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MUCS Robert Wernitz on a midshipman summer

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Fall 2007

The U.S. Naval Academy

Band



YOUR USNA Band Members in the Community

By MU1 Lynda Dembowski

part of their respective ministries. French Hornist MUC Adam Tillett, active as a

Among the highly talented musicians that make up the Naval Academy Band, you can find many volunteering within the local community of Annapolis and its surrounding counties. While it would be impossible to list every member's philanthropic accomplishments, this article casts the spotlight on five band members that go the extra mile to generously donate their time to youth and community organizations: Chief Musicians Blake Cramer, James Fowler, Adam Tillett, and Bruce Smith, as well as Musician First Class Pasquale Sarracco.

Three band members lend their musical talents to individuals as well as organizations. Bassist, Chief Musician (MUC) James Fowler gives music lessons to a fellow shipmate from Naval Support Activity Annapolis in preparation for an audition to cross-rate to the Musician rating. He also enjoys performing at his church and other local churches as a part of their respective ministries. French Hornist MUC Adam Tillett, active as a deacon, also performs regularly as a part of his church's services. Percussionist MUC Bruce Smith is a highly active musician in his church, assisting with fund-raising concerts through performing, organizing, and providing logistical support.

A common thread among all five is their dedication to youth programs, ranging from athletics to educational outreach and wellness support systems. Trumpeter, Musician First Class Pasquale Sarracco has enjoyed coaching little league baseball on Kent Island for several years. MUC Adam Tillett has coached basketball and soccer, and has served as League Vice President for the Linthicum-Ferndale Youth Athletic Association. MUC Smith has helped with Special Olympics Events on the Naval Academy, and has served as a coach for the team at Central Special School. Exercising the minds of elementary grade students, MUC Fowler teaches chess weekly at the Naval Academy Primary School.

MUC Blake Cramer devotes time as a mentor for the National Guard Youth Challenge. This is a highly intensive high school equivalency program

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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Dear friends of the Naval Academy Band: First, I must thank you for your continued support of our concerts. Attendance at our summer concert series, not only at the City Dock but also the surrounding communities, was outstanding. It truly is a pleasure to serve our nation during a time when such fervent patriotism is exhibited by its citizens. Your love of country, patriotic spirit, and appreciation for music comes shining through whether we are performing Gershwin, Sousa, or Tchaikovsky.

In this issue of *Serenade* we decided to introduce you to the accomplishments of many of our members; NOT their musical accomplishments – as you are already aware – but rather, their personal accomplishments in support of the Brigade of Midshipmen and in the Annapolis and surrounding communities. Whether teaching sailing, assisting in coaching the rifle team, or donating valuable off-duty time to local schools, churches, and youth programs, your Naval Academy Band members are volunteering in leadership positions that promote the core values of the Navy within the Naval Academy walls as well as off the Yard.

I also take this opportunity to thank Senior Chief Musician James Bean upon his recent decision to transfer to the Fleet Reserve after 22 years of devoted service. Senior Chief Bean has been the Principal Trumpet player for many years and he will certainly be missed. Those of you who have enjoyed the “sound” of the band through the years have been privileged to hear the beautiful trumpet and inspirational musical leadership exhibited by this world class musician. For me, personally, as a trumpet player and conductor, it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with Senior Chief Bean. He is a true gentleman and gifted trumpeter and his wit and personal style will be missed in the band spaces (not to mention his falsetto voice!). We wish him all the best success as he begins a new career in the Maryland public schools as a music teacher.

Additionally, although we do not like to say goodbye to departing personnel, with their absence comes the addition of new musicians who bring unique talents that will undoubtedly contribute to the success of the Naval Academy Band. Please take a moment and get to know some of our newest members of the band.

Enjoy this issue and I look forward to seeing you at our Fall Concert Series. Thanks again for your continued patronage.

Sincerely,

Brian O. Walden

Director _____

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Congratulations to MU1 Thomas Pitta for his selection as USNA Band's Sailor of the 2nd Quarter, 2007. MU1 Ira Ostrowski transfers from the Concert Band into Electric Brigade.



MU1 Thomas Pitta



MU1 Ira Ostrowski

Sailors Helping Sailors

By MU1 Ben Redwine

In my interactions with the public, I'm often asked, "Do you only play music in your job at the Academy?" That question is not so easy to answer. While the primary responsibility of every member of the Naval Academy Band is to perform music at the highest level for the public at venues such as the City Dock, Worden Field, and Mitscher Hall, various other duties are handled within the band to make our organization run smoothly. Our Operations Department schedules jobs and manages musicians, our Administration Department keeps us up to date with our military requirements and record keeping, and our Public Affairs Department lets our audience know when and where our concerts will be. MU1 Dembowski's article on page 1 describes band members' extra-curricular activities in the community which reflect well on the band and the Navy. Members of the band also choose to mentor Midshipmen by volunteering in various capacities, both musical and non-musical.

