



BAND TOGETHER

Summer 2021 | Volume 21

The Newsletter of Tulane Bands



Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano

Our virTUAL Mardi Gras video performance gave band members the opportunity to dress up with their own personal Carnival flair (*above*) for the filming session, portions of which were featured and viewed worldwide on NOLA.com's "Mardi Gras for All Y'all".

The past year has been one of great challenges and transitions. Now, at the start of our second century, the TUMB has evolved into "Tulane Bands" in recognition of the growth and expansion of the program that includes many ensembles and services for our communities. Read more on page 2.

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INTRODUCING: TULANE BANDS

Tulane University has a rich history of music ensembles. From its beginnings in 1920, the Tulane University Band has been a vibrant presence for the campus and community. The modern Tulane University Marching Band (TUMB) began in 2005 following a successful effort by the Soundwave Pep Band to re-establish an official marching band program, after a long hiatus that began when the Green Wave football team started playing in the Superdome in 1975.

The TUMB has been the flagship music ensemble at Tulane, performing for over 1 million people annually at Green Wave football games and in the biggest New Orleans Mardi Gras parades. Over the past 16 years the program has grown to become much more than a marching band. In addition to the TUMB, it also fields the Shockwave Dance Team, Green Wave Brass Band, Soundwave Pep Band, Color Guard, Concert Band, Green Wave Winds, and Percussion. The program also produces and hosts various events at Tulane and in the Greater New Orleans community through collaboration with groups such as Kappa Kappa Psi, District VI Band Directors Association, WorldStrides, and The Roots of Music.



To reflect our growth as an organization that produces many ensembles spanning a variety of performance mediums, the Tulane University Marching Band program is now “Tulane Bands.” The TUMB and all of our other ensembles will reside within Tulane Bands. This is more than a re-branding. This is a commitment to moving forward in a dramatically new social landscape. This is a promise to be a driving force for the performing arts on and off campus. We will continue to develop artistic skills as we embrace the cultural significance of the City of New Orleans. We will partner with our communities to share resources and work for equality in access to performing arts education.

SPRING '21 PERFORMANCES

With performances designed for virtual online viewing, the TUMB took advantage by producing a 20-minute video to share all of our favorite Mardi Gras repertoire. We were invited to submit segments to NOLA.com's "Mardi Gras for All Y'all" three-night television special, which was viewed by people in 105 countries and all 50 states, still available at <https://mardigrasforall.com/>. Will this become an annual tradition? Stay tuned.



In place of live events, and to provide continuity in teaching, learning and performance, Tulane Bands created feature videos to showcase the unique skills and artistry of every ensemble in the spring program: marching band, concert band, percussion (*middle right photo*), dance team and color guard. See videos of all of performances on Tulane Bands YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TulaneBand>

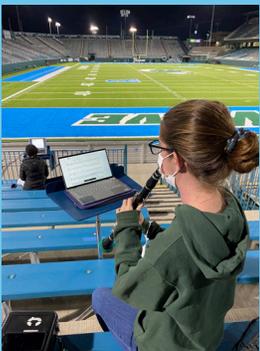


To close out the academic year, Tulane's Rho chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi presented its annual RHOcital on Weinmann Patio outside of Dixon Hall (*right photo*), to showcase the musicality, dedication and friendship that are hallmarks of this group of student leaders.



COVID19 PROTOCOLS

For the spring 2021 semester, the TUMB continued to use proven strategies and protocols to keep everyone safe from COVID19. Everything learned from the previous 10 months were applied for successful rehearsal and performance experiences. The Concert Band rehearsed and recorded in the Yulman Stadium bleachers. However, during freezing temperatures and many rainy days they adapted by moving under the Yulman bleachers or onto the 5th floor of Diboll Garage. Not ideal settings for music but good enough to keep the ensemble progressing toward its objectives to learn and perform music.



SENIOR REFLECTIONS: JACIE PUJOL



During drum major auditions, candidates often reflect that as freshmen, they were “worried about making friends”. This sentiment is almost always immediately followed with “but the first day of band camp I met so many people.” I remember being dropped off around the corner from the band office. As my family drove away and I approached the stairs of 1318, I grew terrified. But I walked upstairs, was handed a stack of pralines by Patricia, and then, from the second I started uniform fittings, I stopped worrying about making friends at Tulane.

As the next four years panned out, my time at Tulane was shaped by where I was from 5:30-7:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Instead of joining clubs and studying with people in my major, I focused on the people around me Monday and Wednesday. Looking back now, I feel more well-rounded

than many of my peers in the same department because I spent time with people from nearly every major at Tulane. The people around me inspired me to take Latin American studies classes, Jazz History, and appreciate Ecology. Beyond the interests of my peers in the TUMB, their pursuits and ambition in their own areas inspired me to work harder to achieve in my own.

“...the TUMB played a role in nearly everything I did over the last four years.”

