



YEARBOOK

THE MARCHING OWLS
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



To all who have marched before us, alongside us, and will march after us: This yearbook is dedicated to each member of our marching band family. For ten years, we have made music, memories, and history together, and none of this would have been possible without you.

This journey has been more than just about marching or music; it's been about building lifelong friendships, learning the value of teamwork, and discovering the strength within ourselves and each other. Together, we've created something truly special, and this yearbook is a reflection of every moment, every performance, and every person who has been part of this incredible ride.

Here's to the past ten years and the many more to come. Thank you for marching with us. You are the heart and soul of this band.





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CURRENT *Directors*



BRANDON MEEKS

Director of Athletic Bands

Dr. Meeks joined the Marching Owls program as its head director in 2022. Prior to KSU, his most recent appointment was as the Assistant Director of Athletic Bands at the University of Houston. He has published research in music education in state, and international journals, and presented at multiple in-service conferences across the southeast. Dr. Meeks is a National Board-Certified Teacher and holds honorary memberships to Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma.

DAVID ROUSH

Assistant Director of Bands

Dr. Roush joined the Marching Owls program as its assistant director in the 2024 season. Prior to completing his graduate studies and arriving at Kennesaw State, he was an active music educator in the public schools of Illinois, serving from 2013-2019 as Band Director for the North Clay and Neoga School Districts. Dr. Roush currently maintains active memberships in the College Band Director's National Association, National Band Association, and the National Association for Music Education.



Beginning of a Legacy

What is now a program of over 300 students from across the University used to be just one person - Dr. Debra Traficante. In the emptiness of an old Brandsmart Building, she started to build a vision for what a band program would look like 10 years later.

There was no audition process, no band songs, no pregame, stand tunes, fight song, or chants. There only existed a vision that slowly began to materialize as the rest of the staff were added to the team, and the first notes were played at the very first band camp.



Little did this group of students and staff know that they were building a legacy that would lead to the creation of countless traditions, tears of joy, travel games, and a band program that is respected across the state and seen on TV screens across the nation.





INAUGURAL YEAR

HOW IT ALL STARTED...

FOUNDING *Directors*

THE MARCHING OWLS
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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DEBRA TRAFICANTE

Director of Athletic Bands

Dr. Debra Traficante served as Kennesaw State University's Associate Director of Bands/Director of Athletic Bands from 2014-2022. In this position, Dr. Traficante directed all aspects of the KSU Marching Band ("The Marching Owls"), which had its debut performance in the Fall of 2015. She was also responsible for the KSU Basketball Pep Band and served as the Conductor of the KSU Wind Symphony. She taught beginning instrumental conducting, wind band literature, arranging and pedagogy, and marching band technique courses, while also advising Music Education students. She also served as the Kappa Kappa Psi (Nu Mu) and Tau Beta Sigma (Iota Psi) chapter advisor.

CORY MEALS

Assistant Director of Bands

Dr. Cory Meals served as the Assistant Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music Education at Kennesaw State University from 2015-2016. His duties included teaching courses in Instrumental Methods, Music Education Colloquium, Wind Band Literature, supervision of student teachers, conducting the University Band, and assisting with all aspects of the Kennesaw State University Athletic Bands, including the newly formed Kennesaw State University Marching Owls and KSU Basketball Pep Band.



FOUNDING *Directors*



ALAN SEARS

Percussion Caption Head

Alan Sears has served as the Drumline Instructor and Arranger for the Kennesaw State University "Marching Owls" since its founding in 2015. He co-founded Atlanta Quest and has been the music and program director since its inception. Alan also now serves as the Director of Percussion for the Sprayberry High School "Band of Gold". Alan arranges for many ensembles and has had his arrangements published with CounterMotion Inc. He also composes for corporate events and commercial projects.



2015

The Inaugural Year

"The Marching Owls" inaugural season occurred in the Fall of 2015! The ensemble consisted of members from a plethora of majors from both the Marietta and Kennesaw campuses. At its inception, the band garnered the interest of about 500 students! After auditions were held the inaugural band was a total of 237 members.



Year One

With the creation of a new marching band program, the KSU chapters of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma were chartered in April 2015 to help support the bands at Kennesaw State. The members of these organizations serve the bands in any way they can, even by something like filling water coolers before rehearsal. The founding presidents for each organization were Muddassir Quershi (KKY) and Sarah Knapp (TBS). Maria Phillips, a founding member of Tau Beta Sigma, was also chosen as the inaugural drum major for the band.

There were 5 different shows performed for halftime during the inaugural season:

- State of Mind
- The Who
- Latin Jazz
- Patriotic Medley
- Senior Show

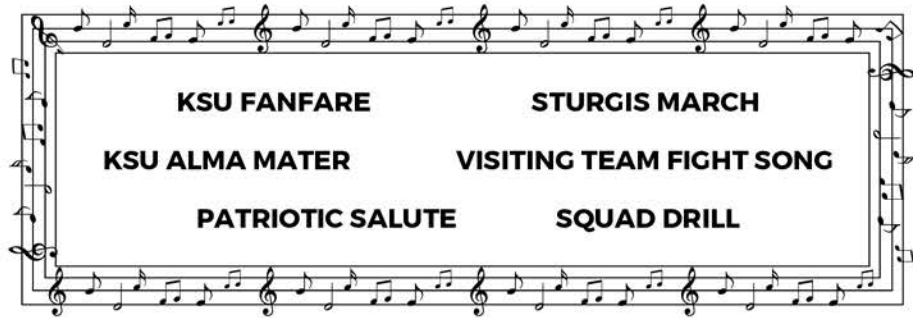
These shows included iconic tunes such as "Big Noise from Winnetka," "Pinball Wizard," and "Georgia on My Mind."

INAUGURAL DRUM MAJOR

Maria "Mimi"
Phillips



INAUGURAL PRE-GAME



DID YOU KNOW?

- There was a flyover during the inaugural pregame performance, and it was a surprise for the band members!
- The band turned to face the visiting team to play their fight song when their band was not present



INAUGURAL HALF-TIME PERFORMANCE “STATE OF MIND”



DID YOU KNOW?

- Georgia On My Mind became a band song that was played during the 3rd Quarter of each football game
- The KSU Choir sang America the Beautiful with the band during this performance
- Look closely - the band used gold plumes for pregame, and black for half-time!





