One of the many exciting events surrounding Crimson Tide football is the annual gathering of the outstanding men and women of the Million Dollar Alumni Band! This year’s event promises to be particularly exciting because our alumni band rehearsal will be held on a newly renovated Butler Field (see picture above, as of June 30). The completed facility will feature a new tower, sound system, and lights and an artificial surface field designed to be an exact replica of the field at Bryant-Denny Stadium and beautifully landscaped.

Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to dust off your instrument, visit with friends, and christen the newly renovated Butler Field! Register to participate in the 2015 MDB Alumni Band at www.bands.ua.edu. The deadline to register is September 1. The deadline to order game tickets is August 1. Game tickets will not be available after that date.
The mission of the organization is simple: to assist, support, and promote the Million Dollar Band.

Inaugural Meeting of “Friends of the Million Dollar Band”

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the new Million Dollar Band support organization, “Friends of the Million Dollar Band,” held its first meeting at the Frank Moody Music Building prior to the annual A-Day spring football game. The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Bob Olin, conducted the inaugural meeting. By-laws were presented and adopted, a slate of officers was voted on, and the mission of the organization and the committees were established. Plans for the 2015 Alumni Band event were also discussed. Everyone in attendance was very excited about the direction of the discussions and the exciting prospects for the future. The MDB deeply appreciates the tireless efforts of Dean Olin and Kathy Yarbrough, Director of Development, in making this organization a reality. In addition to the business conducted, Dr. Ken Ozzello gave a “state of the program” presentation, and two current members of the MDB spoke about their experiences in the band. The next meeting will take place in conjunction with the Alumni Band event - on either Friday, September 25 or Saturday, September 26, depending on kickoff time of the game.

Membership in Friends of the Million Dollar Band is open to anyone who is interested in supporting the band. The mission of the organization is simple: to assist, support, and promote the Million Dollar Band. The organization will work with MDB alumni, Crimson Tide supporters, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Music, and other friends and fans to recruit talented students to the band, to plan and promote the annual Alumni Band weekend, and to help secure funds for band scholarships and activities. To become a member, please visit friendsofmdb.ua.edu.
The University of Alabama Board of Trustees, at their June meeting, gave final approval for construction of an addition to the Frank Moody Music Building that will house the new University Bands facility. The elevation rendering shown above is the view of the addition from the Bryant Conference Center. The total square footage will exceed 20,000 square feet. Elements of the facility will include two rehearsal spaces - one large enough to accommodate indoor music rehearsals for the entire Million Dollar Band, an office suite for the band staff, storage space, student locker rooms, and a student lounge. Both the School of Music and University Bands owe a great debt of gratitude to the Board of Trustees, Past-President Judy Bonner, Dean Bob Olin, MDB alumni and friends for bringing this project to fruition. This facility will help to attract the brightest and most talented students to The University of Alabama. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer, and the target date for completion is August 2016.
Fans of the Million Dollar Band often say that the band’s nickname is an apt one. That is never truer than when it comes to the sound of the band, one of the best and most recognizable in the world of college marching band. The directors, staff, and graduate teaching staff all play a role in developing the sound of the band, but perhaps no one has a greater role in that aspect than its musical arranger, Michael Klesch. While some bands utilize staff members or graduate students as arrangers, the Million Dollar Band is fortunate to have Michael, who is one of the most respected and honored in the activity. He has been the band’s arranger since 2003 and has been largely responsible for all of the music the band has played over the past 13 years, including at three National Championships and countless bowl appearances.

In addition to writing for the Million Dollar Band, Michael serves as the arranger and musical director of the Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps. During his tenure with Carolina Crown, the corps has won numerous “high music” awards and the prestigious Drum Corps International World Championship in 2013.

Drum Corps International honored Michael in 2012 when he was inducted into their hall of fame.

When asked what it meant to him to arrange for the Million Dollar Band, Michael said, “It is a professional dream come true.” He elaborated that as a high school student, he and his grandfather watched college football together on Saturdays, and he distinctly remembers seeing the Million Dollar Band and thinking it would be great to be a member of that band. Some 30 years later, albeit slightly different than what he had envisioned as a high school student in Pennsylvania, Michael enters his 13th year on the staff of the Million Dollar Band.

When asked what it meant to him to arrange for the Million Dollar Band, Michael said, “It is a professional dream come true.”