During graduation weekend I was asked what my favorite college memory was. Nostalgically running back through the first memories popping back in my mind, not a single memory came to mind that didn't involve band. Whether it was spending time with people from band, a road trip to an away game, or an opportunity I earned because of my participation in band, the TUMB played a role in nearly everything I did over the last four years.

This year, as the rest of the world transformed, so did the TUMB experience. For me, what began

as a season full of joy in my new role soon became a season limited by COVID as band camp, halftime performances, and Mardi Gras parades were cancelled. The vision and expectations I had for my last year as a TUMB member were heart-wrenchingly different from what we experienced. As a fresh college graduate, I do not yet have the perspective to fully appreciate the good that will come out of this year, but I do feel proud of what we achieved together in this organization. There is pride in every small accomplishment once taken for granted: finding a spot for sectional rehearsal, communicating a stand short to the entire socially distanced band, rechoreographing dances in-spot, or having a spring awards ceremony that provided



much needed closure. The last four years in the TUMB have been life-changing and I wish all the best to everyone who has been a part of it.

SENIOR REFLECTIONS: ALEXIS HAMILTON



Like most of the members of the TUMB, I was in my high school's marching band. When I graduated high school, I was sure that I was going to put away my instrument forever. I arrived at Tulane as a freshman and was excited to have a clean slate and try new activities. I realized soon that making friends and finding my place was more challenging than I anticipated. I took a leave of absence that spring to spend time at home studying at my local university, and I decided to return to Tulane the following fall and join the TUMB as a sophomore. Like any newbie, I was terrified the night before band camp, worried I wouldn't make any friends and starting to question if I should back out. The following day, all of those worries were completely dispelled. I was immediately welcomed with open arms, met all of my closest friends, and finally felt comfort somewhere that had

felt so lonesome only a year before. Band became my escape from the stress of college life. As soon as I stepped into the stadium, I forgot about every essay, presentation, and Organic Chemistry exam that normally loomed over my head at every waking (and sometimes sleeping) moment. It provided me other goals, goals outside of academics, to put my energy towards, and it allowed me to work towards something greater than just myself. Not only that, I got to do it with some of the most supportive, creative, and kind people at Tulane, and I have no doubt that my time in college would have been much more difficult without them.

"I really can't imagine how different my experience at Tulane would have been without the TUMB"

Like Jacie, there aren't many memories I have from college that don't involve the TUMB in some way. Whether it be blistering band camp rehearsals, freezing Mardi Gras parades, or just getting dinner with my friends, I really can't imagine

how much different my experience at Tulane would have been without the TUMB. In fact, I'm not sure I would have been at Tulane at all. I really think I doubted how large of a role the TUMB would play for me, my life in college, and beyond.



Even after graduating, not a day goes by where I don't think about the friends and memories I made during my time there. In my three years with the TUMB, there was so much growth in the ensemble, but there was even more growth in the individuals around me. As I watch my friends and peers from the TUMB continue to grow and make their own mark on the world, I am so proud and grateful for the TUMB for bringing us together.



STUDENTS FIRST

Our efforts are always grounded in keeping the well-being and development of students first and foremost. Teaching artistry and techniques are the objectives of the band's academic courses, but helping students to find their passions and reach their personal goals is central to everything that we do. Providing opportunities for team building and leadership & life skills are avenues for mentorship that have positive life-long impacts. To celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students, a recognition and award ceremony was hosted in Devlin Fieldhouse. This event brought particular focus on our seniors, who were presented lengths of silver chain (featured on the TUMB uniforms) to wear over their robes during graduation ceremonies in mid-May. It was also the first time for them to officially wear their custom TUMB Alumni Hawaiian shirts. Among the hi-lights were the presentation of Spirit Award megaphones to Lydia Woolley and Jared Kessler (*above*), and the passing of the batons from the outgoing drum majors Jacie Pujol and Alexis Hamilton to next year's leaders Zach St. Pierre and Jesse Fletcher (*below left*). The Dr. Amanda Mahnke Award, given to a current junior in recognition of their mentorship of other band members, was presented to Heather Penton by last year's winner Becca Lubin (*below right*).



Many graduating seniors decorate their mortar boards and create festive second line umbrellas with Tulane colors and iconography, representing the connections and love that they have developed with New Orleans. Band senior Stephanie Hardee shared her creative design that also honored her connection with Tulane Bands, featuring her alto saxophone and TUMB icon.

ADVANCEMENT



In parallel with our VirTUAL Mardi Gras 2021 presentations, the TUMB hosted a WaveStarter fundraising campaign from February 2-16. The initial goal of \$20K was dramatically surpassed in the final days for a grand total to \$27,976!!! This is the most successful focused campaign in the TUMB's modern history, putting the organization in position to acquire new equipment for our students to excel on the field, in parades and in the concert hall. We are very grateful to our many donors - alumni, family, colleagues, students and friends - who generously contributed to the effort. Special thanks to our colleagues in the Office of Advancement for their guidance, support and teamwork!