“THERE IS NOTHING MORE ICONIC FOR A COLLEGIATE MARCHING BAND THAN THE UNIFORM THE MEMBERS WEAR.”
- DR. TRAFICANTE

DIAGRAM
"E"

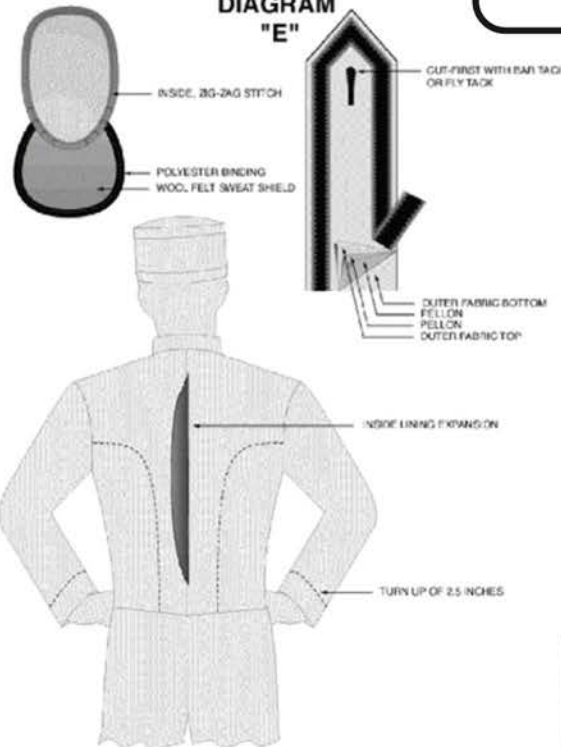


DIAGRAM
"C"

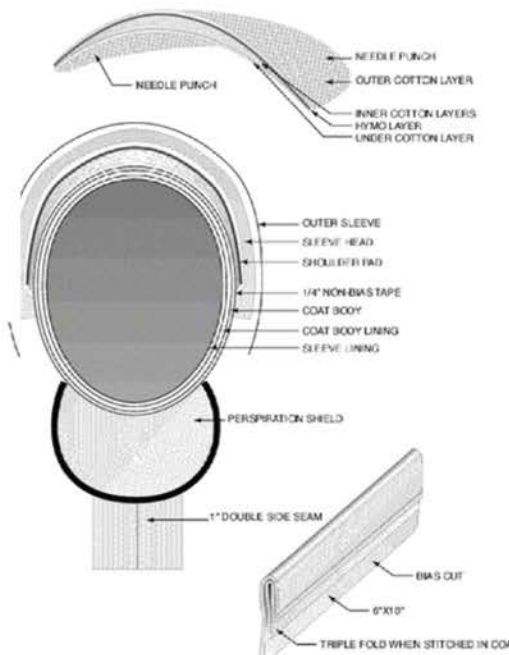
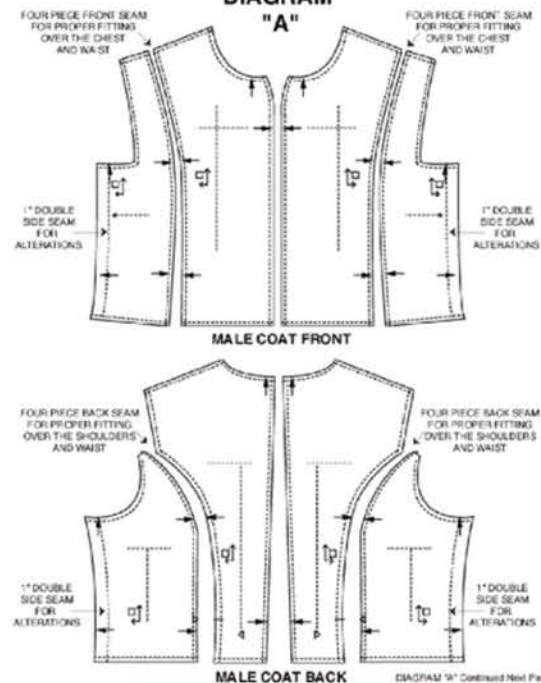


DIAGRAM
"A"



Member uniforms have a black base, and black and gold plumes are used. the drum major uniform, is white, with a white shako and plume.

The original uniforms took about seven months to create after repeated drafts and were produced by Fruhauf Uniforms, a known name in the marching band uniform world.

Service to the Bands

Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma are two co-educational honorary organizations dedicated to serving collegiate and university bands. The Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma chapters were established at Kennesaw State University under the guidance of Dr. Debra Traficante in the Spring of 2015 and she played a pivotal role in the formation of both chapters. Recognizing the need for student leadership within the university's growing band program, Dr. T helped facilitate the chartering of the Nu Mu and the Iota Psi chapters. The goal was to foster a sense of community, pride, and service among Kennesaw State's band students while also supporting the university's band programs. Through her mentorship, both chapters quickly became an integral part of the KSU band program, helping to instill leadership, promote musical excellence, and strengthen the bonds of friendship among student musicians.





Kappa Kappa Psi



The Nu Mu Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi was founded on April 16, 2015. This chapter was established by founding members Cheylin Dutra, Brandt Winters, Travis Longenberger, Adam Reep, Louis Livingston, James Down, Sean Brinkley Jr., Mudussir Quraishi, Jackson Conner, Andrew Pellom, Mason Upshaw, Stewart Yancey, and Courtney Hamilton. The Kappa Mu Chapter at the University of Georgia served as the big brother chapter and helped educate the founding membership.

The chapter quickly became a vital part of the university's music programs, supporting both the Marching Band and Concert Bands, while also creating opportunities for its members to develop personally and professionally through musical service and leadership activities. Since its founding, the Nu Mu Chapter has upheld the values of Kappa Kappa Psi, making a lasting impact on the university and its band community.





Tau Beta Sigma



The Iota Psi Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma was founded at Kennesaw State University on April 22, 2015. The creation of Iota Psi was the result of a group of passionate women who were dedicated to supporting the KSU Band Program. With a shared commitment to the values of Tau Beta Sigma, these founding members sought to create a sisterhood that would empower women in music and provide a positive influence on the university's music ensembles. The founding members of Iota Psi included Sara Knapp, Madison Hall, Maria Phillips, Krissy Phillips, Kaelyn Putnam, Kyla Pollard, Courtney Zhorela, Faith Williams, & Paige Camilli.

Since its inception, the chapter has made significant contributions through service projects, leadership development, and fostering a strong sense of community among its members, strengthening the band program at KSU and beyond. The neighboring Epsilon Theta Chapter at Georgia Tech served as the big brother chapter and helped educate the founding members.













