

UCLA Alumni Band

2019-2020

The Year in Review



established 1976
uclaalumniband.org

From the UCLA Alumni Band Board

July 2020

Dear Fellow Bruins, Family, and Friends:

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic wiping out the school year, the spring sports seasons, and pretty much everything else in Bruin Nation rather prematurely,

However the Alumni Band, once again, had an incredible year providing music and fun for the UCLA community, as we have done for the past four and a half decades.

Everyone that we played throughout the year for gave the band compliments and expressed their appreciation for us being at their events, which is always nice as everyone in the band had just as good a time playing at the events as the people at the events enjoyed having us there.

And I'm sure that everyone in the Alumni Band is looking forward to continuing that UCLA tradition.

We would like to thank Dan Guerrero, Josh Rebholz, Scott Mitchell, and the staff of the UCLA Athletics Department for their continued partnership and encouragement. In addition, we are much indebted to Assistant Vice Chancellor Julie Sina, Cia Ford, and the UCLA Alumni Association for their continued support and assistance. We are very fortunate to be part of a campus that provides an opportunity for us to do what we do, and we are looking forward to our 45th year of serving our campus and the community in 2020-2021. Go Bruins!

UCLA Alumni Band

2019–2020 Performances

Date	Performance
August 24, 2019	Annual Rehearsal & BBQ
September 7, 2019	UCLA Football vs. San Diego State
September 14, 2019	UCLA Football vs. Oklahoma
October 5, 2019	UCLA Football vs. Oregon State
October 26, 2019	UCLA Football vs. Arizona State
November 2, 2019	UCLA Football vs. Colorado
November 30, 2019	UCLA Football vs. California
December 14, 2019	UCLA Gymnastics – “Meet the Bruins”
January 4, 2020	UCLA Gymnastics – Collegiate Challenge
January 12, 2020	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Boise State
January 31, 2020	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Washington
February 9, 2020	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Arizona
March 7, 2020	UCLA Rowing vs. San Diego State
March 8, 2020	UCLA Gymnastics vs. California

By the Numbers

2019–2020

We are...

110 band members

who participated in at least
one performance during 2019-2020

Sons of Westwood



Most recent
graduating class
represented in
the band:

2019

(Brendan James,
Michie Leccese, and
Nique Stumbaugh)



Earliest
graduating class
represented in the
band:

1958

(Karolyn Berkman)

WELCOME

8 new members

in 2019-2020

(Rachel Diaz-Toner, Kevin Hudson,
Brendan James, Steven King,
Michie Leccese, Lyn Shaw,
Nique Stumbaugh, and Chris Torres)

14 performances

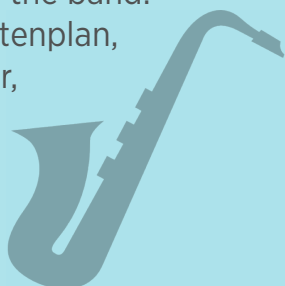
during 2019-2020



9 Founding Members

who are still active with the band:

Alex DeVorkin, Stu Guttenplan,
Bob Kerstein, Ken Meyer,
Jeff Mio, Dave Pardess,
Carmen Rexach,
Jim Spitser, and
Ron Wiener.



**45
average
number**

of band members
performing at
gymnastics meets
in 2019-2020



**109 paid
members**

during 2019-2020

Annual Rehearsal & BBQ

August 24, 2019

During the annual Rehearsal/BBQ at Judy and Ed Hirsch's house in Chatsworth on August 24th, the Band worked on some new songs and polished some old tunes, and sounded great in the process.

But the big highlight of the day was Chris Waller, the new UCLA Gymnastics coach, bringing new assistant coach and UCLA alum Kristina Comforte and nearly half the team, including Margzetta Frazier - who conducted the band during our alma mater, "Hail To The Hills of Westwood" - Nia Dennis, Felicia "Fish" Hano, Sekai Wright, Norah Flatley, Samantha Sakti, Kalyany Steele, Chloe Lashbrooke and Paige Hogan, to the rehearsal for food, mingling, and general fun as well as cluing the band into the team's plans and prospects for their upcoming season.