The TUMB is so grateful to the people who helped make Tulane's 4th annual Give Green a success! On March 23rd, the TUMB was gifted a total of \$7,152 from 131 donors, almost double our previous highest participation. The generosity of these donors allowed the TUMB to place 2nd for the Big Green Grand prize, which triggered an extra \$2,000 bonus for a grand total of \$9,152 raised to support the TUMB and its programming! The TUMB wishes to thank all our supporters who helped us raise the funds by being engaged in our community. Roll Wave!

We greatly appreciate the steadfast support from all of our Friends of the Band. As Tulane Bands continues to grow in size and breadth, we are ever more reliant on gifts of all kinds and sizes in order to provide the best possible experience for our students, audiences and communities.

<http://tulanebands.org/donate>

COMMUNITY



The Tulane Bands' Social Action Committee was limited in its hands-on activities due to COVID19 protocols that also impacted community partners such as The Roots of Music. However, our students maintained momentum by collaborating with Strong City, a non-profit organization created by Tulane alumni to partner with community-based programs focusing on empowering underserved youth. Together, the two organizations provided a set of thirty drum practice pads and drum sticks for the Youth Empowerment Project in New Orleans so young students could continue band practice remotely from home. Thanks to Strong City Program Coordinator Celeste Levy and Director of Operations Henry Greenblatt for their leadership and partnership on this impactful project. Learn more at <https://www.myststrongcity.org/>

Youth Empowerment Project was founded in 2004 by three juvenile justice advocates to support formerly incarcerated young people as they transitioned back into their communities. It was the first program of its kind in the state of Louisiana. Their goal is to connect young people to the opportunities, relationships, and resources they need to achieve their potential. The strength of their work is grounded in their ability to build strong relationships with young people, their families, and the community. To learn more about YEP, go to <https://www.youthempowermentproject.org/>



Educating and challenging ourselves creates a path for greater understanding and empathy toward solving social issues. Toward this end, the Tulane Bands' Social Action Committee hosted an online event for all band members featuring Tulane's Director for the Center for Academic Equity, Dr. Paula Booke. The presentation introduced a road map to equity, diversity, and inclusion, discussion of current issues as related to arts and education, and time for Q & A. Big thanks to Dr. Booke for her leadership on these critically important topics, and for sharing her expertise and time so generously.

SPOTLIGHT

Gold, Silver, or Bronze? The Impact of Hosting the Olympics on Global Cities.

This conversation is moderated by Barry Spanier, Director of Bands in the Newcomb Department of Music, featuring in depth analysis of the impact of the Olympic Games on infrastructure, economy, politics and social fabric. Expert Tulane panelists include **Dean Iñaki Alday** of the Tulane School of Architecture, **Dr. Christina Kiel**, Professor of International Relations, and **Dr. Toby Miller**, Greenleaf Visiting Professor in the Stone Center for Latin American Studies. The webinar features a special interview with **Leah Stancil**, Head Coach of Tulane Swimming and Diving, who is also coach of the Barbados national swim team at the Tokyo Games. Special thanks to our colleagues in the Department of Advancement for producing and sharing this webinar at <https://youtu.be/wltiNQ2C1Kc>



Torch song: producing the opening ceremony

The only thing that may rival the inspiring athletes at the Olympics is the pageantry of the Olympic opening ceremony. What does it take to put on such a memorable spectacle broadcast live around the world? Tulane's own Director of



Bands Barry Spanier discusses his experience producing and directing music for two opening ceremonies and shares the magic and ingenuity required to produce the historic event. Much appreciation for the producers of On Good Authority, host Aryanna Gamble and editor Marianna Boyd. Listen to the podcast at: <https://tulane.edu/on-good-authority/episode-21-torch-song-producing-opening-ceremony>





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LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL 2021

Tulane Bands are excited to get **BACK TO TULANE**, bringing in-person energy and inspiration to move our communities **FORWARD FOR NEW ORLEANS!**

We begin our 2nd century by supporting the Green Wave at 7 home football games. TUMB will be extra busy with a road-trip to Orlando, FL vs. UCF on November 6.

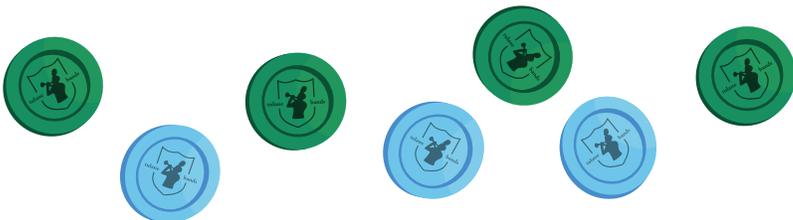
HOMECOMING: Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2021 on November 13th!

For our 101st year, let's get 101 band alumni to perform in the halftime show!



SUPPORT TULANE BANDS

We appreciate your support to aide our students in achieving their best. Please consider making a tax deductible donation by visiting tulanebands.org/support at any time!



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Visit us online at tulanebands.org

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