HISTORY & MILESTONES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014-2024

The Marching Owls Directors Over the Years



Debra Traficante
Director of Athletic Bands
2014 - 2022



Cory Meals
Assistant Director of Bands
2015 - 2017



Trey Harris
Assistant Director of Bands
2017 - 2019



Joe Scheivert
Assistant Director of Bands
2019 - 2021



Hannah Rudy
Assistant Director of Bands
2021 - 2022



Brandon Meeks
Director of Athletic Bands
2022 - Present



Daniel Lee
Assistant Director of Bands
2022-2024



David Roush
Assistant Director of Bands
2024 - Present

Drum Majors Over the Years



Maria Phillips
2015 - 2017



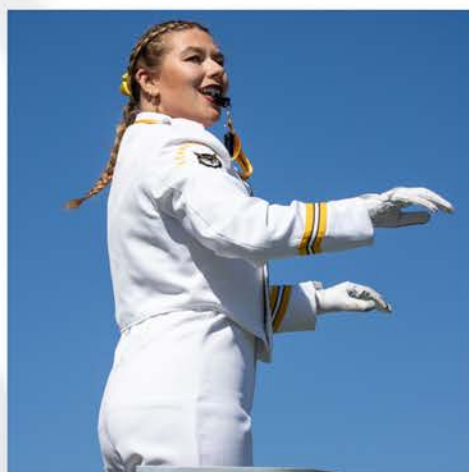
Ethan David
2017 - 2019



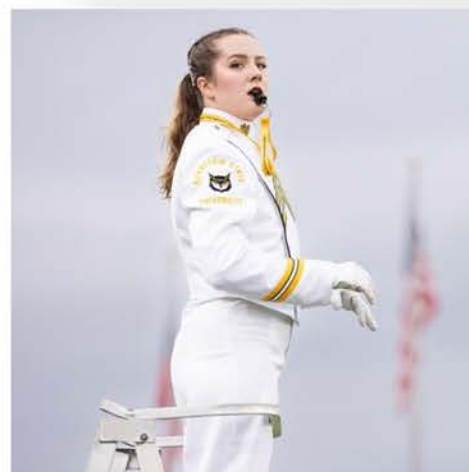
Harrison Spradlin
2019 - 2020



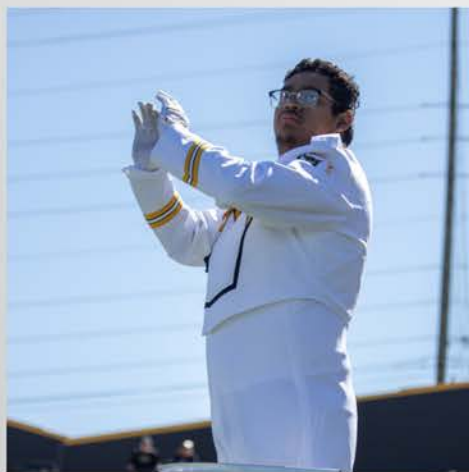
Barron Wallace
2020 - 2021



JaceyRae Cagle
2021 - 2023



Chloe Grzesiak
2023-2024



Miguel Silvestre
2023-2024

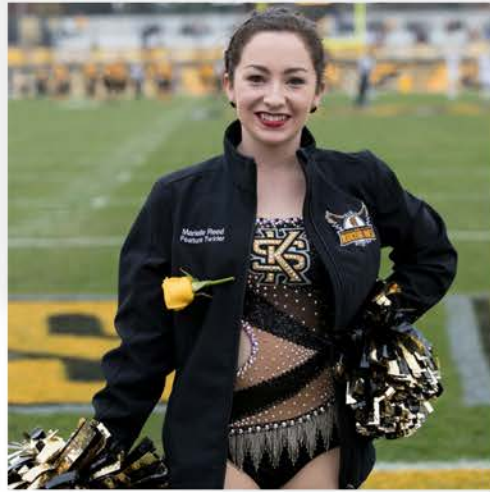


Ryan Wilcox
2024 - Present

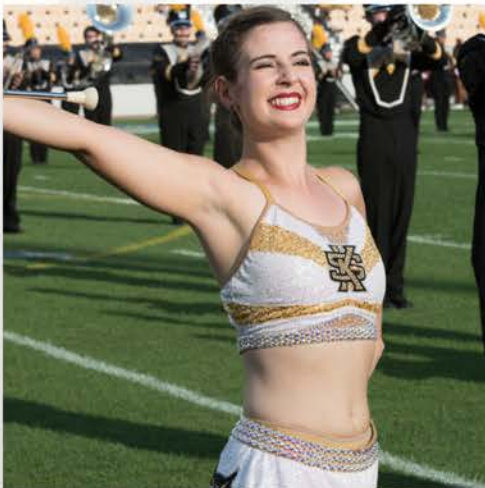
Feature Twirlers Over the Years



Madesyn Rice
2015 - 2017



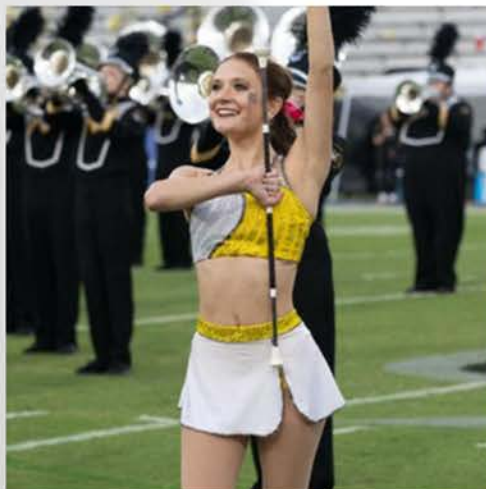
Marielle Matthews
2017 - 2018



Marianna Reeves
2018 - 2019



Hannah Moxley
2019 - 2024



Sarah Parker
2024 - Present

2016

Year Two

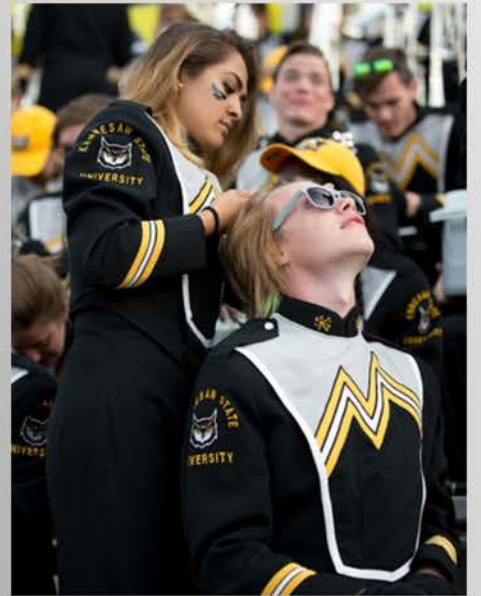
As the band entered its second year of existence, routines became traditions. Dr. Traficante said that in 2016, the members started to say, "We've always done it" or "We've never done it this way" even though the program had only existed for one year. This was a testament to the strong foundation laid during the inaugural year.

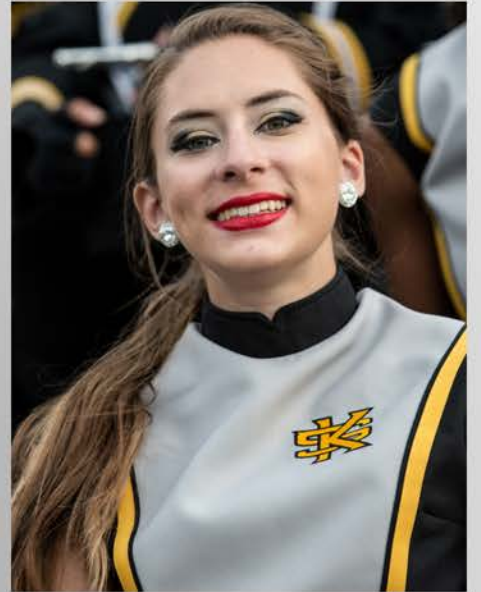
The Marching Owls also integrated themselves more into the Kennesaw community. Having a college band around created an additional sense of school spirit and elevated the game-day experience!