The UCLA gymnastics team was a big hit at the rehearsal, and it was wonderful having Chris - who's also a UCLA alum - and his band of Bruins.



UCLA Football

September 7 – San Diego State University

The football team's season kicked off soon afterward, and the Alumni Band, as usual, was a hit with the fans in and out of Bruin Nation with Port-A-Sons and the pregame concerts in Lot H and the Rose Bowl's Court of Champions, as well as the songs played with the UCLA Spirit Squad during the concerts.



UCLA Football

September 7 – San Diego State University



UCLA Football

September 14, 2019 | University of Oklahoma



The big highlight of the football season for the Alumni Band was at the Oklahoma game on September 14th, when members of the Oklahoma band braved the 100 degree heat with our band and joined us in playing for the tailgaters, playing “Sons” every bit as good as our band and treating us to a rousing rendition of their fight song, “Boomer Sooner”, afterwards. The Sooner band was really nice, and their company made the heat a little more bearable that day.

UCLA Football

September 14, 2019 | University of Oklahoma

What they're saying about us on social media....

Page Mentions

The Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band is at Rose Bowl Stadium.
15 mins · Pasadena · 🌐

We brought the **#SoonerSpirit** all the way to the west coast this past weekend to **#BeatUCLA** at the Rose Bowl Stadium! 🏈🏈 Thanks to those who were a part of this incredible trip!

Shoutout to the **UCLA Alumni Band** for being such great hosts and inviting us to bring some **#hype** to tailgaters! Thank you to Barry and Becky Switzer and to five-time Olympic gold medalist, **Nadia Comaneci** for this awesome **#selfie**!

#PrideofOklahoma #OUvsUCLA #BoomerSooner



uclalumniband
Rose Bowl Stadium



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Liked by **usbduong33** and 45 others

uclalumniband We had a fun time playing with the **@uofoklahoma @ou_thepride** Band! **#GoBruins #BoomerSooner**

ou_thepride Thanks for having us! 🎵🎵

uclalumniband **@ou_thepride** our pleasure!

Post



[View Insights](#) [Promote](#)

Liked by **joey_bruin** and 1 other

uclalumniband We loved having the opportunity to play with the **@ou_thepride** on Saturday! It was a day we will always remember. **#GoBruins #BoomerSooner**
4 minutes ago

ou_thepride As will we! Thank you so much for inviting us to play with you! You've made this trip to UCLA one for the books! 🎵🎵

👍 🧡 🏆 🏈 🔥 🙌 🙏

[Add a comment as uclalumniband...](#)

kaitlyn cook
@Kaity_Bug127

playing with the UCLA alumni band was high key one of my favorite things to ever happen at any away game ever ❤️


UCLA Alumni Band **@UCLAlumniB...** · 18h
@OU_ThePRIDE 🧡🧡🧡 **#BoomerSooner #GoBruins**



Sterling Allen
@not_a_weatherman

College band is pretty neat because we get to do things like this

UCLA Alumni Band **@UCLAlumniB...** · 18h
We had a fun time playing with **@OU_ThePRIDE!**



8:22 PM · 9/14/19 from **Norman, OK** · **Twitter for Android**

2 Retweets 23 Likes

UCLA Football

October 5, 2019 | Oregon State University



We enjoyed having some of the High School Band Day participants sit in with us before the Oregon State game.



UCLA Football

October 26, 2019 | Arizona State University
Homecoming



UCLA Football

November 2, 2019 | University of Colorado



UCLA Football

November 2, 2019 | University of Colorado



UCLA Football

November 30, 2019 | University of California



UCLA Gymnastics

December 14, 2019 | Meet the Bruins

December arrived, and with that came Chris Waller's unofficial debut as the Bruins' gymnastics coach at the annual "Meet The Bruins" preseason event on the 14th, which the Alumni Band was proud to play at.

The biggest highlight of that event was "Operation Peacock", where the eight gymnasts doing the floor exercises wore leotards of their own design, which was really cool.



