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# The Frog Horn

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**The Frog Horn is the official newsletter of the TCU Ex-Bandsmen Association**

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## HOMEcomings 2009 -October 31<sup>st</sup>

# PLEASE READ THIS!!!



We are having a **BREAKFAST** this year due to the early activities of the Band and for the football game. **Kickoff** is at 3:00pm this year, so... Here is what it means for us:

We will have a breakfast in the lobby of the Walsh Center from 0900-1100. Tickets are \$5.00 per person, and it is pay at the door. We will have plenty to eat so come hungry! The **Alumni Band** will need to be on the field for the **pre-game rehearsal** at **1100am**. (We said the activities were early this year!) Lunch is on your own! The march into the stadium will begin at 2:00pm and the **pre-game** should start around 2:30pm. **Kickoff** will be at 3:00pm. More information is posted below but make sure that you note the **EARLY** times! RSVP NOW!!!

Our football team has a pre-season ranking of **17<sup>th</sup>** in the Nation! Wow!! The TCU Marching Band is ranked **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the Nation (see Brian Youngblood's comments below)! Incredible!!! Let's get out and support these great programs!

**Homecoming 2009 is different this year!** TCU Ex-Bandsmen members and their families are invited to our breakfast in the lobby of the Walsh Center on Saturday, October 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Cost of the breakfast is \$5 per person. Please RSVP to Mark Sakovich at (817) 428-0837 or by email at [LCCC18@aol.com](mailto:LCCC18@aol.com). The **Alumni Band** will meet on the field of Amon Carter Stadium at 11:00a.m. for the pre-game rehearsal. You do not need an instrument. You do not need to be able to play (but can if you want to). Following rehearsal, members can meet at the University Recreation Center (the former Rickel Building) at 2:00 p.m. and march into the stadium with the **Horned Frog Marching Band**. The pre-game show will begin at 2:45 p.m. Let's get out there and make it LOUD!

**Tickets?** If you need a ticket to the game, we have arranged (with the ticket office) a special promotion for Ex-Bandsmen that will get you either a End Zone GA game ticket (for \$15.00) or a End Zone GA game ticket with food (for \$21.00) for the Homecoming game only. The game ticket with food will get you a game ticket, a drink and a hot dog. **Note:** This discount and offer is not available on the day of the game and **MUST** be purchased in advance.

### **You may order tickets in one of several ways:**

1. If you don't have access to the Internet, you may call the ticket office (817-257-3764) and tell them that you need tickets and that your promotional code is "EXBAND".
2. If you do have Internet service, then you may go to [www.GoFrogs.com](http://www.GoFrogs.com), click on Tickets, under the Tickets link, click on Buy Tickets, click on the link on left that says Promotions, enter the promo code "EXBAND" and buy your tickets. **This link will stay active until October 24 after this date please call the ticket office to order your tickets.**

**Band of Fame:** This year we are inducting Bill Morgan (1958) and Rene Ozuna (1987) into the **Band of Fame!** Bill is a retired educator/administrator from the Dallas Independent School District and one of the Charter Members of the Gamma Sigma Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at TCU. Rene is Director of Performing Arts at Ft. Worth Academy (and a great saxophonist).

**Jim and Wyn Jacobsen Fund Update:** Currently the Fund is at \$167,169! The disbursement for 2009 was \$8,358. 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. We are making great progress towards the next goal of \$250,000 even with the current economic times!!!

**What to wear to the Events?** The attire for Saturday's Homecoming events is purple and white as always! We will have the TCU Ex-Bandsmen Association t-shirts on sale at the luncheon in sizes ranging from Small to 3XL. At \$10 each these are really a good buy! We will also have a buy one get one free deal... If you buy one of the newer t-shirts, you can get one of the older versions for **FREE!** What a deal!!!

**Notes from Bobby Francis (Director of Bands at TCU):** 2008-2009 was a very active year for Bobby Francis. The year began as he served as the clinician/presenter for all the band directors in the Carrollton- Farmers Branch School District for their annual "in-service" training session. The invitation was extended by TCU Alum and Director of Fine Arts in the CFB district, Jim McDaniel. In addition to conducting many concerts in Ed Landreth Hall, he conducted the TCU Wind Symphony as part of the Bass Hall Gala. This was a terrific evening that featured performances by the Jazz Band, Wind Symphony, Orchestra and Choir. Bass Hall was sold out for this event. A few short weeks later, the Wind Symphony performed at the American Bandmasters Association Convention in College Station. When the group received the invitation a year before the event, Mr. Francis announced to the band that the good news was that they were invited to perform at this prestigious event for the first time in TCU's history...the bad news is that the event is in College Station! At the previous convention in 2008, he was a guest conductor for the Frost School of Music/University of Miami Wind Symphony in Miami, Florida.