FEATURE TWIRLER

In 2016, the Marching Band added its first Feature Twirler, Madesyn Rice! This was the start of another tradition for the Marching Owls, and there has been a feature twirler ever since, twirling multiple batons and fire as the years passed.







2017

We keep growing!

As the program got older, so did its members. The first graduating classes have become alumni and are looking to stay involved. The band hosted its first Alumni Day, and former members were invited to march and play on the field with the band.

Mimi also passed the mace to Ethan David and he served as the program's second drum major!



Year Three



New Leadership

This year marked the first director change for the program, with Dr. Trey Harris joining the staff as the new assistant director. He also directed the University Band and the Basketball Band, affectionately known as "The HOO!" Dr. Harris introduced several new stands tunes and defense shorts, including Kylo Ren and Dies Irae.

Marching Owls in the Limelight

In 2017, former band members Brooks Payne, Rasheed Hall, and Jacob Morgan created the "Hooty Hoo" Video, which was played at all the KSU football games on the Jumbotron!

Band on the Road

The band had its first travel game this year at Jacksonville State University in Alabama. Only a portion of the band was sent to support the team, but their presence was powerful and resulted in a KSU win 17-7!

The band also performed their sci-fi themed show featuring pieces such as "Star Trek Generations" and "New Divide" in exhibition at Lassiter High School on October 26, 2017. The band was originally scheduled to play at Cobb Exhibition this year, but due to weather the performance was cancelled.







2018

Year Four

The Marching Owls had many featured performances during 2018. These included the first-ever football game played in Suntrust Park (now Truist Park) against JSU, with a record 5-over-time win, an away game performance at Georgia State, and an appearance at the Cobb County Exhibition! The Marching Owls are on the rise and are becoming a recognizable name in Georgia.



ALUMNI

Involvement

As the band continues to gain members each year, there is a continuing growth of alumni that are looking to get involved. The second Alumni Band Day hosted was a success and many inaugural members are seen pictured here, returning to the band they helped create!





MARCH-IN CHANT

*WITH THE INCREASE IN RECOGNITION, THE BAND STARTED TO CREATE NEW TRADITIONS
TO INCREASE EXCITEMENT DURING GAME-DAY. IN COMES THE BELOW CHANT,
ACCOMPANIED BY THE TROMBONE SECTION*

**Are you ready?
Ohhh, let's get it!**

**K - for Kennesaw
S- T- A-T-E
U - niversity
K - S - U!**

**Kennesaw State is the
place to be,
founded in 1963,
used to be two
communities,
but now we're one
university!**

**KSU All Day!
BLACK - GOLD
BLACK - GOLD**

**Black! Gold! All the way!
Black! Gold! Here to stay!**

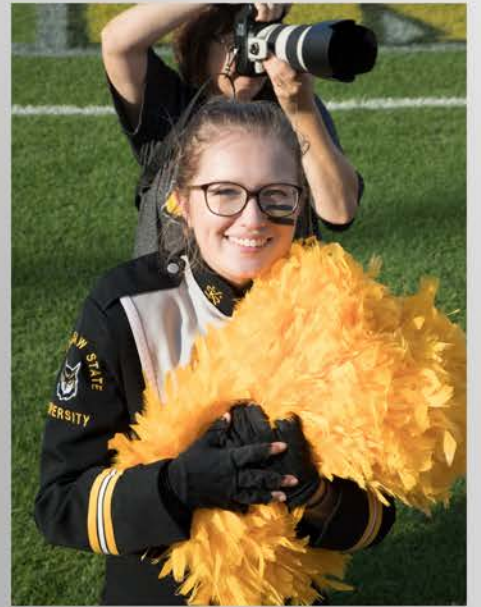
**Black! Gold! On the street!
Black! Gold! Stomp your
feet!**

**K - SU
Hooty Hoo!**

**When I say "___" you say "Stew!"
"___" "Stew!" "___" "Stew!"
5 - 6, Hooty Hoo!**

The March-In chant was created organically at a 2018 rehearsal. Dr. T began the original version, including the line "Marching Owls coming down the street, listen to our awesome beat!" This and other lines have been lost to history, as some band members asked if they could contribute to and change the chant. The next rehearsal a rewrite was born and the rest is history! As the years rolled on, the famous "5-6 Hooty Hoo" spins were added, and the band has a special dance step when they say "Stomp your feet"!







2019

Year Five

Dr. Scheivert joined the program as the new assistant director and his new take on writing drill creates unique shows including themes from Game of Thrones, Friends, The Office, The Big Bang Theory, & That 70s Show. The band also had a change in drum major to trombone veteran Harrison Spradlin accompanied by new freshman feature twirler Hannah Moxley.

TRIP TO WOFFORD

After five years of growth and excellence, there are more eyes on the organization than ever. It is now becoming the norm that when the football team travels, the band also travels to support! Here is another historic away game visit to Wofford Stadium where the Marching Owls supported the team to a 28-21 win!







2020

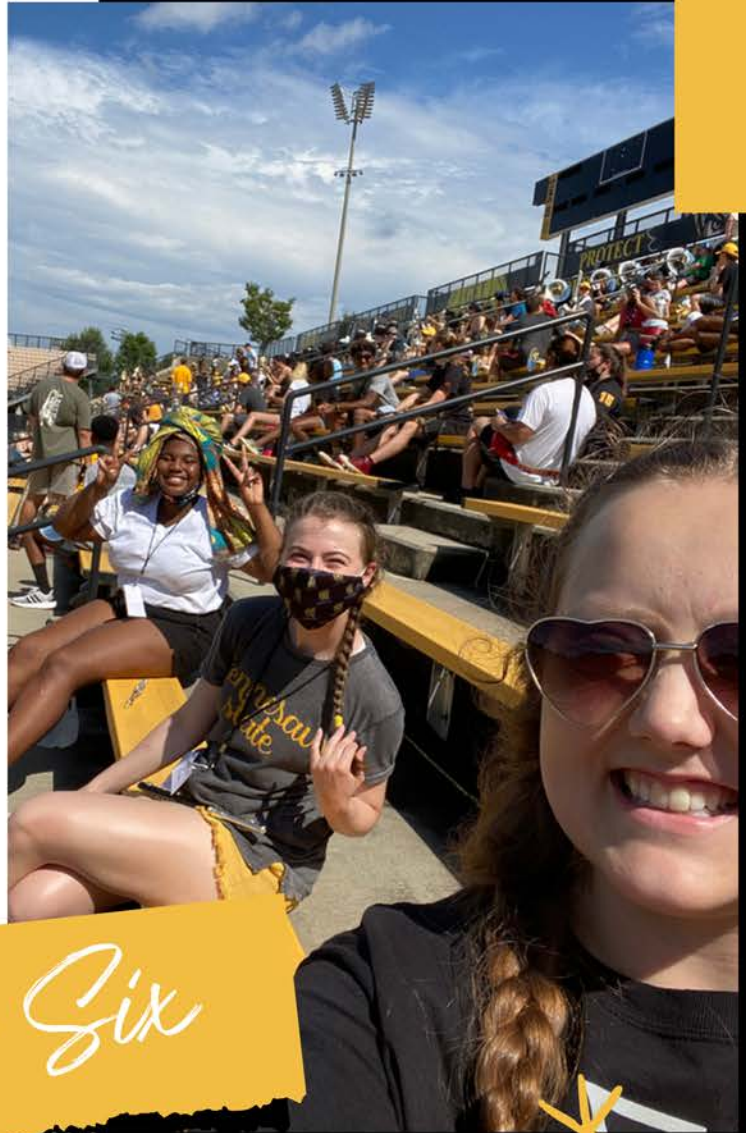
The One With Social Distancing...

