students is teaching the Colorguard again this year and it is going to be the best guard ever! Come see us at home games, the OU game, SMU and at a couple of local exhibitions (see website for schedule).

Look for 2 new compact disk recordings of the TCU Wind Symphony in the near future. They will include music from recent performances at the College Band Directors National Conference, the 100 Year Celebration Concert and other recent performances. Keep your ears tuned to WRR for selections from our last CD, “Testament – Music for a Time of Trial”. The station has played our version of “Russian Christmas Music” – a performance from TMEA 2002 featuring the Wind Symphony and the TCU Choral Union several times during the last year.

We had the largest ever Ex-Bandsmen Association Band at Homecoming last year. Let’s see if we can grow even more this year! Mark your calendars and make plans to attend. You’ll have a great time. All the best from the TCU Band and we look forward to seeing you again soon in “Horned Frog Land”!

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### **Notes From Curt Wilson (Director of Jazz Studies at TCU):**

Last spring semester was a very significant time for the TCU Jazz Studies area. The M-W-F Band was the featured collegiate jazz ensemble at the 1<sup>st</sup> IAJE South/Central Regional Conference held at Baylor University. Our guest artist was saxophone great Tony Campise. Also last spring, Dr. Herb Wong of IAJE selected our latest CD “Dream On” as one of the TOP TEN COLLEGIATE CD’s of 2004! A great honor of which we are all proud! I am told that the CD will be receiving a “rave” review in the September issue of Jazz Times.

As I am beginning my 30<sup>th</sup> year at TCU, I look forward to another great year with some great students. Here are some dates to put on your TCU Jazz calendar. By the way, “Dream On” is available from the TCU Band office for \$20 (double CD with 25 tunes including Frog Lips, Kenton Kollage, Buddy Rich’s West Side Story, and also featuring Carl Saunders on trumpet and Drenda Barnett on vocals).

#### Schedule:

Sept. 30 (Friday) noon – Student Center – 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Weekend Concert  
Nov. 9 (Wednesday) 7:30pm – Pepsico Hall – Annual Combo Concert  
Nov. 18 (Friday) TBA – Annual TCU Band Weekend Concert  
Nov. 22 (Tuesday) noon – Student Center – Pre-Thanksgiving Concert w/Tu-Th Band  
Nov. 29 (Tuesday) 7:30pm - Ed Landreth – Annual Fall Concert

Next spring will be the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual TCU Jazz Festival (March 25) with guest artist Wayne Bergeron, one of the top lead trumpet players in Los Angeles.

I hope to see many ex-bandspeople at our concerts!

-Curt

### **President’s Comments:**

As I end my 7<sup>th</sup> year as your President, I have some observations and reflections on our Organization. When I was elected President in 1998, I saw an opportunity to make changes in the way our organization functioned and presented itself. We began with the establishment of the Jim and Wyn Jacobsen Fund to help benefit the Band financially and honor the Jacobsens for their many contributions to the Band. We needed to update our addresses and get our Frog Horn out more often to as many exes as possible. We changed our meeting time from a breakfast to a luncheon and made it a family event. We created a website of our own (but still linked to the TCU Band’s) in order to get information out to more exes. We inducted more exes into the Band of Fame. We assisted with the 100-Year Anniversary of the TCU Bands (which resulted in the largest gathering of TCU Band Exes ever).

What it all boils down to is involvement. Involvement by you, me – and everyone that was in the Band. It’s not just time I’m talking about, but money, networking and helping one of the greatest organizations I’ve ever been associated with. What I would like to ask is for you all to tell me what you want/need from the Ex-Bandsmen Association. What more can we do? What can we do differently to encourage more involvement? Let’s build on last year’s activities and plan on coming to the luncheon and playing in the Alumni Band! Please RSVP for the luncheon below. See you in October!

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