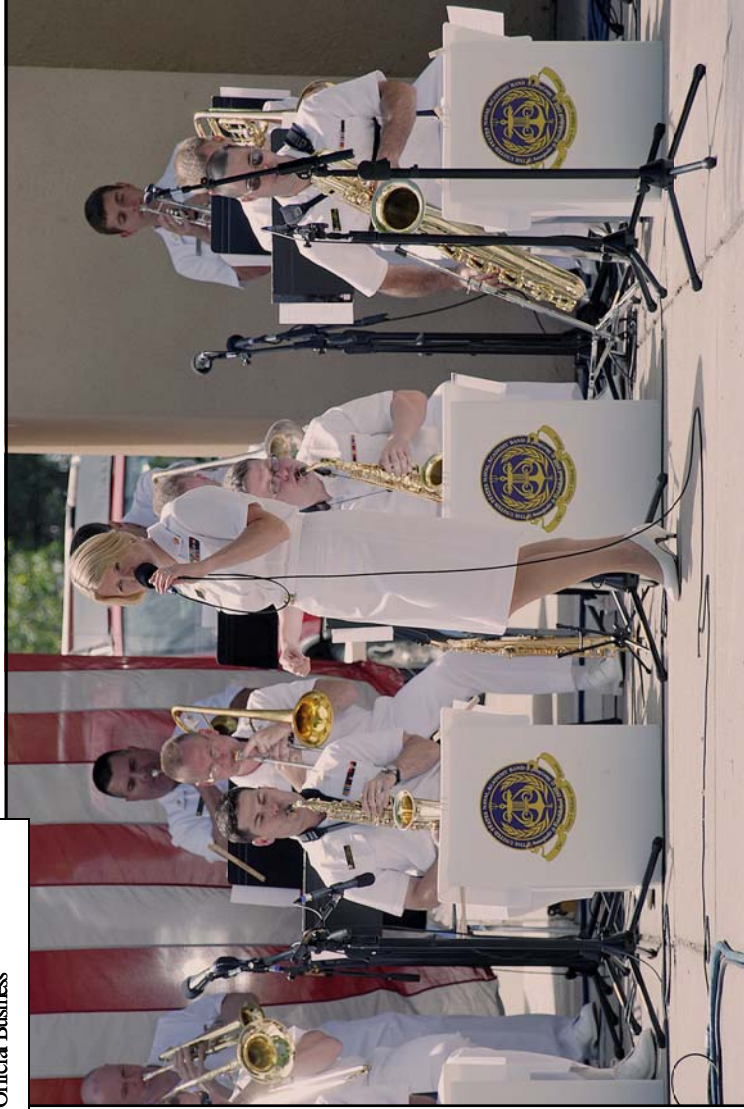


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Official Business



MUI Jessica Hatfield performing with The Next Wave Jazz Ensemble at Albuquerque's St. Francis Xavier High School.
- Photo by MUI Jason Broadwater

Fall 2009

The U.S. Naval Academy

Band



Serenade

Seasons of Change

The Serenade Takes On a New Look

By MUC Nick Pastelak

Any institution that is around for 156 years must experience change from time to time and the Navy's oldest and finest band is no exception. Over the years, we've seen new uniform styles, new trends in music, the first African-American and female members, changes to our assignment status and to our rank structure. As with most change, the initial impact is difficult for some; but when the decisions are made for sound reasons and with continued growth in mind, we are better and stronger for it. This nation has always been one of innovation and enterprise - one that embraces her heritage, but is not fettered by it. Americans have been experiencing many changes in the past decade which have both challenged us and opened our eyes to new possibilities. A newfound fiscal responsibility has swept the country as the economy recovers, and technological advances and expanding social networking opportunities have opened doors that cannot be ignored. As servants to the people of this great nation, we are obligated to respect the resources entrusted to us.

To that end, this will be the final printed issue of "The Serenade." Our mission to support the Naval Academy and its Midshipmen, the Navy, and the American people demands vigilance in our own fiscal responsibility. "The Serenade," however, is not going away. After all, maintaining a relationship with the public *is* part of our mission. That's where the aforementioned technological changes go to work for us in an exciting new way.

- Continued on page 3

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Greetings to all. Another summer season has come and gone and your United States Naval Academy Band is already fully engaged in a new academic year at the academy. Our summer schedule of over 205 performances had us at venues from the east coast to Los Angeles, and we've enjoyed seeing so many of you as well as making new friends along the way. As always, one of the highlights of our year is welcoming in the next class of future leaders here at the Naval Academy, and this newest plebe class is a promising group of young men and women, indeed.