This year, no one knew how we were going to continue doing band. However, there is power in community and after research studies and policies were examined, it was determined that the band could march on! This time with social distancing and outdoor rehearsals only. Here is a look at the unprecedented challenges in year six.

Year Six

The pandemic made music difficult for everyone around the country, but that didn't stop the Marching Owls from marching on. Dr. Traficante and Dr. Schievert elected to participate in "Together As One - One Nation," a fully arranged, designed, and choreographed marching band performance, available free of charge to any school or band director promoted by the Varsity Performing Arts. Bands across the country performed this show as a message that together we could get through the pandemic.

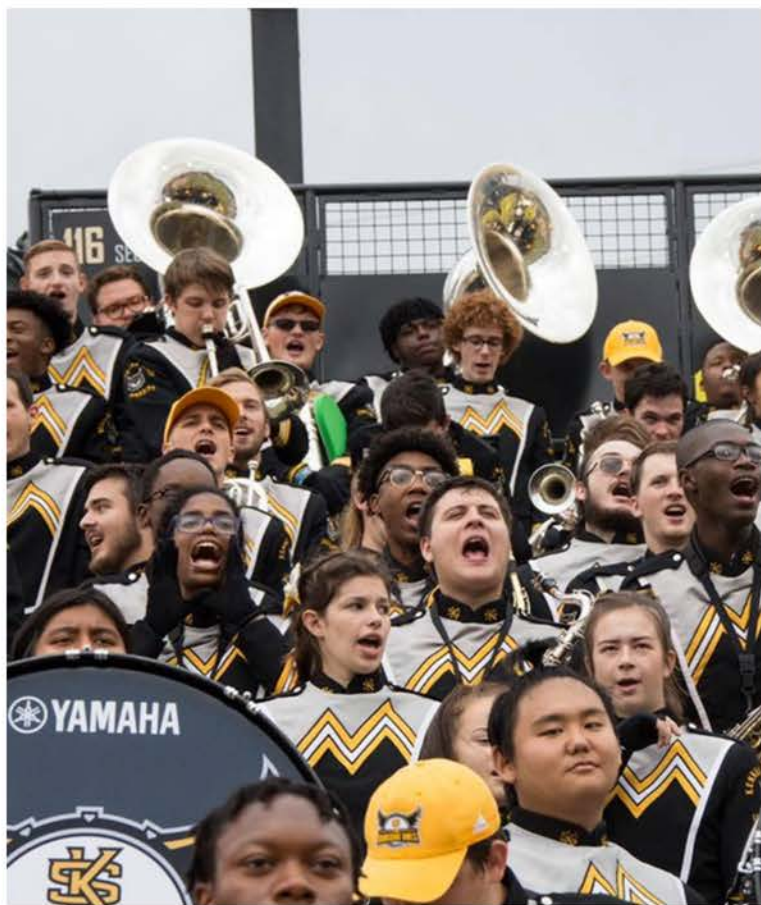
As this season had no football games to perform at, the staff decided to record stands tunes and half-time shows and upload them to YouTube to share. This was the first experience in college band for many freshmen, so these small opportunities to perform were treasured. The new drum major, Barron Wallace, also led the band in a taped pre-game performance. There were also a few public performances on the Campus Green to share music with the community.





KSU WAR CHANT

**“You don’t want to go to WAR,
With the OWLS!
With the OOOOOOWLS!”**



The KSU War Chant was written by Dr. Traficante for the KSU Basketball Band in 2014. The Basketball Band was later named “The HOO!” after Dr. Harris joined the staff in 2017. Most of The Hoo’s performers were also members of the Marching Owls, however, the music performed in each ensemble was slightly different. A few members suggested to Dr. T that the War Chant would be a great addition to add energy at football games and it was subsequently added to the football game stand tunes. It’s hard to believe that only a few years ago not many people on campus knew the war chant, but it’s now almost as popular as the Fight Song!



Marching Owls

Traditions & Changes

Owl Walk

Before every game, the band will play certain tunes to welcome the arriving home team. Did you know:

- The entire band used to march to the stadium for Owl Walk
- For some years, there was a rotation of small groups that would walk to the stadium entrance instead of the full band
- As of 2021, the full band plays by the Nest

Senior Show

Each year, the band seniors vote on the final show of the season (typically a repeat of a previous show)

Auld Lang Syne

This is considered the band song that is performed in the stadium after the Alma Mater after each game

- This song includes a trumpet solo that would rotate each game between people who auditioned

Drum Major Selections

This process has evolved over the years. Initially, it included mace twirling, interviews, marching auditions, and a written essay. Each year the drum major was voted on by the band.



2021

Year Seven

KSU slowly opened up again and the band took the field for the first time since 2019! It is many sophomore's first time participating fully in the college band experience and many older members are eager to take the field again! Themes of coming back together were present in this year's shows with songs Dancing with Myself, Don't Stand so Close to Me, & Happy Together. Dr. Rudy also joined the staff as assistant director and propelled the band forward into a new post-pandemic season.

The Marching Owls Alumni Society was also chartered in 2021 - starting a new era of alumni involvement, and opening up the possibilities to new and exciting events!

HISTORIC TRAVEL

KSU played at Georgia Tech on the 20th anniversary of September 11th, and the Georgia Tech and Kennesaw bands performed an America-themed show playing "America the Beautiful" in an enormous combined set with both bands, which was nationally televised.

The band had its first overnight travel to East Tennessee State University. The team lost, but the band had a great time and the alumni were waiting at Bandsmart to welcome them back!







