



# Prairie View A&M University Marching Storm

# History

- The University Bands program was established in 1912 under the direction of A.D Ewell.
- Throughout its 104 year existence, the program has expanded to dozens of ensembles. Thousands of students have participated in the program while earning their respective degrees.



# Notable Ensembles

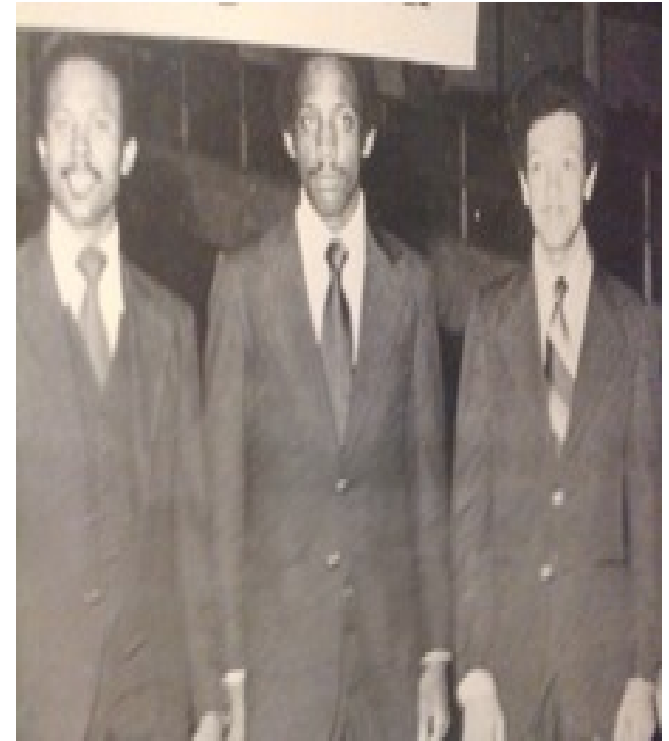
- One of the most highly noted ensembles prior to the establishment of the university marching band program was the Prairie View "Co-Eds," an all female ensemble which performed at military bases across the country as well as the Apollo Theatre.
- The university marching band dates back to the post-World War II era when male students returned home from combat. In the decades since, the band has continued to flourish under outstanding directors who traveled to the university from Florida A&M University, Tennessee State, Virginia State University. Many of the band's directors have been Prairie View A&M University alumni as well.





# The Marching Band Era

- In the early 70's, Dr. Victor Hebert (PVAMU) and assistant, Dr. Lucius Wyatt (FAMU) expanded the band program with the help of current Marching Storm assistant director Professor Larry Jones, and with the assistance of local musicians.
- "Sounds of Success" or The "S.O.S Band" was one of the first names given to the marching band after it came under the direction of Dr. William McQueen (FAMU) who took over in 1977. Along his side were: Professor Larry Jones, Dr. Margaret Sherrod (Former Miss Prairie View & Black Fox Director), and the late Professor George Edwards (FAMU).



# The Creation of “The Storm”

- The late Professor George Edwards arrived in 1978 as an assistant to Dr. William McQueen, and became the director of bands after his departure. Under his direction the band was initially known as the “Funky 50” (1984).
- Between 1989-1992 (debated) a group of band students created a new name to go with the new direction of the program, hence: “The Marching Storm” was born.
- During this time, current Music & Theatre Department Head, Dr. Mark Phillips (VSU), joined the staff as an assistant to Professor Edwards.



# Accolades Throughout The Years

Under the direction of Dr. Edwards, the Marching Storm acquired numerous accolades throughout its existence including, but certainly not limited to:

1. **President George W. Bush's Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C. (2001)**
  2. **The 2004 Dallas Cowboys' Thanksgiving Day Game**
  3. **The ESSENCE Music Festival in Houston (2006)**
4. **2011 Super Bowl, numerous trips to the Honda Battle of the Bands in Atlanta, Georgia.**
5. **Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.**

# New Direction

- ▶ In 2012, following the passing of Dr. Edwards and a change in directorial staff, Dr. Timmey Zachery was appointed as Director of Bands.
- ▶ Dr. Zachery then worked together with his directorial staff to establish a **five-year plan**; an ultimate goal for the program set in place in an effort to expand as well to improve the quality of life and education for current members, as well as students who would participate in the coming years.

# The Five Year Plan

1. Observation, Discipline, and the Establishing the seeds of a core sound.
2. Marching
3. Entertainment
4. Rise of the Phoenix
5. Total Domination.



# Storming To The Top

In the years since the establishment of new direction the Marching Storm has created a name for itself in grander arenas. In 2015 alone, the band was honored, has competed in, and has won the following:

1. HBCU National Band Directors Consortium, Symphonic and Jazz Band (**Featured Performer**)
  2. Battle of El Dorado, El Paso, TX (**Winner**)
  3. HBCU Sports Band of the Year 2015 (**Winner**)
4. PV Choice Award Organization of the Year (**2015 Winner**), Spotlight of the Year Award (**2016 Winner**)
5. Students selected to the US Army Band and Eastman School of Music Institute

# Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 2017

- One of the band's largest accolades of the past year has been its addition to the lineup of the 2017 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.
  - Only 10 bands are accepted out of the 175 that apply.
- The performance includes one week of experiences ahead of the parade during the week of Thanksgiving holiday.

The band will be the ONLY band from the state of Texas to participate in the parade, performing for an audience of 3.5 million on the street with an additional 50 million + viewing live on television.

This is a once in a life experience for the program, as well as the university.

# Fundraising Efforts

The band has already begun fundraising efforts which include soliciting donations from:

- The general public/fans/supporters
- Alumni
- Faculty & Staff
- Current Students
- Public Businesses & Companies

The program currently has an online donation page set up via Panther Marketplace, as well as a university-supported telephone campaign.