UCLA Gymnastics

January 4, 2020 | Collegiate Challenge

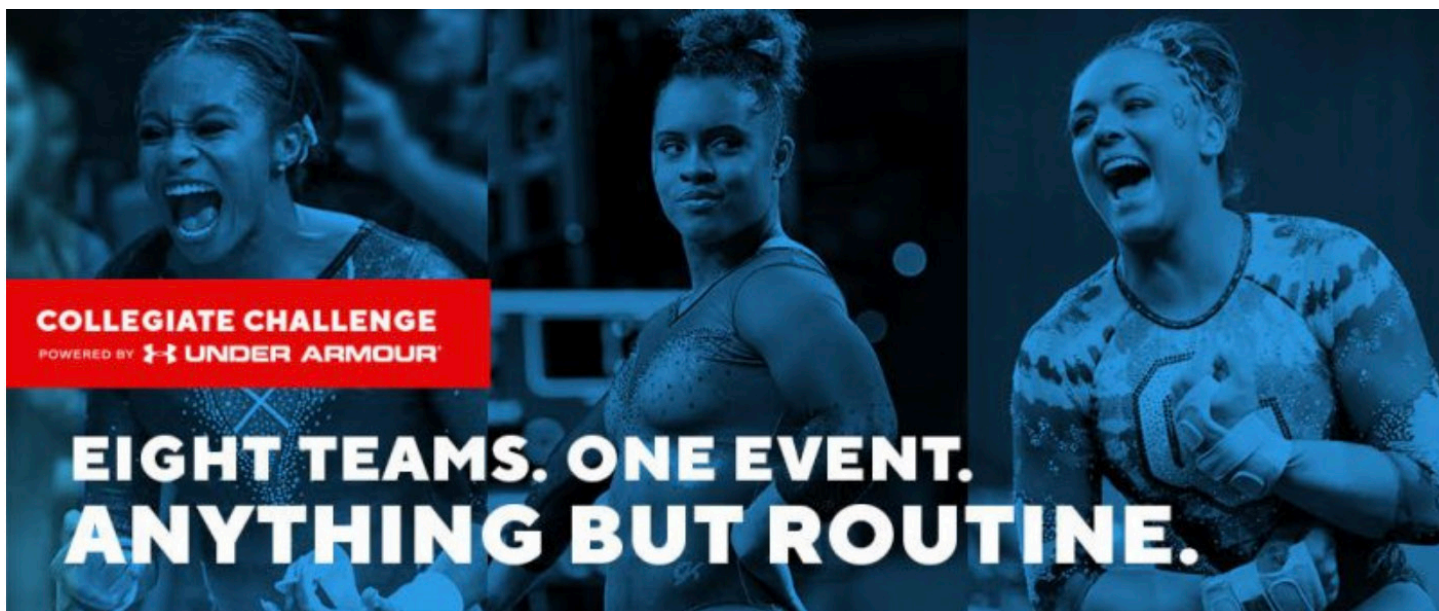
Chris' official debut as the UCLA head coach came three weeks later at the Collegiate Challenge at the Anaheim Arena on January 4th; the Alumni Band was there in full force as we did a concert outside the arena before the meet as well as play inside during the meet.

Playing at the Collegiate Challenge was a HUGE highlight for the band as we played before a full house filled with fans from Oklahoma, Cal, and Stanford (the Bruins' opponents) as well as UCLA. Chris and his team particularly showed their appreciation as they did the eight-clap with us and in various other ways made it crystal clear that they loved having us there.





UCLA Gymnastics

January 4, 2020 | Collegiate Challenge



COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE
POWERED BY  UNDER ARMOUR

