Ok, remember - we’re in the Big XII now... And at the time of this announcement we are 4-0 and just beat OU!!

**Ex-Bandsmen Association Homecoming Information**

TCU Ex-Bandsmen Association members and their families are invited to celebrate Homecoming 2014 in the lobby of the Mary D. and F. Howard Walsh Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, October 18th. Game time is 3:00pm and we will have a BBQ luncheon before the game from 11:30am-1:30pm. Alumni Band rehearsal will be at 11:00am on the field of Amon Carter Stadium. Following the luncheon, members can march into the stadium with the Horned Frog Marching Band. Meet at Frog Fountain at 2:00pm sharp! (Don’t you love the musical puns!)

Please make sure that you have tickets for the game! RSVP ASAP to Mark Sakovich at 817.428.0837 or LCCC18@aol.com.

- **Date:** Saturday, October 18th
- **Time:** 11:30am-1:30pm
- **Location:** Lobby of the Mary D. and F. Howard Walsh Center for Performing Arts
- **Cost:** $10.00 ea for BBQ lunch
- **Who's Invited:** TCU ex-bandsmen and their families

Did we mention that game time has been announced for 3:00pm?

**Seating at the Game:**

Although we can march into the game with the Band, we **cannot sit with the Band**. Therefore, we are encouraging **EVERYONE** that plans on going to the game to purchase a ticket.

**Photos:**

If you have photos of Homecoming 2013 or would like to take photos of our 2014 activities, please let Mark Sakovich or Kathy Smith (k.smith@tcu.edu) know so we can post them to our website!
TCU Band of Fame:

The Inductees for the Band of Fame this year are:

**Paul Dods (1981)**

Paul is a retired computer software programmer and was active with the Ex-Bandsmen Association (President for 2 years). He attended TCU on Band and academic scholarships and was in the TCU Symphony Orchestra and the TCU Marching and Symphonic Band. He is currently the Principal Clarinet with the Sherman, Texas Symphony Orchestra and has an active private teaching studio in Dallas where he has taught many All-State clarinetists over the years.

**Dr. Arthur “Skipper” Dolt (1989)**

Dr. "Skipper" Dolt has a dental practice in the Atlanta, Georgia area that is focused on cosmetic and implant dentistry. He was a member of the TCU Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, the TCU Marching Band and the TCU Jazz Ensemble. He attended dental school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio where he earned his doctorate in dental surgery in 1993 and has been in private dental practice for the past 18 years. He is also the lead trombone player in the Atlanta Swing Orchestra for the past 8 years.

**Jim and Wyn Jacobsen Fund Update:**

Currently the Fund is at $189,867. The disbursement for 2014 was $9,493. For more information on how you can help, please contact Chandler Smith, Assistant Dean for Advancement, College of Fine Arts TCU, P.O. Box 297044, Ft. Worth, TX 76129. Chandler’s phone number is 817-257-5039. You can also contact Adam Baggs in the Advancement office and 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!!!

**What to wear to the Events?**

Do we have to even say it? The attire for Saturday’s Homecoming events is purple and white as always! (We always get asked this...) Of course any TCU attire is acceptable! We have more of the TCU Ex-Bandsmen Association t-shirts! The shirts will be on sale at Homecoming for $15 each (sorry for the price increase, but at $10 each it is almost at cost).

**Window Stickers! A Blast from the Past!**

We have window stickers almost exactly like what the band had back in the late 60’s and early 70’s! These are on sale for $5.00 each. Here’s what they look like on my truck:
This past year was very exciting for the TCU band program at TCU. In addition to many "home" concerts by the TCU Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band, concerts by the TCU Jazz Ensembles and other groups were very successful.

The TCU Horned Frog Marching Band was proud to support TCU athletics during the football and basketball seasons. We look forward to providing continued support as we move ahead.

Congratulations to this year’s Band of Fame members Dr. Skip Dolt III and Paul Dods. This is a well-deserved honor for you.

This past year was a very challenging and exciting for all the bands at TCU. The TCU Wind Symphony performed for a “full house” at the TMEA Convention in San Antonio. This is a huge convention attended by over 22,000 music educators from across Texas. In addition, the TCU Symphonic Band was invited to perform at the annual CBDNA (College Band Directors National Association) Southwest Conference in Fayetteville Arkansas in March. The only “second band” invited, the group performed beautifully under the skilled leadership of Brian Youngblood and guest conductor Jeremy Strickland.

To help with future recruiting and to provide a “window” to TCU, the TCU Horned Frog Marching Band performed in exhibition at the Texas State UIL marching contest on November 5th at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio. The audience consisted of over 20,000 high school band students, their directors and parents.

