Building a Legacy, One Note at a Time

The ECSU Band Program has undergone a major transformation over the past two years. With the growth of the marching band in 2012 from 47 to 140 members, to the growth and improvements in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, the band program has made significant changes in appearance and quality.

Recruitment efforts of Director, Tomisha Brock, and her staff, have helped to increase not only the membership in the band program, but also the number of music majors and minors within the department, and the number of students attending ECSU. Seventy percent of the members in the band program represent majors and minors outside of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts (formerly the Department of Music).

In addition to improvements in recruitment, marching, and musicianship, the students in the program have also made tremendous strides academically, with over fifty percent of the band averaging a 3.0 GPA or higher.

The support of administration, faculty, and alumni has been phenomenal, and we are grateful for the continued support and efforts of individual alumni, alumni chapters, and the National Alumni Association.

Thank you!!!

The ECSU Band would like to thank all alumni and friends of the university, for your support of the band program over the past two years, and for your continued support as we prepare for the upcoming year.

Tomisha L. Brock, M.M.Ed
Director of University Bands
Highlights from the 2013-2014 Year

In her second year, Mrs. Tomisha Brock and her staff continued to successfully build the ECSU Band Program

The 2013-2014 year was a very successful one for the ECSU Band Program. The Marching Sound of Class had a very busy fall performance season, beginning the year with their annual performance at the Macedonia Baptist Church “Back to School” Community Celebration Event (Newport News, VA). The performance went extremely well, and the church later presented the band program with a very generous love offering.

The football season kicked off with tons of excitement, and the Marching Sound of Class was front and center, supporting our football team. For the second year in a row, the Down East Classic featured a Pre-Game Mass Band Performance of the National Anthem. In addition to the Sound of Class, participating high school bands were Hertford County High School, Southeast Halifax High School and Rocky Mount Senior High School.

In October, 2013, the Sound of Class hosted the first ever indoor Gym Battle of the Bands vs. the Virginia State University Marching Trojan Explosion Band. This event was labeled as a “Pre-Homecoming” event and was very successful. The following week, the band hosted a second indoor battle vs. Lincoln University (PA). This event was also well attended.

The support of the alumni during the 2013 football season enabled the band to secure meals for various performances, that otherwise would have been impossible. Alumni chapters purchased calendars, provided water and Gatorade, and purchased meals for the band program. They also volunteered their time and assisted with transporting equipment to and from the stadium.

The P.O.I.S.O.N. Drumline, a sub-section of the ECSU Marching Sound of Class, was honored to receive an invitation to participate in the Big Apple Classic HBCU Drumline Competition, which was to be held at the Barclays Arena in Brooklyn, NY. With the support of the university and alumni, the Drumline was able to make the trip to participate, and won 1st place in the competition, bringing home the trophy and a grand prize of $1,000.00.

The Band was further honored with an invitation to participate in the 1st Annual HBCU Experience Battle of the Bands in Wilmington, NC, in January, 2014. Upon entering Wilmington, the band was greeted by State Police and the area Sheriff and Police Departments, and a grand caravan led by the Police Department, escorted the Marching Sound of Class and the Saint Augustine’s University Marching Band to the performance arena. A large group of ECSU Alums were in attendance for the event, and the local alumni chapter provided meals for both bands.

The close of the marching season did not stop the success of the program. In February, 2014, the Viking Pep Band participated in the annual CIAA Tournament, performing for several recruitment visits during the week. These performances helped to generate a lot of new recruits for the upcoming year. In March, 2014, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed a very successful, and well attended Spring Concert.

The Band Program concluded the 2013-2014 with Auxiliary, Drumline, and Drum Major Auditions, and a Band Banquet, which was held in the Kermit E. White Graduate and Continuing Education Center.

Highlights at a Glance

August 2013 – Performed at Macedonia Baptist Church Back to School Celebration

September 2013 – Performed at Adrian Carroll BOTB (Durham, NC)

October 2013 – Hosted two indoor Gym Battle of the Bands, vs. Virginia State University and Lincoln University (PA) respectively

October 2013 – Performed in the Surry County High School Homecoming Parade and Pre-Game (Surry, VA)

December 2013 – P.O.I.S.O.N. Drumline won 1st Place in the Big Apple Classic HBCU Drumline Competition (Brooklyn, NY)

January 2014 – Marching Sound of Class performed in the 1st annual HBCU Experience Battle of the Bands (Wilmington, NC)

February 2014 – ECSU Department of Visual and Performing Arts hosted the 54th Annual Intercollegiate Music Association Conference

February 2014 – Viking Pep Band performed at CIAA Tournament, and at Hugh Cummings, North Edgecombe, Garinger, Vance, and Harding University High Schools, and Thomasboro Academy.