2022*Year Eight*

For the first time in the program's history, the Marching Owls had a change in both directors. In the summer of 2022, Dr. Brandon Meeks and Dr. Daniel Lee were hired as the head athletic band director and assistant director respectively. They both previously served at the collegiate level in Texas and were eager to get to work. Both directors came in less than a month before band camp and successfully put pregame and half-time drill on the field! There were also new stands tunes additions like Cold Hearted Snake, Swag Surfin', and Neck which quickly became new staples for the program. Shows this season feature popular tunes such as Luke Bryan's Country Girl & Shiny Happy People by R.E.M.

**TRIP TO***Jacksonville State*

The KSU Football team was scheduled to play against Jacksonville State and this time the entire band was set to go to the away game! This is an important game as KSU and JSU are now considered rivals, with KSU winning the last few meetups. The game is electric with the Marching Owls playing the War Chant loud and proud! Unfortunately, JSU had the upper hand and won the game 35-28 in the last quarter.





2023

Largest band to date!

As the band enters a second year with its new leadership, it is the largest the band program has ever been! With about 300 members, the band brings a presence like never before.

Year Nine



The band performed at another Exhibition this year - the Sprayberry Southern Invitational on October 21st, 2023!



This is the first year the program has more than one drum major! The team consists of veteran JacyRae Cagle with new drum majors Miguel Silvestre and Chloe Greziak. This team led the band through another season of challenging music, new stands tunes, and new performances. Some new popular tunes that were played this year included "good 4 u" by Olivia Rodrigo, "Bye, Bye, Bye" by the Backstreet Boys, "Motownphilly" by Boyz II Men, and "I Want It That Way" by NSYNC.





2024

Year Ten!

The Marching Owls are now in their 10th year of existing and have experienced many changes and challenges. From a global pandemic, to a director change, to a shift in seating, there is nothing that can stop this band. They begin the season with a new record in membership -- 325 members! Here are some highlights from their decorated 10th season.



PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

As The Marching Owls gain notoriety, the community surrounding them can't get enough! Performances this season include the White Columns Invitational Exhibition in Milton, Legacy of Champions Exhibition in Carrollton, the International Fresh Produce Conference, & the College Football Hall of Fame Kickoff Event.





BRANDSMART

Refresh

The marching band facility has always been known as "Bandsmart", as it is a converted old Brandsmart USA facility. In the summer of 2024, a new and improved look debuted, cementing how important the building is to the band! The university installed a new sign designating it the "KSU Marching Owls Facility." The entrance's interior was hand-painted by Logan Mossor and includes a mural of marching members over the years and the lyrics to Auld Lang Syne.



AULD LANG Syne

"Auld Lang Syne" is a Scottish folk song traditionally sung to bid farewell to the old year on New Year's Eve. The phrase "auld lang syne" roughly translates to "days gone by" or "times long past." The song reflects themes of nostalgia, friendship, and the passing of time. In the lyrics, the singer asks if old times should be forgotten, only to answer that they should not be, and that they should always be remembered and cherished. To the Marching Owls, this song speaks to the idea of honoring past memories and moments, despite the passage of time. It is often used to commemorate the ending of the season and honor graduating members.





MEMORABLE PERFORMANCES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015-2024



2015 FIRST REHEARSAL



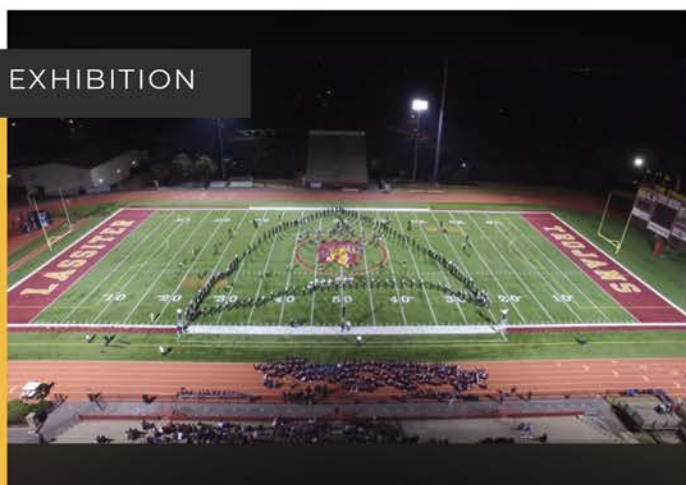
2016 GWINNETT EXHIBITION



2017 FIRST HOME GAME



2017 LASSITER EXHIBITION



2018 GEORGIA STATE AWAY GAME



2018 COBB EXHIBITION

"There are SO many [favorite marching shows], however the Theme Song Show was very fun and the crowd loved it. I also coincidentally made a "Friends themed" introduction video for the section leaders so it matched perfectly!"

- Charleston Fox, 2015-2019 Trumpet



2018 COBB EXHIBITION THRLLER
DANCE

2019 TV THEMES SHOW



2020 FILMED PRE-GAME
PERFORMANCE



2020 FILMED STAND TUNES





2021 GA TECH COMBINED SET

"I met my lifelong friends through college band, and it gave me a sense of belonging during college, especially getting through the pandemic."