**EIGHT TEAMS. ONE EVENT.
ANYTHING BUT ROUTINE.**



UCLA Gymnastics

January 12, 2020 | Boise State University

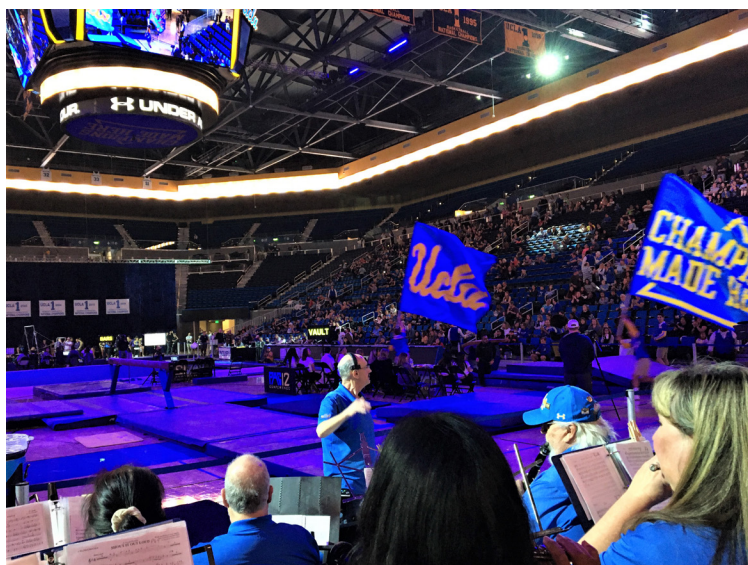
We got to see many thrills from those Bruin gymnasts this past season, including Gracie Kramer's perfect ten on the floor, two of Kyla Ross' perfect tens, and Nia Dennis' spectacular floor routine that earned her an appearance on the "Ellen" show.

As has always been the case, playing at the gymnastics meets was an extremely fun experience for the Alumni Band; the fact that the band was conducted by Margzetta Frazier, Nia Dennis, recent graduate Katelyn Ohashi, and former coach Valorie Kondos Field - "Miss Val" - on different occasions was a particular treat.



UCLA Gymnastics

January 31, 2020 | University of Washington



UCLA Gymnastics

February 9, 2020 | University of Arizona



**UCLA
ALUMNI BAND**



PRIDE MEET

**UCLA VS. ARIZONA
SUNDAY, FEB. 9
2:00 PM**

[UCLABRUINS.COM/TICKETS](https://uclabruins.com/tickets)



UCLA Women's Rowing

March 7, 2020 | San Diego State University

The biggest weekend for the Alumni Band happened right before the coronavirus pandemic hit, the stay-at-home orders were issued, and everything unfortunately shut down.

Match 7th saw the band at the Marina Aquatic Center in Marina Del Rey, playing for the UCLA women's rowing team at their regatta against

San Diego State. We stood on the UCLA Boathouse roof and had a great time playing tunes as the boats went by, and we all got pink T-shirts in support of their coach, Amy Fuller Kearney, who was undergoing treatment for breast cancer. The band also played tunes for the team after the regatta, as their seniors were honored.



UCLA Women's Rowing

March 7, 2020 | San Diego State University



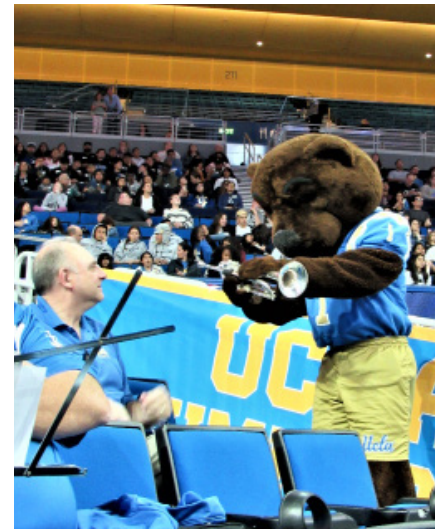
UCLA Gymnastics

March 8, 2020 | University of California



The meet against Cal turned out to be our last event of the year, and the gymnastics team's last meet of the season.

We saw our Bruin gymnasts beat Cal, highlighted by Kyla Ross' perfect ten on the vault, and not only did Chris come by to thank us for our support of him and the team, but Miss Val also came by to say hello and conduct us in "Sons".



Ivy Kwok

Receives True Bruin Distinguished Senior Award

The Alumni Band was honored to award our True Bruin Distinguished Senior Scholarship this year to flautist Ivy Kwok. Ivy, who graduated in June 2020, majored in Environmental Engineering (with a minor in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology).

