Reunion

An exciting band update from this fall–WE HAD REUNION! Reunion went really well. Thank you so much to all of SBAB, management, and Laura Spielman (previous alumni relations) for all of the hard work you all put in to make this event happen. After having such a tough year preceding this reunion, it is so incredibly exciting that we were able to organize and put together a reunion this amazing.

Bandquet on Friday was a fun night of reuniting with old band friends, and it was great to have Art Barnes attending. We had around 200 alumni joining us during the game, and we had an amazing halftime show where the alumni and current students came together as one band. It was a great game for reunion, since we got to enjoy watching Stanford beat University of Oregon 49-7! Everything during the weekend went smoothly, and we sincerely thank all of you who attended for helping to make this reunion so much fun.
Our New Director
In other band news, we hired a new director, Russell Gavin. Since starting here, he has been instrumental in helping the band build stronger relationships with the administration and the athletics department. He has also traveled with us to USC, the Alamo Bowl, and Seattle and Las Vegas for the basketball Pac-12. Additionally, he has taught several classes, including a leadership class for staph, Red Vest during both winter and spring, and is currently teaching a charting class.

Russ has a very strong musical background, starting with an undergrad degree in music education from Auburn, followed by a master degree in music performance from Notre Dame, and finally getting a doctorate in music education and conducting from Florida State University. Before joining us, he worked at Baylor for 7 years as an associate professor, and has been a Drum Corps Director since 2012.

He heard about the position of director during our suspension. He saw friends on Facebook sharing the article about our suspension, in which it stated that we were looking for a new director. He knew how great Stanford was, and figured he might as well apply. He describes the cover letter he wrote as “blunt and candid,” which resonated well with the hiring committee, as he got a call quickly. He was sold on the job because he knows what bands are – groups that spend time together and have fun, and are overall a great human endeavor – and he saw that in LSJUMB.

Russ’s initial impression of the band was that we are boisterous and funny, combined with “attempts to be funny that miss.” We are a very unique group of people, but his ultimate takeaway is that we’re a college band, and that’s something he really enjoys. He said that one of the great things about being here right now is that everyone wants us to succeed. We are looking forward to what the future holds with Russ as our director.

Dollies!
(Left) Our 2017-2018 Dollies: Grace Dong (#1), Samantha Loui (#3), Sydney Maly (#5), Lauren Clark (#4), Audrey Elliott (#2)
(Right) Dollies at Reunion

It has been a wonderful year having this amazing group of women as our 2017-2018 dollies. I asked them each to reflect on their year as Dollies and pick a favorite memory. Here are their answers:

Grace: Grace said the game against UW is one she’ll always remember, because of the energy in the entire stadium. It was such a great game because of many things, including the great performances during the tailgates, the great weather, and the crowd. But most important of all was that Stanford was the underdog team that came out on top.
Audrey: Audrey found it hard to pick just one memory, but one that stands out is band run. There was so much energy, and despite being exhausted from all the running and dancing, the excitement from band and the freshmen kept her going. Afterwards, she and the other Dollies, as well as Anaxi (tree) and Julia (DM) all laid down on main quad and looked at the stars.

Sammy: Sammy’s favorite moment is from Dollie Splash, when band plays White Punks on Dope and chants “out with the old! in with the new!” while surrounding the old and new Dollies. She thought it was a magical moment, and she loved hearing that she would be “new” for one fantastic, unforgettable year.

Lauren: Lauren’s favorite moment is the end of band run this fall, when band and the Dollies were performing in main quad. The excitement of the freshmen, the “spunk” of the band, and the beautiful campus around her made her feel incredibly lucky. She really enjoyed seeing the product of a summer of hard work preparing for fall with her fellow Dollies, and she felt really proud of what they had accomplished.

Sydney: Sydney’s favorite memory is from performing at Gaieties during Big Game week. The entire week had been a lot of fun, but the final night of Gaieties stands out at the best moment. It made her really happy to be part of the band community that supports other campus communities like theater and athletics. And of course, the Big Game week traditions are also fun.

While we are sad to see their year as dollies come to a close, we are very excited to share that we have new dollies. We hosted Dollie Day on February 10, and it was a lot of fun. We are so very excited to introduce the 2018-2019 Dollies!!