- Andrew Mills, 2019-2022 Mellophone



2022 COUNTRY GIRL



2023 FIRST HOME GAME

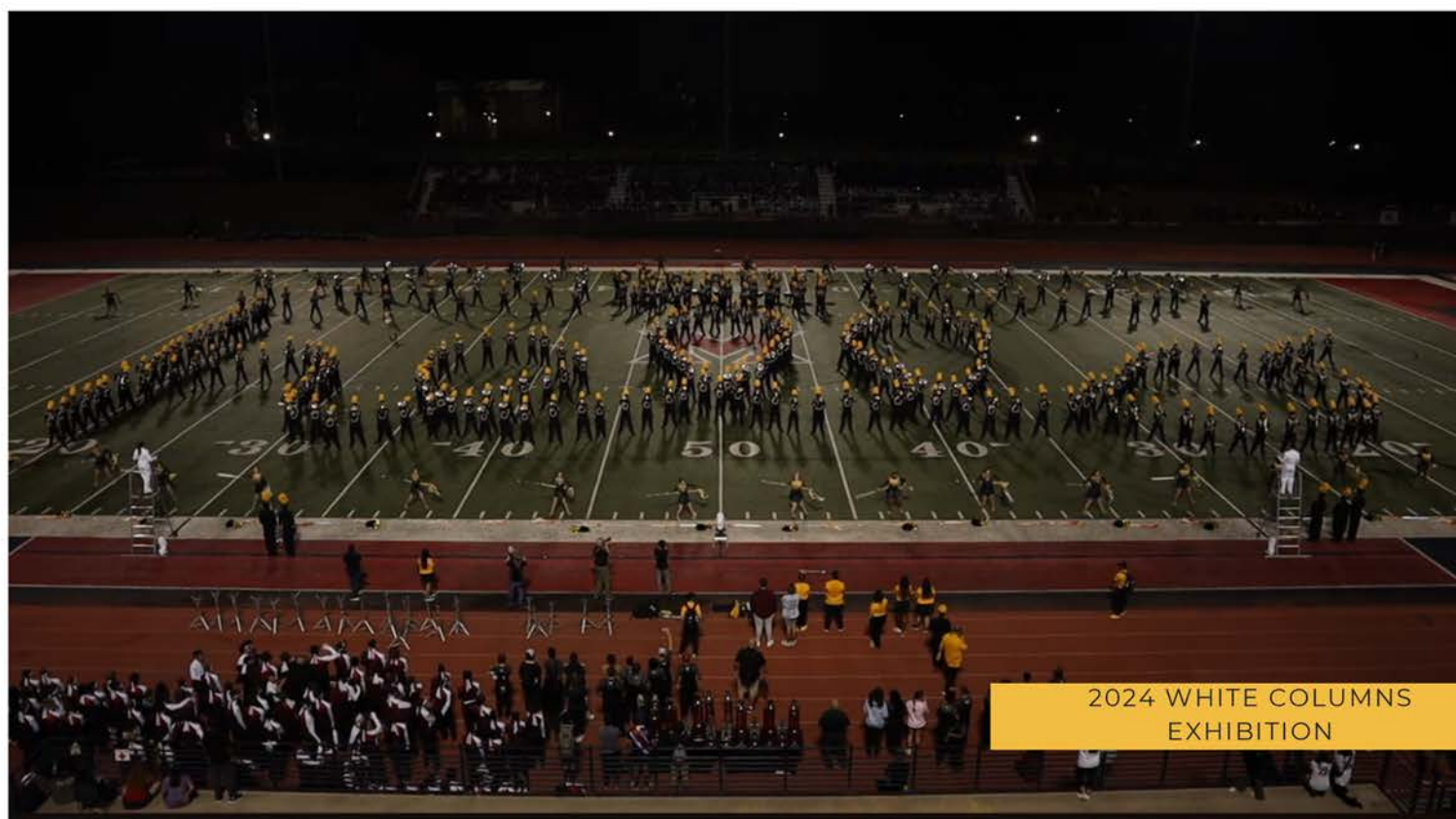


"Being an inaugural member felt like what I was doing would have such a great significance and leave behind a legacy that people, and myself, could look back on and say "I was there and I helped make it happen in the first place." Not many people can say they were apart the beginning of something, especially founding a university marching band. Even 10 years later, to see the band still going strong is quite an amazing feat to behold."

- Matthew Strotman, 2015-2017 Trumpet

2023 SPRAYBERRY EXHIBITION



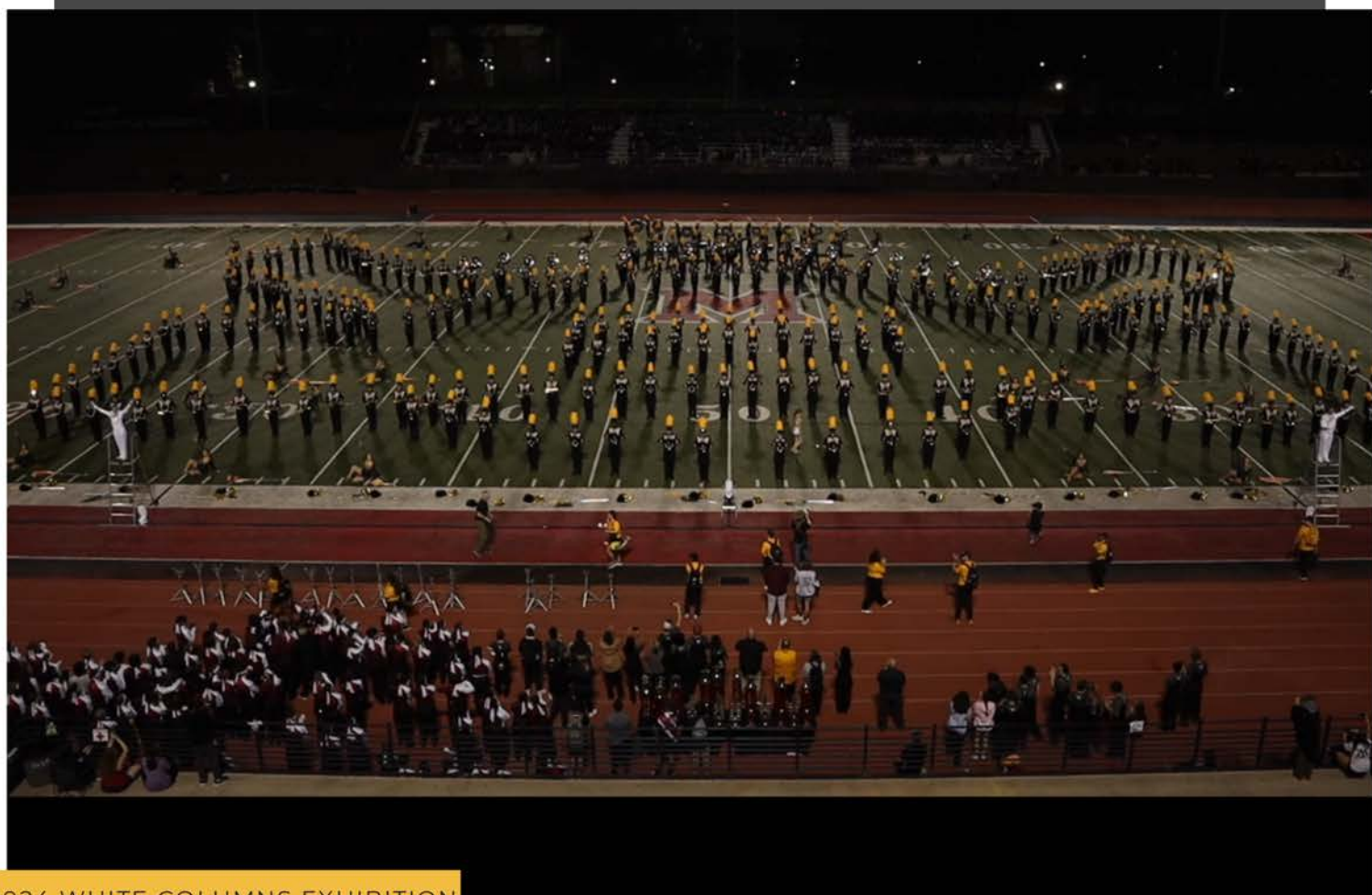


"One performance from Season 10 of The Marching Owls that had an amazing impact on me was our Milton HS Exhibition performance! From the first hit of "Hello" to the last note of "Time of Our Lives," we rocked that stadium and showed those kids what a true college marching band looks like! I couldn't help but smile hearing the audience sing along with our tunes and show their appreciation for the big moments we have worked so hard to perfect. It's always so exciting to reach out to the community through music, and potentially gain some future Marching Owls in the process. To be able to work alongside each member of the KSUMB to further our legacy is an incredible honor. I could not be more proud of the growth I have witnessed in the Marching Owls this season as a drum major!!"

