



Building POWER & CLASS



MINUTEMAN MARCHING BAND BUILDING CAMPAIGN



The Minuteman Band poses with its then-home, the Old Chapel, in 1993.

Bringing the Music Home

The UMass Amherst Minuteman Marching Band is fundraising for a much-needed facility to house the best homeless marching band in the country. Right now the band is scattered across campus, and its changing room is the Grinnell Arena parking lot.

The plight of our renowned, 143-year-old band is best symbolized by the current "display case" for the Sudler Trophy, presented to the Minuteman Band in 1998 by the John Philip Sousa Foundation to honor it as the best in the country. This "Heisman Trophy of marching bands" is currently gathering dust on a cluttered shelf in Minuteman Band Director George Parks's temporary office at the University Apartments. The marching band has been without a home since shortly after this distinguished trophy was awarded.

"The band was moved out of our longtime home in the Old Chapel when the tower began to fall apart in 1998," says Parks. "And now it's not feasible to move back in be-

It makes more sense to build a new facility that meets all the band's needs in a state-of-the-art way.

cause it would take something like \$14 million to bring the chapel up to code. It makes more sense to build a new facility that meets all the band's needs in a state-of-the-art way."

Those needs include staff offices, instrument and uniform storage, locker rooms, rehearsal areas for percussion, brass, and wind players, and "a place for band members to practice, rehearse, congregate, study, network, and become a cohesive unit," says band alumnus Barry Pilson '81, now director of marketing for the American Association of Museums.

Pilson and the other 3,000 band alumni will be the key players in funding the new facility, and preliminary plans have been developed for several possible sites near Grinnell Arena or the Mullins Center.

"We're just barreling ahead," says Parks, "and trying to get as many people aware of the project as possible."

—Charles Creekmore

To contribute to the Minuteman Band Building Campaign, please contact Ms. Carol-Ann Batchelder at (413) 577-1923

A Very Successful Experiment

Liz Unterman '07



A troubled childhood didn't stop Lloyd Henley '90 from finding a steady forward rhythm

Lloyd Henley calls himself "an experiment that went well." As he tells how he came to be a Minuteman Marching Band member, a graduate of UMass Amherst, and eventually a respected university employee, imagine a soundtrack of drums, the instrument that plays a vital role in his tale.

"I was born in the Virgin Islands, on St. Croix," he begins. "My mother was a deaf-mute, who worked as a cook and maid in a guesthouse."

Henley's childhood was rife with violence. "I was shot in the back and stabbed," he says. "Let's just say things were happening that would lead me to not being alive much longer."

Then, in a twist fit for Dickens, an anonymous benefactor (perhaps a wealthy guesthouse regular) arranged for Henley to attend the prestigious Fay School in Southborough, Massachusetts. When he entered Fay at age 14, he was nearly

illiterate as a result of his mother's disability.

"I knew when I left St. Croix that this was a huge, huge opportunity," Henley continues. He "busted" at Fay, earned good grades, and became class vice president.

From Fay, he went to Wellesley High. Drums, part of his Caribbean past, started beating for him again. Although he couldn't read music and never had a formal lesson, his childhood conga playing and his abilities to imitate and memorize music earned him spots as lead drummer and president of the high school jazz band.

When Henley entered UMass Amherst in 1980, drumming became the heartbeat of his university years. "The band was a family and its headquarters was our home," he says. He played the quads while he marched and was the band's equipment and transportation manager. He played in two jazz ensembles, five chamber groups, percussion ensemble,

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Gerald H. Ling '04

It gives me chills to see how my son Rob '06 has matured and grown up to be a great human being. Everyone has aspirations for their kids. Because of the band, our aspirations have been realized.

Al Graff

Founder, Minuteman Band Parents Association



1873

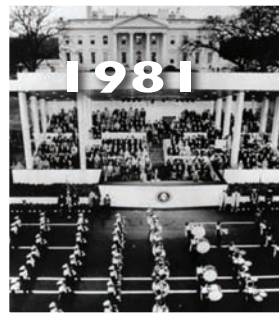
College Drum Corps founded

1946

"Precisionettes" drill team founded

1963

First Band Camp



1981

First Presidential Inaugural Parade

1985

First UMass Band Day

Music Appreciation

Alumna Dotty Hayes supports the marching band in return for all the memories

Dotty Hayes '72 '76G, Vice President and Corporate Controller for business and financial software giant Intuit, has high praise for the Minuteman Marching Band. "The band gave me a focal point; it became my little village," she says. "Everything I did emanated from that."

Serendipity brought Hayes to the band in the first place. Upon hearing that she would attend UMass Amherst, Hayes's friend from home, Dick Bartolomeo '71, said "you will be attending band camp, won't you?" Dick signed her up and Hayes instantly found her community.

Hayes's first instrument was the piano, but pianos aren't marching band material, so her biggest asset was that she could read music. Hayes became a utilitarian percussionist, learning to play the xylophone and the marimba, eventually joining Peter Tanner's marimba ensemble.

Marching Band taught Hayes how to be organized. She was an education major (and later earned an MBA), but she spent most of her time at the Old Chapel, essentially pursuing an unofficial minor in music. She worked with Walter Chesnut and the orchestra and chorus, and joined small theatre and vocal ensembles. To fit it all in, she learned how to squeeze the most out of every available minute.

Hayes's memories are lasting and vivid. In her freshman year, the band played a Simon and Garfunkel medley that as she put it, "blew [director] John Jenkins away." He hadn't been exposed to music of that style before. "Michigan High Step," a tour de force of athleticism and musicality introduced by John Jenkins, was, Hayes admits, a physically demanding adventure. But the memory that sends her into gales of laughter whenever she thinks of it is the tuba strip dance in which Massachusetts State Senator Stan Rosenberg '77 took part. To the score from *Gypsy*, the musicians shed their instruments—no mean feat—and seemed to do a bubble dance. "It all was such good, clean fun," says Hayes. She says she always carries with her the image of walking across campus at twilight to the Old Chapel where, inside, she felt so much at home.

