

# Greenwood Marching Woodmen and Irish Guard

## Alumni Newsletter



*The Tradition Marches On*

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## Hello Alumni!



Dear Alumni,

We welcome the class of 2023 as alumni of the Greenwood Marching Woodmen and Irish Guard!

When lots of people come together in small ways, great things can happen. This was evident in the garage sale I hosted this spring. All the proceeds were donated to the GMWIG. Forty eight individuals donated items for the sale and we raised \$4,000! Thank you to the following alumni for the donation of items:

- Rosa Morrow Alexander (Class of 1980)
- Charlene Corliss Dudenhoeffer (Class of 2001)
- Gayla Gunn (Class of 1977)
- Karen Michael Hayden (Class of 1978)
- Karen Everett Korn (Class of 1977)
- Norman Lasiter (Class of 1976)
- Beth Pennycuff Meyers (Class of 1980)
- Julie Reed (Class of 1977)
- Regina Smith Vandivier (Class of 1978)
- Julie Oster Wolszczak (Class of 1975)

This fall, the alumni will have another opportunity to collectively to make a difference for the GMWIG. I won't tell you what it is, but it is something that has never been done before....Stay tuned!

Gayla Gunn, Class of 1977



Hello Greenwood Marching Woodmen Alumni and Fans!

Greetings and thank you for taking the time to catch up on the Greenwood Band Program! It is a very exciting time for the band program.

Currently, the entire music wing is under construction. New paint, new lighting, new carpet, and some new technology are being installed in all of the rooms. Don't worry, it will not slow us down this summer. We should be able to work around the progress. If you are in the area and would like to see the new look, feel free to reach out. We would be happy to take you on a tour when we are in for practice.

Because of the construction, the Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band met in the high school auditorium as one band for the last several weeks of the school year. We even combined as one ensemble to perform a pops concert on

May 15th. The theme was "The Eighties" and students and staff dressed in 80's themed costumes. Even some of the crowd got into the action. We hope to continue this new tradition next year with a new theme. Everyone had a ton of fun!

Speaking of Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, both ensembles received Gold Ratings at the ISSMA Organizational Festival. The Wind Ensemble received "With Distinction" and a perfect score from one judge. Both ensembles received Gold ratings in Sight Reading also. That was a major achievement since no participating student had experienced sight reading previously due to COVID. However, the students performed wonderfully and were very well prepared.

Marching band is right around the corner. Enrollment numbers are looking up. We have approximately 147 signed up to participate. The color guard is currently boasting 30+ members. The staff is set! This will be the first time these particular students will not have a new band director or staff during their tenure in band. The show is titled "Immortalis" and will focus on the concept of keeping lost loved ones, family, and friends immortal by living by their example. It can also be translated as leaving a legacy for future generations.

Donald Kalugyer retired last December. We thank and celebrate his long service to Greenwood Bands. He is an outstanding teacher and friend. We look forward to his continued support and help on staff with the marching band. Eric Zielsdorf was hired as his replacement at Greenwood Middle School. We are very excited about what Mr. Zielsdorf brings to the program. Check out the Greenwood Community High School Facebook page for details about his experience and background. Currently, he is getting ready to work with Spirit of Atlanta on their summer DCI tour.

We would like to thank all of the students, parents, administrators, alumni, volunteers, and friends of the program that made 2022-23 so successful! It was a great year and we had a lot of help making it a memorable and successful time for the students. We ended the year with special recognition from the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) by being one of only nineteen schools in Indiana to receive the ISSMA Total Department All-Music Award. To achieve this, the band and choir had to receive a Gold Rating in every ISSMA event available. What a great way to end the year! Thank you!

Luke Aylsworth



Director of Bands  
Greenwood Community High School



## A Message From Mr. Kalugyer



Hello, GMWIG Alumni and Friends, and thank you to Gayla and the alumni team for inviting me to share a few thoughts with you about my time with the greatest band program of them all.

First, welcome to the Class of 2023, our newest Greenbloods. (A Greenwood alumnus taught me that expression about 18 years into my time at Greenwood.) We are all so proud of you and we're excited that you are joining the ranks of our distinguished alumni. I encourage you to stay involved in the band program. At first it may seem odd to be an alum, and you may be unsure of what to do. But there are many opportunities to have fun and make a difference. Some of my favorite memories are when recent graduates come back to a practice or an after-show celebration and are mobbed by their sections and friends who are still in band.

Since coming to Greenwood in 1993, I've had the great honor to work with some of the most outstanding people I have ever known: students, directors, band and school staff, bus drivers, administrators, parents, and volunteers. There are so many people in the last 30 years, way too many to name, so please don't be offended if I don't mention most names. It truly has been a privilege to know and work with each of you.

