



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Cougar Marching Band Alumni,

I cannot begin to express to you the excitement that I feel to join the Cougar Marching Band this fall! Since 1899, this band has been an integral part of the WSU experience, committed to honoring traditions and entertaining fans across the country at an extremely high level.

When new leadership comes to any organization, there are many questions and unknowns, and I'm sure this is no exception. With the commitment that you have displayed in your time at WSU, you have given of yourself to an organization that you now feel deeply connected to. My goal is to seek to learn as much as I can about what the band has done in the past, while exploring new ideas that will continue the tradition excellence in our group. I have already begun this process, meeting with our CMB faculty and putting into motion planning for this upcoming school year. You can expect some EXCITING things ahead! We'll do many things the way you are most accustomed to, but we will also take some risks to grow, improve, and extend the national reach of our program.

One element that is important to the vision of our Cougar Marching Band is the importance and integration of our alumni. You continue to participate with the alumni band because you found your experience as a member of the Cougar Marching Band rewarding. It's my goal to find ways that you can 1) share with current CMB members the value of your experience, contributing to the future of the CMB, and 2) help build the national excitement of our ensemble.

I'd be willing to wager the first thing that you are thinking when you hear *contribute* is "this guy is already asking for money?" Please understand that while money is a great thing (and an essential to our operation), your shared experiences and wisdom are far greater in value. Each of you has a unique view of your time here, and each of you are in fields (mostly outside of music) that you can share your expertise with the current CMB. You know that the CMB represents the BEST of what WSU has to offer. It is my goal to create a network of alumni band members that can offer training, wisdom, and expertise in the fields that you currently work in. You can be the catalyst for the future!

Another important ideal of the alumni relationship that I hope we foster is that you can be a great part of the advocacy of the importance of the CMB. The lessons you have learned, the performances you made, all contributed to your experience. Now imagine when every great moment is celebrated across the nation with our alumni network! The sharing of our successes alone will increase the national visibility of the AWESOMENESS that is the Cougar Marching Band. That excitement builds energy with the current performers AND encourages more outstanding students to study at WSU!

As time goes on, I'll continue to share ways that you can support the Cougar Bands. Please know this: **our success does not happen without YOU**. Every person that has been in the CMB, every person that is in the CMB, and every person that *will* be in the CMB is important, and each share a unique role to the future of our group.

I'll be in town for the Spring Game in a couple of weeks. If you can attend, I look forward to meeting you.

Go Cougs!

Jon Sweet