- Chloe Grzesiak, 2024 Drum Major

"I think the most memorable part of this season was the Legacy of Champions and White Columns Exhibitions. For me, those performances represented a culmination of everything we worked for and how it all paid off. The crowds were ecstatic, and the band's energy was at an all-time high. I'll always remember this opportunity I've had to help lead the band to greatness in such a historic time for the program and I believe that the success we've achieved this year is only the tip of the iceberg for things to come."

- Ryan Wilcox, 2024 Drum Major



2024 WHITE COLUMNS EXHIBITION

BEHIND THE SCENES...

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015-2024



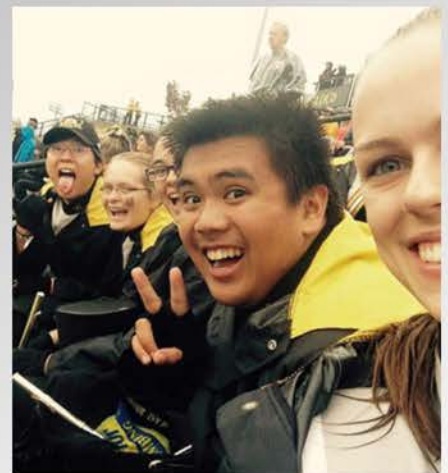


Rehearse, Rehearse, Rehearse!

None of this would be possible without the hours upon hours of rehearsal time the students and staff put in. Performing on a college marching band show is a highly challenging task, especially with busy schedules and tight time frames that students face.

Band members usually juggle full courseloads, part-time jobs, and extracurricular commitments, which makes rehearsal time precious. Show turnarounds can be as short as a week with new music and drill needing to be put on the field! The ability to pull off a flawless performance under such constraints speaks to the resilience and commitment of the musicians and staff involved in the process.

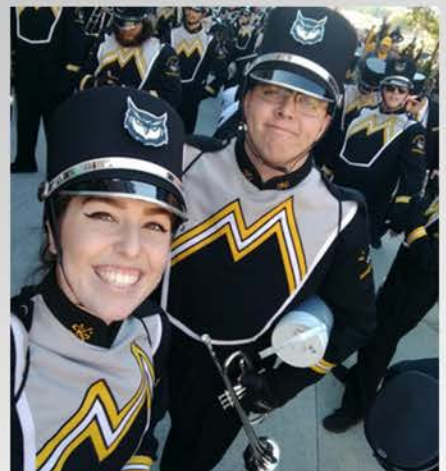
CANDID MOMENTS



CANDID MOMENTS



CANDID MOMENTS



CANDID MOMENTS

Zoom



CANDID MOMENTS



THANK YOU!

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the photographers ***Jim Clack and Glenn Prince*** who have spent the past ten years documenting the journey of our marching band. Your incredible talent and dedication have captured moments that words alone cannot express, preserving the spirit and energy of our performances, practices, and the unique camaraderie that defines our band family. Through your lenses, you've immortalized the hard work, passion, and joy our students pour into every note and every step. Your photographs have not only given us a visual record of our growth and achievements, but they have also allowed us to relive the emotions of those unforgettable moments, year after year.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to telling our story through your art. Your work has been a vital part of our band's legacy, and we are so grateful for the time, effort, and care you've devoted to documenting our journey. From the early days to where we stand today, your images have helped capture the essence of what it means to be a part of this band—highlighting the triumphs, challenges, and bonds forged along the way. We are thankful for your ability to see the beauty in every performance and for sharing your gift with us so that we can continue to cherish and reflect on these precious memories for years to come!

Remembering Miguel Silvestre



Miguel Silvestre joined the Marching Owls in the Fall of 2021 as a freshman in the trombone section. Eager to get the full college experience, he jumped into the leadership organizations of Phi Mu Alpha & Kappa Kappa Psi and quickly got to know people. These leadership qualities led him to be a section leader and eventually a drum major. As much as he was a talented musician and leader, he was also a jokester. You could count on him to have a witty joke no matter the circumstance. Miguel was also very servant-hearted and offered to help with anything and everything. His memory and impact will be remembered by all who knew him, and we celebrate him with this memorial.





Remembering Micah Williams



Micah Williams joined the Marching Owls in the Fall of 2021 in the saxophone section. He had transferred from Albany State, but being a new student was no deterrent to how personable Micah was. Always quick to tell a joke and always eager to lend a hand, Micah was a personality that people gravitated toward. Shortly after he joined it became obvious that Micah was incredibly gifted at his instrument. In the Spring he was a member of the University Band and was even featured as a soloist for the ensemble. Micah was also a Brother of the honorary band organization of Kappa Kappa Psi. The Marching Owls cherish his memory and wish to celebrate him with this memorial.





Remembering

Ian Dyer



Ian Dyer was a student at Kennesaw State and member of the Marching Owls trumpet section in 2016. He went to Walton High School, and was also in the trumpet section of the Spirit of Atlanta Drum & Bugle Corps. Ian was known to write poetry, play piano, trumpet, and guitar. In his spare time he enjoyed fishing and hiking and achieved the highest rank in Eagle Scouts. For his Eagle Scout project, he designed and built portable bike racks for the MS Society of Georgia to use during their rides. The Marching Owls wish to celebrate his time at KSU and the impact he had on others by honoring him with this memorial.





LOOKING AHEAD...

"We will continue our mission to be the BEST college marching band in the state of Georgia with a constant focus on teamwork, a commitment to musical and visual excellence and unparalleled energy and support for our athletic teams!"

- Dr. Meeks

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As the Marching Owls celebrates another unforgettable year, the Marching Owls Alumni Society would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the individuals and groups whose support, dedication, and vision have made the marching band program what it is today.

First, a heartfelt thank you to the founding members of the Marching Owls. Your passion, leadership, and determination laid the foundation for this incredible tradition. Without your hard work and commitment, the spirit and legacy of this program would not have been possible. Your contributions inspire and guide us as we carry the torch forward.

We also want to express our sincere appreciation to the staff and directors who have dedicated countless hours to our growth as musicians and individuals. Your expertise, encouragement, and tireless efforts have shaped us into a cohesive and spirited ensemble. We are incredibly grateful for your mentorship and the personal impact you had on the lives of the students who have come through this program.

To the MOAS Alumni Council and KSU Alumni Office, thank you for your unwavering support and for helping to build a strong community that connects past, present, and future band members. Your generosity and commitment helps ensure this program thrives for years and years.

Lastly, we thank the Bailey School of Music Administration for providing the resources and environment necessary for us to succeed. Your leadership, vision, and continued advocacy for the arts make our experiences here possible and meaningful.

Together these individuals and organizations have created an enduring legacy that will inspire generations of musicians, performers, and leaders. We are grateful for your continued support and for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of this remarkable journey.



10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY YEARBOOK

THE MARCHING OWLS

*Thank you to all the Marching Owls
past, present, & future....*