Marching band has changed so much over my time here. We've gone from no props in 1993 to basic props that didn't move to now having props that spin and change pictures in the blink of an eye. (The dads may wish it was still 1993!) We've gone from sewing our own flags to sending a picture to a printer and seeing the picture become a flag.

Greenwood was on the cutting edge in 1995 when the band members danced independently during a drum break in the marching show. Now our students learn dance terms and all show designs have a lot of body in them. That is something our directors have always done: to try to stay ahead of the curve in marching band. Next up: band in 4-D, as soon as the jetpack is perfected!

I have been fortunate to work with some of the best band directors in the state. They were and are great people and great leaders, wonderful examples for the students to follow, and they always put the students first. Jon Sutton, Dan Rice, John Morse, Steve Fletcher, Ben Werne, Luke Aylsworth, Joel Matthews, and now Eric Zielsdorf, and although not a "director," Travis Beck. And the incomparable Pam Wishmeyer. That's a legendary line-up!

Of course, behind these legendary characters have always been a huge number of people whose support is vital. Mom Fowler was hired as secretary about my 5<sup>th</sup> year at Greenwood, and what a Godsend! When she moved to the front office, Mom Knartzer took over and has been keeping the department running ever since.

Students past and present, thank you for your dedication and hard work. Greenwood has a work ethic like no other. As time progresses, through every season the upperclassmen step up and the underclassmen follow right along. It is amazing watching all of you progress as marchers and musicians, but especially as people I'm proud to know.

Thank you to all the parents for all that you have done and continue to do. You are truly the backbone of the program. Without what you do, the students could not do what they do. The prop building, the uniforms all year long, the multiple committees, feeding the students, and the list goes on and on. Our parents make what seems to be impossible possible. Parents, your children may never say it, but they love it when you are



around and it means the world to them, even if they never say so. Maybe one indication of this, though, is that I've been blessed to have a number of students who are the children of my former students, and that is a special joy. The greatest joy of all, though, was having my children, Rachel and Malcolm, in the band I was helping direct.

Our bus drivers have always been and still are the best drivers anywhere. They help our students and the program, but more importantly they are an integral part of the GMWIG Family. Our drivers go to watch our students perform and cheer them on. They dress up for shows, decorate their buses and buy our students crazy glow-in-the-dark glasses, just because they care.

There have been so many memorable moments during my time here, and you all know about most of the biggest ones. Here are a couple that you might not have heard. When I was at the high school they were remodeling the band room, so we were put in the "barn" as soon as it was completed. One Saturday the directors, students and parents met and moved the entire band department, including uniforms. Two quick stories about that. First, there was a great deal of rain one night and the barn flooded. The next day we found equipment and speakers and just about anything else you can think of sitting in water that stretched halfway across the barn. Not the best day ever for the band department. Second, Annette, Jon and I shared an "office" in the main building during the remodel. It was the pool storage room, crammed with three desks. The room was on a slope and you had to wrap your foot around your desk so you didn't slide to the door. And to make it even more fun, I was allergic to chlorine. What a year!

After 15 years at the high school, I moved to the middle school and had a great time with those students as well. One of my favorite memories at the middle school was whenever we had a hoops band game. I would buy three huge bags of popcorn and we had movies and popcorn in the band room after school until it was time to go perform at the game. On the last game night we always had pizza and cookies, often homemade, and it was a huge eating festival. They didn't play as well that night because their stomachs were stuffed, no room for air. But it sure was fun. What I've always loved most about teaching at the middle school, though, is the awesome students and that I have gotten to watch 6<sup>th</sup> graders grow from choosing their instruments into seniors who love and thrive in band. This is a really cool thing for an educator.

I could go on and on about each of my 30 years at Greenwood, the jazz band dinner dance, the band banquet, the fundraisers, and so much more, but I have reminisced enough. I don't want to sound old before my time. Okay, this is the part where you all say, "You're not old!" And I throw you each a Tootsie Pop. IYKYK 😊

Thank you to everyone who I have ever had the honor of meeting, teaching, and working with over these many years.

See you over the rainbow.

DK



## Alumni Spotlight



I feel like I had a pretty unique experience with the GMWIG program. I started band a year late but my 8th grade year, DK let me skip a grade and I played with the other 8th graders. Every single year after that was different yet exciting. For marching band, I marched clarinet, then moved to the Front Ensemble for synthesizer/FX, and my senior year, I got selected for Center Drum Major. For Jazz band, I did piano & aux percussion my freshmen year, then solely piano the 3 years after that. I participated in Winter Percussion for 2 years playing synthesizer/FX. I also did Music Theory my junior year. Finally, I was an accompanist for the choir's ISSMA events for 2 years as well. I volunteered any chance I got for the GMWIG, whether it be parking at the Indy 500 events, guard invitationals, or the summer clean up days.