Her exposure to music through the band's varied repertoire has been invaluable in her participation, along with her husband, Terry, in local Bay Area choral ensembles. She especially remembers her music appreciation class with Ron Steele, who on the Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving would lecture on one of the more obscure American composers, Louis Moreau Gottschalk, to a near-empty classroom. Steele always included a question on Gottschalk on the final exam.

Hayes is thankful for the lasting impact the Minuteman Band has had in her life. "Music becomes what you are when you're not being what you do for your day job," she says. So while Hayes keeps the finances harmonious at Intuit by day, she hits her highest notes far from the corporate world.

—Carol-Ann Batchelder



Terry Hayes

Dotty Hayes '72, '76G has made numerous financial gifts to the Minuteman Band, including starting the Power & Class Recruitment Fund to offer scholarships to promising students.

1994

Premiere of *Building Power & Class* documentary



1998

Sudler Trophy

1999

BLAST! World Premiere

2005

Performance with the Boston Pops Orchestra

2006

George Parks inducted to the Bands of America Hall of Fame

1993, 2001, 2004 - Bands of America Grand National Championships

Striking Up the Band

Walking past the Fine Arts Center, you can hear the sound of one or more of 16 conducted ensembles practicing. With all that music in the air, it may come as a surprise that band music was not always a centerpiece at UMass Amherst.

Oh, there was music: in early days Music Department chair Doric Alviani founded the Operetta Guild (now UMass Theater Guild). There were student-run bands, the Precisionettes performed at halftime, and there had been a military band before that. In 1950, band director Joe Contino required auditions, founded an annual Concert Band tour, and opened the bands to women.

The volume was turned up dramatically in 1963 when a young man on a mission came to campus. John Jenkins was fresh out of graduate study with the University of Michigan Bands and reserve service in the Sixth Armored Cavalry, when a call came that would change his life—and the sound of music at UMass Amherst.

John Lederle, president of UMass Amherst during one of its most pivotal growth periods, was on the line. Would Jenkins be interested in creating a band program modeled after Michigan, including a marching band to be built almost from scratch?

Jenkins jumped at the opportunity. The job sounded ideal, and he soon proved ideal for the job. Jenkins says any success he achieved was owed to “unqualified support from President Lederle’s administration and the dedicated band members and staff who enthusiastically embraced the band’s new direction.

In the spring of 1964, Jenkins’ Concert Band represented Massachusetts at the World’s Fair in New York, and by that fall, the marching band, double in size and resplendent in new uniforms, was operating at the Big 10 pace with a new show for every game. Jenkins crafted the shows to special musical arrangements by Michigan friend Jerry Bilik.

In fewer than five years, Jenkins and his staff evolved the band to compete alongside the established bands of the Big 10. “We did this,” says Jenkins, “by acting like one-man bands, multiplying our efforts by coming to campus seven days a week and working with our band members—who spread the word, and more musicians signed up.”

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orchestra, and concert band. He drummed for UMass Amherst theatrical productions. In his last year, he soloed on the drum set for the band.

Back then, most band members didn’t come to college with the rich musical background students have today. Under the direction of George Parks and Thom Hannum, Henley and his fellow musicians strove to improve until “one day, something clicked and there was no stopping us,” says Henley. The band achieved recognition and played in President Reagan’s 1981 inaugural parade.

“Most people don’t have the opportunity to be number one in something,” Henley says. “My band experience

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s Jenkins developed a wind ensemble and symphony, concert and marching bands; commissioned a series of compositions; and expanded the marching band’s repertoire, bringing to the field provocative choreography and political messages that helped transform marching bands. A highlight was the band’s program following the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. To reflect the turbulence in the country, Jenkins changed the opening of halftime: a tiny brass band played the traditional “America,” soon obliterated by the marching band’s entrance, playing “America” from *West Side Story*. During student protests in 1970, the band’s “Sounds of Silence: Peace Now” show brought *Collegian* accolades and standing ovations at home and away.

These signature moments sealed Jenkins’ reputation, and he became synonymous with music at UMass Amherst. After a break to complete doctoral studies, he developed such campuswide programs as the Multiband Pops Concert and The Lively Arts (the university’s first interdisciplinary general education course in the arts). When he moved into the Fine Arts Center administration, Jenkins selected and hired his eventual heir, George Parks.

As we pass the fourth decade of the band experience John Jenkins defined for this campus, it’s clear UMass Amherst owes an enormous debt to him.

—Steven Beeber ’85 ’95G

This article draws upon personal interviews as well as the book, *Through These Doors: The History of the University of Massachusetts Minuteman Marching Band 1863-2003*, by Minuteman Band drum major Kerstin H. Becker ’96.

taught me how to go above and beyond and perform at the highest caliber.”

Since 2000, Lloyd Henley, now age 46, has worked as assistant director for staff-initiated programs in UMass Amherst’s Center for Student Development. You could say his job is to enrich students’ extracurricular lives the way the band enriched his. This spring, the drummer from St. Croix received the Amherst Rotary Club’s highest public service award.

As he taps a beat on a tabletop, Henley says, “Everything I achieve in life is influenced by my band experience.”

—Patricia Sullivan



John Jenkins poses with memorabilia in his Fine Arts Center office. The clock’s inscription reads, “The Best Band Conductor in the East.” The band presented this gift at the end of the 1963 season.