Senior Chief Musician Robert Werntz, percussionist, has been the Officer-in-Charge for the Command Seamanship and Navigation Training Squadron summer training missions since the fall of 2001. On two summer cruises, he has been "Officer in Tactical Command," responsible for all seven boats in the squadron. He has recently trained prospective safety officers (civilians, active duty officers, retired officers, and midshipman CO's and XO's) to become Officers-in-Charge. The courses he teaches to Midshipmen are necessary for graduation from the Academy.

Musician First Class Zachary Hollister, bass trombonist, also assists with the sailing team. He is a volunteer coach and is working toward his Watch Captain qualification. He hopes to be an Executive Officer on the 49-foot sailboats.

Chief Musician Bruce Smith, percussionist, is a Midshipmen Action Group advisor. He coordinates Midshipmen from the 20th company in their community volunteer activities.

MUC Todd Nix, tubist, is an assistant coach for the rowing team. For the past 2 years, the rowing team has won the Jope Cup, the top trophy in the Eastern Sprints League Championship Regatta.

Fellow tubist, MU1 Travis Siehndel, assists the track team as an official time-keeper and measurement specialist. He also assists the head coach in administrative duties.

Petty Officers Pasquale Sarracco, trumpeter, Joseph Tubiolo, saxophonist, and Lynda Dembowski, clarinetist, are assistant coaches for the USNA International Pistol Team, which has won three national championships since they began coaching.

Petty Officers Matthew Shea, trumpeter, and James Wright, pianist, lead the Midshipmen big band, the Trident Brass, which performs at Midshipmen dances and for the public in several concerts per year.

In addition to performing great music for the public, the members of the USNA Band serve the greater Annapolis community and the Brigade of Midshipmen in numerous capacities. You never know when you'll bump into a band member enriching the community in which we all live!



(from left to right)
 MU1 Sarracco,
 MU1 Wright, MU1
 Siehndel, MU1
 Dembowski, MU1
 Hollister, and MUCS
 Werntz; not pictured:
 MU1 Matthew Shea,
 MU1 Joseph Tubiolo,
 and MUC Todd Nix
 photo credit: MU1
 Paul Skinner

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for troubled youth, with its main goal to equip students with knowledge and skills to be successful in life. Additionally, he is a facilitator for a teen spiritual exploration group. Also having an interest in the success of local youth, MUC Smith is actively involved in the Drug Education for Youth Program (DEFY). While serving as Assistant Program Manager for 2 consecutive years, Smith organized the Phase I Summer Camp, a 10-day program offering services to 20 students. He led a team of 12 enlisted personnel, developing them as mentors for the program. Smith oversaw the operation at all levels, including event planning, curriculum implementation, supply inventory, transportation, and media support. He also organized subsequent Phase II sessions, entailing monthly group mentoring.

MUC Smith also provides support for Annapolis homeless through Winter Relief at Calvary United Methodist Church. He is active in acquiring resources for preparation of housing homeless individuals, cooking and distributing meals, serving as liaison with clients, volunteers and food distributors, and maintaining security for program participants. For his long-sustained efforts, Smith was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal in 1996.

These musicians are but a small sample of the volunteerism that pervades the Naval Academy Band. Its members not only play with heart, they also give generously from the heart.



(left to right) MUC Fowler, MUC Cramer, MUC Smith, MU1 Sarracco, MUC Tillett

NEW FACES IN THE BAND

From left to right: MU1 Jason Broadwater, sound engineer, MU1 Carl Lindquist, trumpet, and MU1 Clint Woltering, trombone.



FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

MUCS James Bean (l), trumpet, retires after 22 years of service; MU1 Brian Strawley (r), trumpet, leaves the band after 10 years of service.

FRIENDS OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY (FONA) APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Friends of the Naval Academy (FONA) program provides vehicle access to people outside the normal Department of Defense scope that support the USNA mission, its people, and its reputation. Patrons that already have a DoD vehicle decal or handicapped tags/pass do not need to apply for a FONA pass. There are a limited number of FONA passes available to Naval Academy Band patrons on a first-come, first-served basis. FONA passes take time to process and will be forwarded when available.

To renew, or apply for a FONA pass, e-mail Senior Chief Ronda Ory-Lettie oryletti@usna.edu or write to:

United States Naval Academy Band
101 Buchanan Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5080

If you're not already receiving our newsletter, "Serenade," please fill out the enclosed coupon and mail it to us. We will be happy to include you on our patron list. **BONUS!** Patrons with e-mail will receive press releases for each concert.

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