In summing up Michael’s work with the Million Dollar Band, Dr. Ozzello said, “The sound of any ensemble is limited by the quality of literature that it performs. The mature and distinct sound of the Million Dollar Band has a great deal to do with the method and style in which Michael writes. He is unquestionably one of the finest arrangers/composers in the marching activity. We are very fortunate to have him write for our program.”

When asked what it meant to him to arrange for the Million Dollar Band, Michael said, “It is a professional dream come true.”
2015 Auxiliary Groups Selected

Sheibi Abbott
Mary Allen
Amber Alston
Madeleine Arancibia
Jessi Bowen
Madelyn Box
Shae Brown
Savannah Cambron
Stephanie Cartagena
Rachel Faith Clark
Ashley Coleman
Julie Crouch
Catherine Darby
Rachel Edrich
Sarah Fluegemann
Leah Fontaine
Aimee Gueret
Brooklyn Hensley
Alyssa Hope
Alex Horn
Emily Jackson
Ashley Jeter
Sydney Johnson
Morgan Keenum
Kylie Longoria
Megan Moseley
Amelia Neumeister
Emily Pate
Lena Paradiso
Noel Posey
Sidney Powel
Katie Rose
Sydney Ruff
Jordyn Stone
Christina Sciaroni
Caitlin Sizemore
Danielle Weniger
Alyssa Young
Kimberley Zlatunich

2015 Colorguard

Steve Simpson – Director
Brandy Keeton – Choreographer

2015 Crimsonettes

Melea Beasley
Callie Blocker
Alyssa Brown
Courtney Carter
Kelsey Dyer
Katie Engleson
Haley Greene
Ashley Kidd
Laken Lawler
Maci Ledbetter
Reid McGwier
Janna Meeks
Abbey Minor
Morgan Moore
Abby Oliver
Brooke Patton
Makenlie Pitzing
Alex Smith
Megan Smith
Savannah Stripling
Riley Ridgeway
Paige Robertson
Page Weinstein
Lindsey Yerby
Savannah Zechiel

Marion Powell – Choreographer
Summer outreach camps have been an important part of the mission of University Bands for three decades, serving high school students from all over the Southeast. Instructional camps for drum majors, marching percussion, colorguard, majorettes, dancers, and student leadership were held in early June with over one hundred high school students participating. This year, Randall Coleman, Director of Summer Camps, added several new options to the summer lineup, including a free, two-day seminar for high school band directors that featured experts from around the country as well as members of the Million Dollar Band staff.
Marching Band Science

It can be said that it’s fitting that the University’s marching band, as both an organization and an academic course, is housed in the College of Arts and Sciences as the Million Dollar Band utilizes science on a daily basis. Science is a highly integrated part of the marching band’s overall activities, whether it is website or database management; exercise physiology; recording technology; music notation software; amplification and sound management; hydration delivery systems; body-cooling technology; performance apparel; drill design software; tablet technology for learning drill; nutrition; or drill coordinates and step size for visual design performance.

To utilize the wide-ranging technologies available for the effective performance of the marching band, the directors and staff must maintain fluency with specific technologies, and the band must often stay current with the hardware required for the various technologies being used.

For our students majoring in a science, marching band is an opportunity to see science in action, whether it is the physics of sound; evaporation and perspiration rates; body mechanics; ergonomics as it relates to the rehearsal environment; or the MERV rating of a misting fan for body cooling during the hotter days of the marching band season.

From time to time, the Million Dollar Band has been fortunate to have students who are pursuing advanced degrees in science and have done research into specific aspects of the rehearsal and performance processes, making the marching band a living laboratory. The Million Dollar Band also serves as a model for our music education majors when they become directors of their own marching bands.

Either directly through their degree programs or indirectly through the science and technologies employed by the Million Dollar Band, all of our students see the science in action and gain a genuine respect for the role it plays in their marching band experience.
...the band returns to Dallas, Texas for the “Cowboy Classic,” September 4-6.

Traveling is one of the most exciting parts of every Million Dollar Band season. Over the years, the band has traveled to every corner of the nation and even overseas to Italy in 2012!

The 2015 season starts with a bang as the band returns to Dallas, Texas for the “Cowboy Classic,” September 4-6. The students and staff look forward to seeing friends and family as the band hits the road. See the complete travel schedule below:

Sept. 5  AL vs. Wisconsin  Full Band
Oct. 3  AL vs. Georgia  Pep Band
Oct. 17  AL vs. Texas A&M  Pep Band
Nov. 14  AL vs. Miss. State  Pep Band
Nov. 28  AL vs. Auburn  Full Band

Plus Post-Season!

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Million Dollar Band
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