I was so attached to the program that my yearbook quote Senior year was : "I would like to thank the band program because it gave me a home and sense of belonging throughout high school." That's exactly what GMWIG was: a home. Each one of the band directors and percussion instructors during my time did an exceptional job training, coaching, counseling and mentoring individuals as part of their transformation from shy band kids to competition-ready musicians/marchers. The staff along with student leadership helped develop us into a well-oiled machine year after year thoroughly indoctrinated in love of band and music. They demanded perfection of us, and demonstrated by their own example, the highest standards of personal discipline, passion, and skill.

Like any other organization, I did have many frustrations and moments where things were taking a less than ideal route. I reminded myself everyday though that I got to do what I loved, and it outweighed any negativity going on at the time. I'm beyond grateful everyday for the experience I got from the program. I got lots and lots of opportunities to be involved in leadership whether it be Section Leader, Drum Major, or even taking charge of the Jazz combos for a few years. This, along with encouragement from the directors and percussion instructors, helped me establish a sense of confidence in myself that was not there before. I learned that my opinions & ideas matter too. I also learned that not everybody can be taught the same way and some might need more patience/time than others. This knowledge has been really helpful to me in real world jobs where I have had to train countless workers to do the tasks I did and be able to excel in them as well. The program has taught me to be more open-minded towards people different from me and to give those who may not seem like they have much to offer, a chance. In the end, we are all human and we all have talents that may not be so obvious at first glance.

Finally, the program has helped me with time management and organization. It taught me to show up early to any appointment or event because as we all know: "Early is on time, on time is late, and late is UNACCEPTABLE!" For the organization side of things, we always got told to make sure all of our tools for success were with us at every practice/competition (music, instrument, sunscreen, crayons, shoes, etc.) and to bring extra everything, just in case. At every job I have ever had, I've not had a problem with being tardy or unprepared. I also set out my clothes and tools needed the night before or a few hours before the event is taking place. This may not seem like much but if you're ever stressed out or in a hurry, little habits like these help prevent unnecessary delays.

Whether or not current members & alumni of the GMWIG realize it, the little things we get drilled into our heads during our time with the program, are extremely helpful in everyday life. If I could do it all over again, I would without hesitation. The love I have for the experiences, the friendships, the staff, and the program, is something I'd never want anybody to miss out on. I hope my family currently in the program (my brother, Abraam and cousin, Ismael) have this same experience as well someday.

The GMWIG is truly special and a place you'll only find somewhere over the rainbow.

Arianha Macy (Rodriguez), Class of 2020



## The Tradition Marches On—In Families!



Mom Charlene Corliss Dudenhoeffer (Class of 2001) with husband Bryan, daughter Megan (Class of 2021), daughter Madison (Class of 2029), and son Dylan (Class of 2025).



Mom Bridget Caperton Semonik (Class of 1998) with sons Dominick (Class of 2024) and Anthony (Class of 2023).

## Lasting Traditions

When Jon Sutton was asked what specific traditions started under his leadership, he replied, “I did change a tradition during early on in my tenure that I thought was very fundamental to our success. When I took over the program they had a tradition of “senior rights” where they basically put themselves first and had certain rights because they were seniors. I changed that to “senior responsibilities” where they were responsible for the nurturing and development of the younger students, and the responsibility of carrying on the established/approved traditions of the program. This worked very well in that it changed the perception the underclassmen had of the seniors from being overbearing and self-centered to one of admiration and respect.”



## For The Class of 2023 - With Love

Now you stand where we stand  
Before you, all your dreams,  
Behind you, all your memories,  
Within you, all you need.

Now you stand where we stand  
It's hard to let it go,  
The friends you made, the things you learned,  
With every single show.

Now you stand where we stand  
And you'll help pave the way,  
For all those coming after you,  
The future starts today.

Now you stand where we stand  
And it's all up to you,  
To keep traditions alive and well,  
And support the things they do.

Now you stand where we stand  
How can you repay  
Something that gave you so very much?  
What is there to say?

Just keep standing tall and proud,  
Give back all you can.  
You are now alumni  
Of Greenwood's guard and band.

-Sheri Irwin Gardner, Class of 1978-



Thank You!

Julie Lash  
Andrew Short  
Luke Aylsworth  
Donald Kaluyger  
Arianha Macy (Rodriguez)  
Sheri Irwin Gardner