Ivy was very active in the UCLA Bruin Marching Band, serving in the leadership of the band as well as in the UCLA chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, the national honorary band fraternity. She was very highly recommended for this scholarship by Interim Marching Band Director Kevin McKeown and the rest of the senior Marching Band leadership.

Ivy thanked the Alumni Band in a letter last fall:

Thank you so much for selecting me to be the recipient of your 2019-2020 True Bruin Distinguished Senior Award – I am absolutely humbled and honored for this opportunity! As a passionate musician who marched all four years in high school but unfortunately wasn't able to participate in band my first year in college, it was initially a difficult adjustment to join as a sophomore – however, as time progressed, the UCLA Bruin Marching Band community truly became one of my most heartfelt homes on campus, and I cannot imagine my school-spirited UCLA identity without it. Thank you so much for allowing me to share my marching band experiences and aspirations with you, and for providing me with a wonderful scholarship to further augment my academic endeavors! Wishing you all the very best – the perpetual enthusiasm, energy, and commitment you radiate at every sporting event is incredibly amazing!

Ivy will start graduate school at UCLA this fall, and she will serve as flute section leader in the UCLA Bruin Marching Band while pursuing her Master's and PhD degrees in Environmental Engineering. She's looking forward to joining the Alumni Band as soon as her UCLA Bruin Marching Band experience has ended.



Words of Appreciation

2019-2020

from Dan Guerrero, Athletic Director

"I will always have great fondness for the Alumni Band, a tremendously committed group of terrific Bruins! I, as well as our entire athletic program, are deeply indebted and grateful to you and your "team"."



from Chris Waller, Head Gymnastics Coach

"While we worked incredibly hard, we were met at every home meet with the greatest support we could imagine. The Bruin love each and everyone of us felt in Pauley Pavilion is hard to express. You, the Alumni Band, were a significant piece to the Bruin love. Hearing you play, and seeing your familiar faces bring your unwavering support is like having a massive, musically gifted family right beside us when we compete. Thank you for being by our side through the entire year, the ups and downs alike. From the warm welcome at the band rehearsal, to the greetings before and after our meets, we always felt your support.

Thank you for sharing your support, energy, and love with our program and with each of us. We are sincerely grateful!"



from Gracie Kramer, Gymnast (Senior)

"It is with tremendous Bruin pride and love that I am reaching out to express my appreciation – meets in Pauley were so special with our extraordinary Alumni Band! I've been blessed with an unforgettable career at UCLA, and I am forever thankful for your loyalty and your generous support of our program."



from Margzetta Frazier, Gymnast (Sophomore)

"[When we return to competition] I'm looking forward to the live music of the band. There's no band like ours; the Alumni Band is truly something special."



Credits

UCLA Alumni Band 2019-2020 Year-End Newsletter Staff



Derek Hart,
Writer



Sheila Lefor,
Designer



Shirley McCombs-Swayne,
Photographer



Rebecca Panman,
Photographer



Darlene Sanger,
Photographer

It takes a team of devoted Bruin alums to make a volunteer group like the UCLA Alumni Band happen. During the 2019-2020 season, we were led by President Luanne Olson, Vice President Derek Hart, Secretary Joan Wiener, Treasurer Charlie Yacoobian, Librarian Lee Panman, Coordinator of Membership Rebecca Panman, Coordinator of Communications and Properties Bill Adler, Coordinator of Festivities Carmen Rexach, Webmaster Sheila Lefor, and our tireless Music Director, Joel Fierberg. Joel, our incoming band president for 2020-2021, conducts the group at most performances, and also gets to play the tuba on rare occasions.

The shortened year was replete with various activities as you have seen as you viewed the photos taken by our photographers, piccolo player Shirley McCombs-Swayne, alto saxophone players Darlene Sanger and Rebecca Panman. Most photos feature a sea of Bruin Blue due to the ubiquity of our Under Armour polo shirts.

The UCLA Alumni Band is honored and delighted to work with the UCLA Alumni Association, the UCLA Athletics Department, and the UCLA Spirit Squad. We are grateful to be able to contribute to the century-long tradition of Bruin Spirit.