

# "DEVILS PRIDE"

## BLUE DEVILS Booster Club Newsletter

February 2011

### The President's Corner

What a great weekend we had for the February camp. The weather was almost perfect and we luckily escaped the rain that came the following Monday. While we have done it many times, camp and rainy days are not fun. A big thank you for everyone who came to help in Devil's Food. If you are in the area during camps, try to make it to the Sunday afternoon ensemble. You will be in for a treat.

We are in awe of the talent of these young people. We got to watch some of the drill sessions and were intrigued with what we saw. More will be said on this as the year progresses. The music quality for this time of year is extremely good and we can't imagine how the final show will be in August.

Personally, there were the "ducky bumps" and actual chills listening to the Corps. It was interesting hearing some of the BD Alumni comments as they had the same reaction. The music is very different from the 2010 show and many who have been around the Corps for many years made the comment that 2011 seems to be going back to the roots of the Blue Devils and will be a show that would make our founder, Jerry Seawright, very proud - we are in complete agreement!

**Sonja Williams, Boosters President**

### Thoughts from the A Corps Manager & Tour Director, Pete Emmons...

#### Characterizing this year's corps at this early stage...

At this early point in the season, all is going very well. The members seem to be enjoying the direction of the show, working hard, very diligently, in their approach. Nice group of young people.

#### How the show's coming along at this early stage...

Show is coming along nicely. The early Texas trip is definitely an opportunity for us to develop and complete the program within a different time frame.

There is a strong sense of urgency from both the teaching staff and the members. I think the members are really looking forward to seeing our competitors early on in the season.

#### On the direction this year's show will take...

Each year brings it's own set of challenges. This year is no different. The visual program, as always, will stretch the boundaries of what can be done within the confines of a football field. Each year the complete program is not only new but the approach to the program is new and different. The Blue Devils do not rehash formula shows. Each year is an expression of a new idea and story.

#### On this year's show theme/music...

The show title will be presented at the appropriate time.

#### Any new complications on tour of an already complicated journey?

Not really. We are, indeed, traveling a bit more than usual with the early season trip to Texas and back, but what's another 3,500 miles.

#### On support staff and preparation for tour...

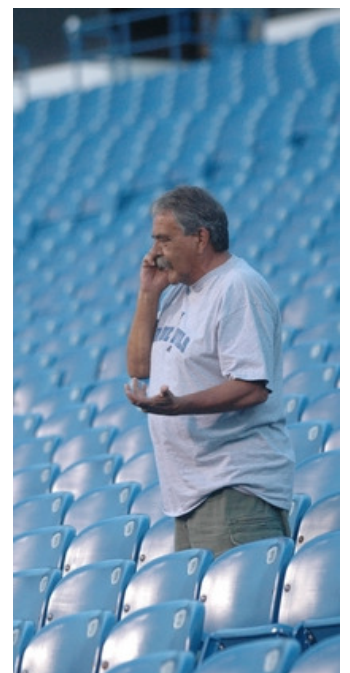
At this point, I would say we are about 85% set with support staff. We do have some open weeks where we could use some folks on Devils Food.

#### Any notable additions to tour at this point...

Yes Brain Howard, our outgoing Drum Major from the past 5 years, and last year's Blue Devil of the Year, is joining us as a tour assistant.

Really looking forward to his contributions.

**Thanks Pete!**



## Thoughts from Brian Howard...



Looking back on my five years as drum major for the Blue Devils, I have realized how incredible it all was.

I must thank my parents, because without their support I would not be where I am today. I am so appreciative that I was given such an incredible opportunity to

conduct and lead such a high quality group.

It is funny how little I remember about all the shows and different schools where we rehearsed. But I do have vivid memories of countless random moments with so many great friends. That's one of the best things about the Blue Devils; the quality of people you meet and get to work with is nothing like the typical friends you would meet at school or work.

The level of talent that comes from all over the world to participate in the Blue Devils is astonishing. The caliber of instructional and administrative staff is incredible and the main part of why the Blue Devil organization has been so successful. The way the staff treats the performers is one of the most revealing traits about their character. Every performer is treated like a professional and leaders take pride in keeping things positive when the competitions become heated.

I am honored that I was asked to go on tour as an administrative assistant after my age-out year and I'm looking forward to it greatly. I expect it will be somewhat of an adjustment and I will miss some aspects of being a performer.

But now I have been given an even more rewarding opportunity to work with the staff and help make the members lives a little easier this summer. I'm especially excited to watch and enjoy this year's show as well as the competition right out of the gate.

If I have any advice to give, it would be to the other drum corps. They are going to have to work really hard to catch the 2011 Blue Devils.

### Brian Howard

*Blue Devils DM 2006-2010*



## February Camp

This camp started early and cold, but the promise of great weather was in the air. We had sun all weekend and the corps members, especially those from the colder areas of the U.S., really enjoyed the warmth. This was also our first camp with the Pit. We were excited as much as they were to meet up with the horn line and battery. Music is sweet and they are already showing us their ability to work as a strong unit.



Lots of activity could be found on the field during this camp. Drills were part of corps work, but the real show was going on, on the other side of the field. Though still under wraps, another new interesting concept is being developed by our very creative and imaginative staff. It looks promising, so keep checking the Blue Devil website for announcements in the future.



Show title has yet to be determined, but the music is sweet. The Boosters are excited, but our lips are sealed.