Much of our expansion in tours outside of the Annapolis area is due to our continued support to the academy's Office of Admissions. The Electric Brigade has toured from New York to Ohio, Arizona, California, Pennsylvania, and Texas with the admissions team using their special talents to bring the face of the Naval Academy and the Navy to prospective candidates. While EB tackled Columbus and Pittsburgh, The Next Wave jumped in with a tour to Albuquerque, New Mexico to support admissions forums, school and public performances, and a very moving September 11th observance in the city's Civic Plaza. All of this was in addition to the many performances and ceremonies here in our own region – and all with the aim of providing your Navy with the very best officer candidates from every corner of the nation.

As pointed out on page one of this issue, this truly is a season of change. We have bid a fond farewell to several members this year. Most recently, MUCM Rick Chappell and MUCS Ronda Ory-Lettie have been transferred to the rolls of our distinguished alumni. Soon we will be welcoming new members as they report to Annapolis, and we look forward to introducing them to you in our brand new electronic version of "The Serenade." Whatever format we may use for this communication, it's the personal contact we have with our patrons that means the most.

Thank you for allowing us to share our music with you.

Sincerely,
LCDR Brian O. Walden
Director



The United States Naval Academy Band

DIRECTOR
LCDR Brian O. Walden
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ENS Scott A. Mythen
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
MUCM James E. Rodak
OPERATIONS
MUCS Bruce W. Smith
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Serenade is published triannually, with Summer, Fall, and Winter/Spring issues.

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(*CHANGE - Continued from page 1*)

Beginning with the next issue, "The Serenade" will move to an electronic format available online to an even larger audience. A major advantage is that it will no longer be limited in size to fit the printed page. It will boast more in-depth articles, richer graphics, and links to even more information. One drawback to the printed "Serenade" - as well as the electronic version - is timing. Many people rely on "The Serenade" for the enclosed performance schedule each season. Yet periodicals are limited in their agility and cannot respond to changes and additions which often occur.

This is why we are also introducing the new "United States Naval Academy Band - Official Page" on Facebook. On this page, you can receive up-to-the-minute information on performances, locations, and weather cancellations. We also have the ability to post photos, sound files, and video clips of your favorite Naval Academy Band ensembles. Facebook is free to use, and fans can elect to have all new information on the band's site post directly to their own.

We are particularly excited about this opportunity for even closer contact with our patrons across the country and around the world. After all, the Naval Academy and the Naval Academy Band are not merely Annapolis traditions – they are national institutions. Thank you for your continued patronage. We look forward to seeing you at our next performance... *and online!* 🎵



Be sure to visit the
United States Naval Academy (Official Site)
and *Navy Band Southwest* on Facebook, too!



CONGRATULATIONS TO

MU1 Lynda Dembowski,
USNA Band Sailor of the Quarter
for 2nd Quarter, 2009



MU1 James Wright,
Awarded the Navy and Marine Corps
Achievement Medal



MUCS Bruce Smith,
Awarded the Navy and Marine Corps
Commendation Medal,
And graduated from the Senior Enlisted Academy



FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS



MUCS Ronda Ory-Lettie
Awarded the Navy and Marine Corps
Commendation Medal,
Retiring with 20 years of service



MUCM Richard Chappell
Awarded the
Meritorious Service Medal,
Retiring with 28 years of service



Vocalist, MU1 Jessica Hatfield, and Assistant Director, Ensign Scott Mythen, at the ready to greet visitors to our booth at the Maryland Music Educators' Association Conference in Baltimore. This December, the USNA Band Chamber Winds will be featured at "The Midwest Clinic" International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago. The clinic hosts 15,000 attendees each year representing all 50 states and more than 30 countries.

- Photo by MUCM James Rodak

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 Department of Defense vehicle decal 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, email Chief Nick Pastelak, pastelak@usna.edu or write to:

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

Policy Change for Handicapped Vehicle Access

The Naval Academy Security Department has changed its policy regarding vehicular entry for handicapped individuals. In order to gain vehicle access to the Naval Academy, handicapped persons must be issued a pass from Pass and ID at Gate 1 during normal business hours (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.). After hours, a pass may be issued by the Shift Lieutenant at Gate 1 or Gate 8. If you are coming to one of our evening concerts and have not been issued a pass during business hours, please enter through Gate 1 or Gate 8 to request a pass to attend our performance.