In January, Mr. Francis conducted the Honor Band at the Annual Band Festival at the University of Missouri Kansas City – Conservatory of Music. In addition, he was presented a clinic for area band directors in attendance. Mr. Francis received invitations to conduct several honor bands in the state and elsewhere. In July, he traveled to Arkansas Tech in Russellville to conduct the top band camp band and to lead a directors conducting masterclass. On campus, he served on 3 search committees as well as serving on the University Advisory Committee (UAC). Finally, he has been invited to serve as Artistic Director of the Harmony International Music Festival in Sidney, Australia in 2011. He now lives in Colleyville with his wife Teresa and 2 girls Tamsyn – age 11 and Breelyn – age 3.

### **Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band and University Concert Band**

Imagine a week like this: 4 days, 4 concerts, 6 guest conductors, 4 guest composers a guest soloist and a concert for an audience of the best band directors in the world!...makes me tired just remembering it. (See photo below!)

The TCU Concert Band program had a very active year culminating in a performance at the American Bandmasters Association (ABA) convention in College Station. This is a very prestigious organization that has only accepted some 700 band directors in the country into its membership during the last 80 years or so. The annual event featured concerts by 3 college wind ensembles (Texas A&M - Host, University of Texas, Texas Christian University) 1 high school band (Austin Bowie High School) and one military band (United States Navy Band). This is the first time in the history of the TCU Band to be invited to perform at this important event. The week consisted of a short concert tour including performances at the White's Chapel United Methodist Church in Southlake, Trinity High School in Euless, Brenham High School in Brenham, and the ABA Convention in College Station. A tradition for ABA concerts is to have a series of guest conductors for the ABA concert. We were privileged to have some of the finest conductors in the country perform with the TCU Wind Symphony including: John Whitwell (Director Emeritus, Michigan State), Ray Lichtenwalter (Director Emeritus, UTA), Jay Gephart (Director of Bands, Purdue University), Mark Fonder (Professor of Music Education, Ithaca College), Gary Green (Director of Bands, University of Miami), and Eric Rombach-Kendall (Director of Bands, University of New Mexico). We also featured our new professor of Saxophone Joe Eckert on the concert. The members of the Wind Symphony also had a few days of getting to work with some very prominent composers while on this tour including Frank Ticheli, John Mackey, Christopher Tucker and our very own Curt Wilson. We were proud to feature a new setting of one of Mr. Wilson's compositions entitled "A New Homeland (from Ukrainian Dances For Symphonic Band)". It was a big hit with the crowd!

In addition to that incredible week, the 3 concert bands performed a total of 9 concerts throughout the year. With an unexpected resignation of the Assistant Band Director (3rd position) in August, we put our talented new Graduate Conducting Associates, Jeremy Strickland and Heath Baker to work conducting the University Concert Band during the spring semester – they did a great job. After a national search for a replacement for the Assistant position, we hired Jeremy Strickland to serve in that capacity starting in the fall. We look forward to many successful concerts this next year. We will be performing a new composition that we helped fund by TCU Graduate Alum, Arturo Rodriquez, and will feature as guest soloist, Jesus Castro-Balbi on Cello. The ensemble will travel to New York in early spring, 2011 to perform a concert in Carnegie Hall! Finally, we will welcome TCU's first student ever to be admitted in the new Doctorate of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) Program in Wind Conducting at TCU, a veteran Texas band director with over 20 years experience – Mike Davis.



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

The TCU Jazz Ensemble has, once again, been invited to be the featured college/university jazz ensemble at the 2010 Texas Music Educators Association convention in San Antonio. Our concert will be on Thursday afternoon or evening, Feb. 11. Our featured guest artist for that concert will be Los Angeles trombone artist Andy Martin. TCU Band alum and Los Angeles studio artist Morris Repass will be on campus November 9-11, presenting a masterclass on the professional music scene in Los Angeles plus low brass performance tips. He will also perform on the Jazz Combo concert on Tuesday evening, Nov. 10 with a low brass ensemble. Our regular fall jazz concert will be on Wednesday evening, Dec. 2. The annual TCU Jazz Festival (March 26-27) will feature TCU alum Mario Cruz!