Dollie # 1: Justine Kaneda is from Orange County, CA. She’s known that she wanted to be a Dollie ever since the first time she saw them perform and because of her love of the band’s energy, enthusiasm, and passion. She is really excited about the fact that her older sister is her grandma Dollie. Justine is most looking forward to Dollie Splash, followed by an amazing year with her fellow Dollies and band. She is excited about getting to share the joy and happiness that she gets from dance with other people.

Dollie # 2: Erica Olsen is from Las Vegas, NV. She was a competition dancer during high school, but wanted to try out a new context for dance during her time at Stanford. She thought being a Dollie would be a really fun and new way to perform. Erica is most looking forward to traveling with new friends and inspiring little kids.

Dollie # 3: Ellie Toler is from St. Louis, MO. She loves how well the band and Dollies embody the weird and wacky culture that we have here at Stanford, and she wanted to be a Dollie so she could play an active role in creating a fun environment here at Stanford. Ellie is most looking forward to getting to know the members of band and her fellow Dollies.

Dollie # 4: Sabrina Medler is from St. Louis, MO. She wanted to audition to be a Dollie since she saw them perform when visiting campus. She says that everything about their performance brings so much joy to everyone, and she knew it would be an unforgettable experience. She is most looking forward to Dollie Splash. She saw it last year and is really excited about how cool it is to see so many years of Dollies and feel like you’re a part of something bigger than yourself.

Dollie # 5: Sarah Ludington is from San Diego, CA. She wanted to audition to be a Dollie after her first football game. She wanted to get involved and combine her love for dance, performing, and the Stanford community. Sarah is most looking forward to her first football game as a Dollie and getting to have the time of her life with her fellow Dollies.
**Tree**

We also have a new tree! His name is Dahkota Kicking-Bear Brown, and he is incredibly proud to be the first Native-American student to be tree. We are so excited to have him and can’t wait to see the tree he makes. Here are Dahkota’s answers to your most pressing questions:

**Q:** When did you first think about becoming tree?
**A:** The first time I saw the Tree was Admit Weekend 2011 for my older brother. That was when I decided to declare my candidacy for Tree Week.

**Q:** Describe your tree week in 5 words.
**A:** Best choice I ever made.

**Q:** What are you most looking forward to about being tree?
**A:** The late, great Beastie Boys rapper, MCA, once said “I got nothin’ to prove. Pay attention my intention is to bust a move. I drink quarts and cans and bottles and sixes. Between the turntables, keep the vodka and the mixes.” That pretty much sums up my goals and aspirations as Tree.

As is the case with the dollies, we are also sad to see our outgoing tree leave. I asked Anaxi Mars to reflect on his year as tree and talk about his memories.

**Q:** What was the most meaningful part of your tree experience?
**A:** When I first saw the Tree at Admit Weekend, I told myself if there was only one thing I could do at Stanford, one ultimate goal, the one thing that would make me consider my time here a success, it’d be to be the Tree. Coming into my junior year, I basically hadn’t accomplished any of what I set out to do here. I was academically mediocre, I wasn’t the Tree and it sure didn’t look like I would ever be, and I wasn’t even in Band. I just had lost all confidence in myself. Becoming the Tree meant that I wasn’t down and out, that I had an organization and friends that believed in me, and that I could still fulfill my dreams. It was a journey to reclaim my self-confidence and to learn to serve as a rallying point for others. Oh, and should I mention that it’s just a shit ton of fun? Rocking out and dancing was just such a rush of joy, every single time, and I made sure to never take it for granted. All my worries would instantly melt away.

**Q:** If you had to pick just one moment, what is your favorite memory?
**A:** It’ll always be the rollout. I hate to make it sound like I peaked at the start; I loved every rally, every sports game, every single bit of being it. It’s just that moment that you first learn that you’ve got all of that ahead of you to begin with that’s the best. I remember reaching for the door handle and hearing those first notes of “Welcome to Paradise.” I didn’t need any time to process, I instantly just knew what it meant and what was happening. I’d been dreaming of that moment for years, and for the last few months every single night. I remember losing control of my face, feeling it melt as the muscles lost all tension. I turned out around for a quick second, looked at Calvin Studebaker (Tree ’13) and practically sobbed “CALVIN! YOU’RE FUCKING KIDDING!” out of a mixture of shock and pure happiness. It was the best moment of my life, and anytime I hear “Welcome to Paradise” I get transported back.
From the Stanford Band Alumni Board (SBAB)

WE WANT YOU - and your wallet!