## Booster Bits - Corps Members - Tuba Gals

This year the Boosters are very excited to see two girls make the tuba line. The last year that happened was in

2000. Unfortunately that year, the gal had an injury that prevented her from marching in finals. Hope for this year is that everyone stays healthy.

Anastasia Ellis, (far left in photo), is from Payson, UT, which is near Provo. She is now presently enrolled in Utah Valley University. Anastasia marched with The Troopers from 2007-10. She started in the mellophone line but really admired the work that was being done by the tuba line and their work ethic. Well, when she mentioned that she would like to play tuba, someone, no names mentioned, told her that anything was possible except a girl playing tuba in drum corps.

That was all the motivation she needed to succeed. She worked hard and ended up on the tuba line for The Troopers for 3 years. Many in drum corps see the Blue Devil tuba line, known just as "The Line", as one, of if not the best in drum corps. Anastasia loved being a Trooper, but needed a bigger challenge.

Ben Cowden, a former BD tuba player, was her idol, and led her towards her goal of being the best. Another gal was also auditioning for "The Line", so she knew she would have competition. Right now, with both of them achieving their goal of being a Blue Devil, Anastasia feels they will be close and work well together.



Katie Stemper is from Gainesville, FL. She attends the University of Florida. She marched with Magic in 2006 then moved to The Boston Crusaders from 2007-10. She loved the Crusaders and was their section leader. She even received a visual award at the end of the year. But, as with Anastasia, she wanted a bigger challenge. Katie decided in Middle School that the tuba was her instrument of choice.

It was different and was a challenge. Her influence in drum corps came from Adriel Rodriguez, who marched on "The Line" with BD from 2004-06.

She feels very lucky to be a Blue Devil and wants to be a visual instructor in the future.

Congratulations to both girls. We're glad you chose the Blue Devils!!

## Devil's Food

Renovations are under way for a newer and improved Devil's Food!!! Lots of room for more shelves now. Not sure when they will start building, but Toby took lots of measurements, even of oil bottles, the toaster, meat slicer etc.



Everything will have a new place to be. And no more aggravating industrial can holders that got stuck every day.

## Super Bowl Sunday



The Boosters always get together for the Super Bowl. This year we met at Jim Serena's house, for a great day of food, food, and did I say food, oh and football, although we really like to watch the commercials.

Kathy Cecil was in charge of small prizes during each quarter, but Jim ended up winning the grand prize at the end of the game. A notable sum was also donated for the benefit of the A corps.

Oh yea, Go Pack!! \*\*Hopefully it will be, Go 49ers!! next year.



## Booster Club Web Site

Yvonne Moss informs us that the site has been updated and it will now be a place to get monthly updates, look at pictures from recent events, find out about upcoming activities and get the telephone numbers and email addresses of our current officers.

If you haven't been to this page or want to get an update, please visit soon. If you want to add information to the page or send pictures, email Yvonne at: [mossyvonne52@gmail.com](mailto:mossyvonne52@gmail.com)

Be sure you write something related to the pictures so Yvonne won't have to guess. Yvonne also sends her thanks for everyone's support.

## IT'S EARLY, BUT MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12** – Blue Devil Family Day – Diablo Valley College – Pleasant Hill, CA.

We had a great turn-out last year with so many family members and friends. We usually start the day with pictures of the 3 Corp by Jolesch Photography, a fantastic potluck at the park and an evening of entertainment by the three BD Corps members. It's a great day and truly a "Family" event. Tickets on sale now from the BD website.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24** – Mid-Cal Tour of Champions – Buchanan High School - Clovis, CA

We are looking forward to seeing The Cadets, Phantom Regiment, Blue Knights plus several of the California corps. Tickets are on sale at [blueforyou.com](http://blueforyou.com).

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25** – DCI West – Stanford University – Palo Alto, CA

What a great day this is. Tickets are on sale at [www.blueforyou.com](http://www.blueforyou.com). If you can, check out the tickets that include the fabulous BBQ before the show on [blueforyou.com](http://blueforyou.com). It's well worth it!

## FUTURE CAMPS

March 18-20, April 29-30 & May 1, May 27-30 (Memorial Day Camp). As always, if you are available to help out with Devil's Food duties at any of the camps for any length of time, we would LOVE to hear from you.

Please contact Sheryl Miles at: [smiles@bluedevils.org](mailto:smiles@bluedevils.org)

We are starting our new membership and renewal drive for 2011 and letters are out and responses and checks (!) are already being received – thank you all.

Our financial situation is gradually improving thanks to generous donations as well as the furious work of volunteers at the Giants/49er games.

## GET YOUR BD 2010 DVD/BLUE RAY NOW!



In 2010 The Blue Devils captured their record-setting 14th Drum Corps International World Championship. For the second year in a row, they went undefeated with an amazing string of victories with this incredible production: "Through a Glass, Darkly".

See this unforgettable season unfold on this DVD – Inside The Blue Devils 2010.

The "Inside" series is the longest running drum corps product on the market. Since 1996, fans around the world have embraced the concept of experiencing The Blue Devils UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL. With over a decade of producing the "Inside" series, The Blue Devils know how to provide a wealth of quality content. This series gives you a "front and center" experience like no other drum corps product!

Also many specials are currently available in merchandise at [www.bluedevils.org](http://www.bluedevils.org)

### BD Boosterclub

**Meetings the first Tuesday of every month at the IHOP in Martinez – Come join us**

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