**Notes from Brian Youngblood (Director of TCU Marching Band):**

Brian Youngblood, Director of the Horned Frog Marching Band, has had a very busy Fall, adjudicating, and consulting with over 20 high school marching bands. He has judged marching band contests throughout this season and served as "on site" clinician for many of the bands that he consulted with for drill design.

**Horned Frog Marching Band Ranked 2nd In The Nation!** The TCU Horned Frog Marching Band was selected as one of 5 College Marching Bands in the country by the College Band Directors National Association – ranking 2nd out of the 5 selected groups. The CBDNA has a biennial "call for videotapes" that is judged by a panel of college band directors. The top 5 groups are identified and these tapes are presented at the National Convention of the CBDNA.

The 2008 marching season began with a trip North to Oklahoma. The "Horned Frog" Band delivered exhibition performances at the Region V UIL Marching Band Contest on October 20th and Region 23 UIL Marching Band Contest on October 24th. The band was invited to perform at the UIL State Marching Band Contest November 3rd. The band also performed for over 200,000 people at the opening ceremonies of the at a major NASCAR race at the Texas Motor Speedway November 8th. The Band's performance of the National Anthem was broadcast on national television.

The TCU "Horned Frog" Marching Band will be presenting "ROCK STAR!" for their 2009 season. The production showcases rock music from Jimi Hendrix, Queen, and DemShop Boyz. The Show opens with "VooDoo Child" and ends with "Party Like A Rockstar"! An exciting year is planned for the fall with invitations to perform at many special events.

**Vice-President's Comments:** Is it that time of year already???!!! Is football season (marching season) really upon us? This is a very exciting time of year, with kids back to school and the expectations of a new school year. I see it in my kids and others at the office and the neighborhood. Even though it is still 100 degrees, Fall is in the air, and that means a new band, new friends, new music, and new drills. I look forward to each Fall because of the weather, cooler than now, and the FOOTBALL !!! What really is best is to watch the band and remember all the fun we used to have.

Reminisce with me.... Remember the first time you met Prof, or any of the directors since him? Remember how much bigger than life they seemed at the time as a freshman, and how they were your best friend by the senior year? I miss Prof and Mrs. "J". I remember the long bus trips to Arkansas, Lubbock, and Austin. We were smaller as a band than any of them, but we held our own on the field, just as the marvelous band of today does. We outshone them all! Some of you will remember when Prof exclaimed about the largest Press Box in the country, "from the 20 to the 20, eighty yards..." (80?) I remember the snow game against Texas, where we had to march on the yard lines to clear them so the Refs could see them. It was so cold that the trumpet players' lips froze to their mouthpieces.

I remember the Homecoming games, where we march as Alumni with the band and on the field as a part of the show. It is fun to be involved with the band. I remember it as the time of my life where I had the most fun and made the best friends...many for life, especially my KKY brothers.

This is why I am so proud to be a part of the Ex-Bandsmen Association for so many years. It is a connection with one of the best times of my life, and I hope you all feel the same way. Stay connected....stay involved....stay in touch....GO FROGS !!!!!

Peter Sakovich MD

**President's Final Comments:** On a personal note, it is another exciting year for me! My son (Adam) is now attending TCU and is in the TCU Marching Band. My youngest daughter (Helene) is starting Middle School and learning French Horn. My 21 year old twin daughters are working towards their degrees - Stephanie is working to get into law enforcement and taking classes at TCC and Meredith is in her last year at the United States Naval Academy and will graduate in May of 2010. Whew... Also, Peter didn't mention it but his son Alex is in his first year at the United States Air Force Academy.

Having a breakfast is not anything new for our organization, but it really is necessitated by how early all of the events are this year. I'm hoping that many of our Exes will be able to come and participate. We have two REALLY fine inductees for the Band of Fame. Bill Morgan and his family bleed purple and Rene Ozuna is one really great saxophonist. I have played some gigs with Rene and he is nothing short of incredible... Let's have a really great turnout to honor these fine Exes!

I'm also looking forward to the football games and the many concerts in the fall and spring. I hope to meet up with Morris Repass and see and hear my old friend Mario Cruz.

My info is below, so let me hear from you (and soon)!

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