The Horned Frog Marching Band was a real "hit"! Congratulations to Mr. Youngblood, Mr. Strickland, Dr. West and Mr. Hodge for a job well done!

This is a dynamic opportunity for the band to recruit from the best bands from across the state of Texas. Without recruiting, there is no TCU band.

Congratulations to Joe Eckert and the TCU Jazz Ensemble for their outstanding performance at the National Jazz Education Network conference in Dallas and the UNC-Greeley Jazz Festival in Colorado.

Our alumni continue to make us proud! Many have gone on to be successful music educators across the state and throughout the nation. We placed 14 new music educators into the public education system in Texas and sent a few more on to graduate school. Congratulations to Dr. Eric Simpson – TCU Instrumental Music Education – for his expert leadership in preparing students to become leaders in the music education field.

Don’t forget that CD’s and DVD’s are available through the TCU Band Office. We have the 100 year anniversary CD and DVD, Wind Symphony CD’s, Jazz CD’s, Percussion Ensemble Cd’s, School of Music Christmas CD’s and set of Marching Band performances selected by Prof Jacobson and compiled into a DVD collection!

Contact d.alenius@tcu.edu for more information.
Best wishes for a great year!

"Go Frogs"!!!

Bobby R. Francis  
Brian Youngblood  
Jeremy Strickland

Bobby R. Francis  
Professor of Music  
Director of Bands, Texas Christian University  
President Elect - Big 12 Band Directors Association  
Past President, College Band Directors National Association-Southwest Region

**Notes from Joe Eckert (Director of Jazz Studies at TCU):**

The 2013-14 School year was a busy one for the TCU Jazz Program. In addition to our “regular” fall concert schedule, “Jazz I” took on a unique collaboration with the Department of Language Studies during the TCU Language and Culture Festival. The ensemble presented a unique program, featuring a variety of jazz having its origins from around the globe. This gave the ensemble the opportunity to perform for a very diverse audience who might not otherwise attend a big band jazz concert.

The Jazz Ensemble (“Jazz I”) was selected by audition to perform at the National Jazz Education Network Conference, held in Dallas in January with guest artists Jim Snidero on saxophone and Tom “Bones” Malone on trombone. All in attendance heralded the ensemble’s performance as a success with one notable alumnus commenting, “That’s the best I’ve ever heard this band!” Our distinguished guest performers were “knocked out” at the band’s musicality and precision!

The 37th Annual TCU Jazz Festival attracted 30 outstanding middle school and high school ensembles from the region and showcased the talents of our very special “Green Chair” Scholar and guest artist, drummer/composer Peter Erskine. Mr. Erskine not only performed with the ensemble but also conducted a very informative clinic session with our students, sharing his pedagogical expertise and some very entertaining anecdotes from his storied career.

“Jazz II,” under the direction of Joey Carter, also performed at the Annual Jazz Festival and took on a unique collaboration with our “Purple and Blues” Jazz Vocal Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Amy Stewart. Their combined concert was the first of what will hopefully be much collaboration between the instrumental and vocal jazz areas at TCU in the years to come.

In April, “Jazz I” was on the road, performing at the 44th Annual UNC/Greeley Jazz Festival, held on the campus of the University of Northern Colorado. The ensemble once again distinguished itself with an outstanding performance. A panel of nationally recognized adjudicators called the band’s performance “excellent,” “superb,” and “stunning in every way!” Garrett Wingfield (saxophone), Payton Stevens (saxophone), Luke Wingfield (trumpet), Alex Neal (guitar) and Andy Eldridge (drums) were all recognized as “outstanding soloists” for the festival.

The year culminated with what has evolved as an annual “last day of classes” big band jam outside the Brown-Lupton University Union with both of our big bands performing. We also learned that the ensemble has been selected to perform at the 2015 TMEA Conference in San Antonio on February 12, 2015. It was a great way to end a great year!

We hope you’ll join us for some of our upcoming concerts during 2014-15. The 38th Annual TCU Jazz Festival will take place on March 20-21, 2015 with special guest artist, clarinetist/saxophonist Paquito D’Rivera. We hope to see you there!
Joe Eckert
Professor of Saxophone/Director of Jazz Studies
Yamaha/Legere Performing Artist/Clinician
TCU School of Music
TCU Box 297500
Fort Worth, TX 76129
(817) 257-5576
J.eckert@tcu.edu
http://www.joeeckert.com

Notes from Curt Wilson (Emeritus Professor of Music at TCU):

I am playing Dixieland clarinet with the BUCKETLIST JAZZ BAND and doing a steady amount of arranging.

If you would like to honor Curt and his wife Kay, mention the Kay and Curt Wilson Jazz Scholarship to Chandler Smith in University Advancement if considering a contribution.