We are on the verge of a new era for the Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band. With the advent of a full-time director who comes to us with experience in bands and music education, the LSJUMB plans to grow and improve its musicality while retaining its unique personality and student-run status. As one of the few student performance organizations which accepts all students who are eager to join, the LSJUMB is a welcome home for its members, a source of support for Stanford's athletic teams and fans, and an ambassador to the community. Being able to support the students in the Band and provide for the long-term success of the Band rests on the Band's endowments funds and the generosity of the alumni and friends of the LSJUMB.

With the anticipated growth of the band, funds are needed for increased instrument purchase, repair and replacement. While our new director, Russ Gavin will be providing lessons for some of our members, the Band might also need to hire additional consultants for some sections. The band would like to increase its travel budget to be able to support Stanford's teams and spread the joy and funk provided by the LSJUMB. Also, there have been some changes over the years in music arranging license fees, which is a cost that is new since "Back in the Day".

For the first time, the LSJUMB has a full-time director, who is not part of the Music Department. This is great in that the focus of the director is the LSJUMB, but the challenge is that salary is no longer shared with another University department, so it is now the full responsibility of the Band.

As all of us would like the LSJUMB to be able to operate smoothly until at least our grandchildren are members, it has come to our attention that the best way to guarantee the Band stays as an independent entity is to be generous alumni to help grow our endowments.

We ask that you designate any planned donations to the University to the Band - the Barnes Fund or KBAND (the University’s coding for the EMBO fund - or, if you prefer to the Dollie Fund or GTREE). Money donated for class reunions and designated to the Band still counts towards your class goals.

While our endowment funds are currently the best way to invest in the long term future of the LSJUMB, if you do not feel comfortable in giving a donation through the endowments, “gifts in kind” can be accepted by the LSJUMB. Instruments, funds for special projects and other gifts can be donated directly to the band. Speak to Russ Gavin, our LSJUMB Director, (email: rgavin@stanford.edu) to find out what types of in-kind gifts are most beneficial and can fit your budget!

~The Stanford Band Alumni Board

The Annual State of the Band Address

As all good institutions provide a “State of our Organization” at the beginning of the year, I wanted to provide an insight, especially for those of you who were unable to attend our reunion this past October, on how the Incomparable LSJUMB is doing as we enter 2018.

GREAT!

Yep, that pretty much sums it up.
While December 2016 and the suspension of the Band was the nadir, the students worked hard, and with the aid of Old Farts and University supporters, the LSJUMB was functioning again in the spring.

C.J. Jameson shepherded much of this as SBAB chairman, with Patrick Neschleba and Kit Rodgers active on the Band Director hiring committee and Bruce Heiman on Provost Etchmendy’s Band Supervisory Committee. The student staph, led by then-manager, Cassidy Forler and Ass. Ma’am Anna Calista Whittell, with lots of help from other active band members, helped the students to articulate the importance of the LSJUMB in their student experience and in the life of the University and to work with the committee to show the University administration that the LSJUMB’s members respect each other and have the procedures and ability to self-regulate.

The addition of a full-time director, Russ Gavin, who brings musical skills and respect for a student-run organization, has been a boon for the students. He has also been enjoying finding his way around Stanford and meeting administrators and Old Farts alike.

REUNION was a great time for all those who attended. A lot of work by students (Katie Hufker, Laura Spielman) and Old Fart Kathy Neal, made it a fun time to see Dr. Arthur P. Barnes, meet Russ Gavin, visit with friends, play and drink (hydration is important!).

As you will read in another part of this newsletter, now that the band is on stable footing, finances are SBAB’s next issue. Our student-run band relies heavily on the endowments that YOU, our generous alumni, have created. We will be working hard to increase those endowments over the next few years.