March 2014 – Symphonic Wind Ensemble Spring Concert

April/May 2014 – Drumline, Auxiliary, and Drum Major Auditions; Band Banquet
2014-2015 Outlook

The ECSU Band Staff and Students are gearing up for yet another exciting year of musical and marching excellence. In addition to a busy and challenging football schedule, the Marching Sound of Class has several invitations to perform exhibitions in the local area, across the state, throughout the region, and in professional sports arenas.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble plans to collaborate with other performing ensembles in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, to produce several concerts for the upcoming academic year.

The integration of technology, through the use of smartphones, YouTube, BlackBoard, Twitter, and other media will further enhance the quality and efficiency of the band program.

We begin the 2014-2015 year with our 2nd Annual Summer Middle and High School Band Camp, which was rescheduled from a date in June, and will now be held July 13-19, 2014. The camp is open to all rising 7th through 12th graders who play a band instrument, or participate on their school’s auxiliary squad as a dancer, twirler, or flag/color guard member.

Following the Middle and High School Camp, the Marching Sound of Class will begin their Pre-Season training. New Freshmen and Transfers, along with Student Leaders will report to camp on Sunday, July 27th. Returning band members will report to camp on Sunday, August 3rd. This year’s camp will feature several guest clinicians, who will help the band staff with camp instruction and season preparations.

Other Events

- Dec– TBA– Winter Concert
- Dec– TBA– Holiday Parades
- Dec– TBA– Big Apple Classic Drumline Competition
- Jan 18-19, 2015– HBCU Experience and MLK Parade (Wilmington, NC)
- February 5-7, 2015– IMA Conference (Norfolk State University)
- Feb 23-28– CIAA Tournament (Charlotte, NC)
- April– TBA– Spring Concert
- April/May– TBA– Auxiliary, Drum line, Drum Major Auditions; Band Banquet

Marching Sound of Class

Aug 23– Queen City BOTB
Aug– Date TBA– Macedonia Baptist Church Back to School Celebration
August 24– WRVS Back to School Bash
Sept 6– ECSU @ NCCU game
Sept 13– ECSU vs. Tusculum game
Sept 19-20– Down East Classic
Sept 26– ECU/WSSU Battle of the Bands (BOTB) (Winston-Salem, NC)
Sept 27– ECSU @ WSSU game
Sept 28– CIAA/MEAC BOTB (TBA)
Oct– TBA– Surry County HS Homecoming Parade and Pre-Game
Oct 4– ECSU vs. Livingstone game
Oct 11– ECSU @ VSU game
Oct 18– ECSU @ Lincoln U (PA)
Oct 19– Adrian Carroll BOTB
Oct 24– Battle of the Bands (TBA)
Oct 25– HOME COMING
Nov 1– ECSU vs. VUU game
Nov 1– Kings Fork Kennel Classic Exhibition
Nov 8– ECSU @ Bowie State game
Volunteer with the Band

We are looking for the following volunteers for the 2014-2015 year:

- Seamstress
- First Aid/Medic
- Videographer
- Photographer
- Floaters (at least 3)
- Hospitality

Email tbrock@ecsu.edu to sign up.

Support the ECSU Band Program

The ECSU Band Program is in need of assistance with securing supplies and resources for the 2014-2015 year. We are in need of the following items:

- Bottled Water
- Gatorade (Bottles or Mix)
- Clarinet Reeds (Mitchell Lurie Sizes 2 1/2, 3, and 3 1/2)
- Alto Saxophone Reeds (Vandoren Sizes 2 1/2, 3, and 3 1/2)
- Tenor Saxophone Reeds (Vandoren Sizes 2 1/2, 3, and 3 1/2)
- First Aid Kits (3)
- Valve Oil and Slide Oil
- Bandanas for Cymbal Players (at least 40)
- Show Flags and Flag Poles
- Auxiliary Uniforms
- Banner Frame Carrier

For more information, email tbrock@ecsu.edu, or call (252) 335-3658.