Vice-President’s Final Comments:

It has been an honor to serve as your Vice-President for the past 16 or so years. Working with Mark, Bobby, and Curt has been a continuation of the fun I had while at TCU in the TCU Band and Jazz Band. Working behind the scenes has been a good thing, because Mark deserves all the credit for keeping this organization alive and well. I would like to thank him sincerely (and you all should, too!!!!) for the time and effort he has put into the Frog Horn, the Prof and Mrs. J Endowment Fund, the Band of Fame, and his work with the university in keeping us relevant as an organization. He helps in so many ways; I hope that the new officers will approach the job with as much pride and spirit as he has! The TCU Band is as busy as ever, and looks great on and off the field. The leadership of Bobby Francis has continued to take the Band to bigger and better places. The transition of the Jazz Program will propel it for many more years to come. I look forward to attending many more events in the future, and look forward to seeing you all at Homecoming!! Thanks to Mark, Kathy, Rick, Bobby, Brian and Curt for all the years of memories.

Peter Sakovich MD

President’s Final Comments:

Parting comments (yes, this is my last “official” column for the Frog Horn)... Most of you know the story: Long-time Ex-Bandsmen Charlie Hoffman looked me right in the eye at the 1998 Homecoming and said, “You know, with the right person in charge, this organization could really be something.” Next thing I know, I’m the President for 16 years. (But NOT President for Life as my good friend Dr. John McDonald once exclaimed...)

I guess the best way to put it in perspective is that at some point in your life you feel compelled to do something big. To do something for others and not just yourself... I took Charlie’s words to heart and said to myself, “Let’s do something! Let’s do something more than what we did before.” So I tried... My brother and I established the Jim and Wyn Jacobsen Fund to help the Band and honor the Jacobsens. We asked the Alumni Office to help us mail out Frog Horns and they did...to the tune of almost 2,000 labels every year. Now we get the word out online and save our money. And by the way, for most of those 14 years that we actually mailed the Frog Horn to an address, Peter paid for the stamps. Thousands of dollars worth of them... My family helped to copy, fold and stuff them one by one into the envelopes that we got from the TCU Band Office. What a site it always was to mail them! We have lunches and brunches now (depending on game time) and honor our Band of Fame members at Homecoming. We have the Alumni Band march in with the Band and perform at either the pre-game or half-time. We had the 100 Year Anniversary celebration in 2004 and had over 500 Ex-Bandsmen attend the events (thanks Andrew Rhodes for your help). Really something great to have been a part of...
In the last year I watched my son become a world-class composer (REALLY!!!), having 2 World Premieres performed by the TCU Symphonic Band and the TCU Wind Symphony. He interviewed at Julliard as 1 of only 25 people worldwide that were chosen for the interview. He did not get in this year, but is applying again not only there, but at 5 other music programs around the country. At the Arkansas CBDNA that Bobby mentioned earlier, one of the pieces performed by the Symphonic Band was my son’s composition, “Zodius”. His name tag at the event said it all, “Composer”. BTW – he is also an Ex-Bandsmen!

I watched one of my daughters receive a promotion in the Military, another one get a job with Amazon and the youngest one start her Junior year of HS and start driving (oh my...). I watched my wife do presentations for her Professional Society and be recognized for the 3 years she gave of her life as President of the Richland Area Band Boosters and has been the Band Nurse for the Richland High School Marching Band for the past 12 years now...

And I have had the pleasure of playing in some of the finest Big Band groups in the area in the last several years: The Dynamic Swing Machine, The Metro Praise Orchestra, The Joshua Experience, The Jazz Monsters and Buddy’s Big Band where I have played with many TCU Ex-Bandsmen. (I don’t pretend to be any kind of a great player, but rather a “good” one that is reliable, can sight-read and play in tune with a decent range.) I just like playing...

I will still stay active with the Ex-Bandsmen. I am the point person for the Jacobsen Fund for the University and will also continue to buy the plaques for the Band of Fame members. (Other than the very first group of inductees, I have bought the plaques for every inductee since.) And maybe march in with the Alumni Band on occasion...! Just like the rest of you should be doing!

Anyway, I need to hear if you are coming to the Brunch/Lunch and ASAP! It’s been an honor to be your President...

Thanks and I’ll see you at Homecoming!

Mark Sakovich
6849 Moss Lane
North Richland Hills, TX  76182
Ph: 817-269-2054 (cell)  817-428-0837 (home)
E-Mail:  LCCC18@aol.com

Don’t forget to RSVP for the Homecoming Brunch/Lunch!!!
Send us your e-mail address!!!
Remember to buy a ticket ASAP!!!