Your SBAB Board currently consists of:

Ann (Remley) Scheder-Bieschin ’85 Mellz Chair
Terrill Tanaka ’75 Clarpicz Secretary
Susan Boltinghouse ’82 Trumpz
Sam Boot ’70 Trumpz
Robby Beyers ’80, ’82, ‘89
Bill Connell ’76 Piccolo
C.J. Jameson (emeritus chair) ‘2010 Trumpz
Hal Mickelson ’71 Announcer
Eric Theis ‘2016 Trumpz
Brian Worth ‘2003 Trumpz
Frank Robertson ’65 Bonz (emeritus)

We are looking for new members, so please nominate yourself. We are in the 21st century, so we do have the ability for video meetings - you don’t have to live in the Bay Area to be a member! Please feel free to contact me at ann.scheder@me.com

~Ann Scheder-Bieschin
What Happened?” A Perspective on the Band Suspension and Re-Birth from a Member of the Band Oversight Committee
By Bruce Heiman

The Suspension. In late fall, 2016, the Vice Provost's office suspended the Band based on findings of multiple incidents of misconduct involving alleged sexual harassment, hazing, and violations of University alcohol policies by various Band members over the preceding 2-3 years. While specific details remain undisclosed owing to privacy issues, the allegations were serious. The suspension's length and scope clearly had the potential to force a re-boot of Band into something very different, and likely not student-run.

The Appeal. Fortunately, Band Management decided they would not simply cave in to what many saw as unwarranted, excessive punishment. Instead, they sought to change the University's mind by not only detailing the Band's considerable progress to date, but also crafting and implementing meaningful reforms. Management put in countless hours, and with input from SBAB and other concerned Band alums, submitted a powerful, persuasive appeal to the Provost's Office. Bolstered by a remarkable outpouring of support for the Band from band alums and the community at large, that appeal in large measure succeeded. Provost Etchemendy replaced the suspension with “Provisional Status” and at the same time created a Band Oversight Committee (“BOC”) to facilitate the Band's implementation of various reforms that would expediently allow for the band's return to independently-operating, fully student-run status.

The Band Oversight Committee: Process and Goals. This is where I come in. As an OF Manager and a member of the SBAB, I had written a letter to Provost Etchemendy and other University luminaries. Provost Etchemendy, among others, felt both my LSJUMB and professional perspective (as an academic trained in this stuff) could be uniquely beneficial to achieving the BOC's Desired goal: restoration of a Band owned and operated by students, under responsible student leadership trusted by University officials.

Both the BOC and Band Management worked to reach this goal as quickly as possible. Throughout the winter and spring of 2017, the Band sought and almost always received permission from the BOC to participate in various events and performances that otherwise would not have been allowed under its Provisional Status because of bans on activities related to Alcohol, Travel, and Performance. Band responded to these opportunities in an exemplary manner.

As for the longer-term process, the BOC met regularly with Band Management for several months, received updates on Band status, and, most significantly, collaborated with the student-led effort to create a set of Band "Governing Documents." In developing these materials, Band Management argued convincingly for preserving "crucial, identity-related" aspects of Band, while taking steps to eliminate destructive behavior that led to most...
of the Band's historical and present issues. The BOC asked for and received the creation or revision of documents in five areas: (1) Band Constitution; (2) BARC (Band Accountability Review Committee—rules governing internal Band disciplinary issues) - process refinement; (3) Band Management/Staph Selection Processes; (4) Band Management/Staph Duties; and (5) a document defining "What's a Band Event?" (to clarify alcohol policy issues). These documents are dense and lengthy (ask Management for copies if you want to read them). They are almost completely authored by students. Their essential impacts are (1) to distribute leadership responsibility more broadly among the DM, Asst. Mgr. and Mgr., (2) to allow for direct involvement of most rank and file Band members in all staph selection processes, and (3) to evolve the position of Section Leader in positive directions.

The Results. Following successful completion of this process, and "no incidents" during the Provisional Status period, the Performance and Travel bans were lifted at the end of Spring Quarter 2017. After preparing an Alcohol Reintroduction Plan this fall, alcohol was allowed at social Band events starting in the Winter of 2018.

I strongly believe that, despite this near-death experience, Band got a good deal. The Incomparables continue to exist with essential attributes and culture largely intact. The joy and energy of the music is better than ever. With Band student leadership dedicated to improvement in all facets of operations, a new full-time Music Director, and a large group of unabashedly vocal Band Alums, there is every reason to be confident that LSJUMB will continue to prosper and grow. RTFO.