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The University of Alabama Million Dollar Band Newsletter

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One ...
in a
Million
Dollar Band

Recruiting Advantage



Student Lounge Areas

Frank J. Moody Music Building Million Dollar Band Facility

The spacious entrance, the trophy case, the video screens, the photographs and murals, the student locker rooms and lounge areas – all together – are having a powerful impact on prospective students and their parents when they visit our band facility for the first time. Interest in membership and auditions is at an all time high. Our beautiful band facility is undoubtedly giving us a recruiting advantage!



Entrance to 2nd Floor



Locker Room Entrance

Yea Alabama Society

Have your name permanently displayed in The Million Dollar Band Facility by joining the Yea Alabama Society

The “Yea Alabama Society” has been established to provide an opportunity for alumni and friends of the Million Dollar Band to both contribute to the band’s scholarship endowment and have their names permanently displayed on the new donor wall in the band facility (below).

Multi-level membership options are available to those that wish to join. Membership levels start at a modest amount and can be spread over three to five years. All proceeds go to the College of Arts

& Sciences Friends of the Million Dollar Band Scholarship Endowment. New member names will be added to the donor wall each spring before the A-Day Game. Individuals, families, and even sections of the band, past and present (e.g. 2009 Trombones), are eligible to participate. Eligibility is not limited to alumni of the band – anyone can join.

The Million Dollar Band is very grateful to Dean Bob Olin, who provided the startup funding and saw the project through to fruition. Very special thanks to alumnus Albert Tarica for his innovative idea for the program.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Yea Alabama Society can contact Macy Vintson at mpvintson@ua.edu or 205-348-7009.



MDB to Perform at BOA Championships



Bands of America Grand National Championships, Indianapolis, Indiana

The 2017 Million Dollar Band will travel to a region of the country seldom visited by our storied program. Each year, Bands of America holds its high school marching band Grand National Championships at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. The three-day event features 100 of the finest high school bands in the country, representing over 25 states. The MDB has been invited to perform as the featured exhibition band on Friday, November 10. This is a tremendous recruiting opportunity for both the MDB and The University of Alabama. In addition to our performance, the band staff and UA Recruiting will meet with high school students throughout the weekend at our information booths in the stadium. The students and staff of the MDB are honored by this prestigious invitation and look forward to performing. Please come out to see us If you live in the Midwest, or travel with us as we "Roll" toward Indy!

2017 Alumni Band – September 16!



The annual gathering of the Alumni Band is one of the highlights of every season. This wonderful event is an opportunity for former members to reunite with old friends and once again experience the thrill of performing in Bryant-Denny Stadium before over 100,000 fans. It also gives current MDB members a chance to show their appreciation for the legacy of the MDB. We now have a beautiful facility in which to gather for this event; it is full of photos and memorabilia representing the rich history of the band. Please plan to join us on September 16, and Roll Tide!

Register to participate in the 2017 Alumni Band at www.bands.ua.edu

Deadline to register for Alumni Band is September 1

Deadline to order game tickets is August 1

Marion Powell – The Crimsonette Legacy Continues

Excellence is often the result of the passion, dedication, and hard work of those who make it the very thing that defines them. For the past 39 years, the Million Dollar Band's twirlers, the "Crimsonettes," have been a prominent and iconic part of the tradition and culture of Crimson Tide football. The driving force behind that group of talented and dedicated students is Marion Powell, director and choreographer.

Ms. Marion, as she is affectionately known, has been performing almost her entire life. "My mother was a dancing teacher, so I started dancing as soon as I could walk," she said. Throughout her school years, she dedicated herself to dancing and twirling and when it came time to attend college, Ms. Marion had only one place in mind – Tuscaloosa, Alabama: "I grew up as an Alabama fan. My father attended 'Bama. My earliest memories were of the MDB on television at halftime. I always wanted to be the lady (sponsor) that held the flowers and marched beside the drum major. I wanted to see Bear Bryant win games and be a part of that great tradition."

In 1978, Dr. James Ferguson hired Ms. Marion to teach the Crimsonettes, and almost four decades later, she is still teaching and mentoring a group that is visible in the community, volunteers at many charitable events, is a vital part of Million Dollar Band pre-game and halftime shows, and as Ms. Marion likes to say, ". . . are great ambassadors for The University of Alabama." When asked to recall some of her fondest memories, Ms. Marion said: "I have been a part of seven football national championships, Bear Bryant's 315th win, and Bear Bryant's last game at the Liberty Bowl in 1982. It was a thrill directing the Rammer Jammer cheer at the 2016 SEC Championship game and the Alma Mater on my birthday in Arizona for the national championship game. Every performance is memorable because I love seeing the Crimsonettes entertain. What I treasure most are the interactions with my students, some of which have developed into friendships that continue to this day and bring great joy to my life."

Former Crimsonette Leigh Murphree summed up well Ms. Marion's substantial

influence on her students: "She has continued to be a lifelong friend and mentor to me because she truly lives out the precepts she so adamantly requires. She encourages each girl to strive to reach her personal best in academics, twirling, and maintaining a positive attitude. Her one-of-a-kind blend of dance and twirling has become iconic in the SEC and proves to be a timeless style that continues to entertain audiences around the nation. The Crimsonette legacy would not exist today without her sacrifice, her singular focus on goals, and her devoted passion to twirling and the Tide!"



Marion Powell

Million Dollar Band Outreach



Cameron Pruitt



“If there is one thing that is constant in this world, it is the power of music.”

– Singer/songwriter Josh Groben

The power of music was evident to all who gathered on May 3 to welcome a very special guest to our band facility.

Facing serious health challenges, 13-year old Cameron Pruitt of Northport had a wish to meet members of the Million Dollar Band. At the request of Children’s Hospital in Birmingham, 125 band members, including Crimsonettes and colorguard, held a surprise pep rally for Cameron at our facility. Upon his arrival, a smiling Cameron was entertained with performances of “Yea Alabama,” stand tunes, the MDB’s fourth-quarter tradition of “Basket Case,” and pep cheers led by the university cheerleaders and Big Al. Dr. Ken Ozzello and Randall Coleman presented Cameron with a shako and a plaque designating him an honorary member of the Million Dollar Band. Section members gave Cameron unique gifts symbolic of each section’s traditions. Following a meet-and-greet and having pictures taken with Cameron, the band gathered around him to sing the Alma Mater. Cameron, then, personally directed the band’s dismissal.

For the Million Dollar Band members, the event was unforgettable. One of our drum majors, Miranda Cornelius, remarked that following the pep rally for Cameron, she was brought to tears during a final exam, thinking about the love that filled the room that day. And so for a brief time on a Wednesday afternoon during finals week, at the intersection of a wish and a marching band, the power of music touched us all.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

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MILLION DOLLAR BAND NEWSLETTER

Two New Travel Venues in 2017



Two new venues for the MDB are among the travel destinations in 2017. The Crimson Tide and the MDB will open the season at the new Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta with a marquee matchup against Florida State. In November, the MDB will be the exhibition band for the BOA Grand National Championships in Indiana. The regular season will come to a close with our biennial trek to the plains. Hope to see you on the road!

2017 Travel Schedule

Sept. 2	AL vs. Florida State Full Band
Sept. 23	AL vs. Vanderbilt Pep Band
Oct. 7	AL vs. Texas A&M Pep Band
Nov. 10	Bands of America Grand Nationals Full Band
Nov. 11	AL vs. Miss. State Pep Band
Nov. 25	AL vs. Auburn Full Band

Plus Post-Season!