



By: Annette Lange
Delphos St. John's Class of 1977

I first became interested in music because it was a part of my family life from day one. My Mom and Dad always had a piano in our house because my paternal grandmother had been a piano teacher. My maternal grandparents also had a piano in their house. My two older sisters played piano and so it was just natural that I would do so too. I started taking lessons when I was six and kept taking them until I graduated from high school at age eighteen. I had an excellent piano teacher who helped me to stick with it: Mrs. Sheeter.

I joined the band as soon as we were permitted to join the band. I played the flute in band, and my first instructor was our band director at the time: I believe his name was Mr. Slattery. Because I already had been taking piano for some time, I already knew how to read music.

I went to college at Notre Dame. I played the piccolo in the Marching Band of the Fighting Irish. To this day, that experience remains among the fondest memories of my life. I clearly remember marching around the campus on warm (and not so warm) autumn nights with the golden dome brightly shining in the distance. I also clearly remember marching out of the tunnel at Notre Dame Stadium on game days to the roar of the highly-partisan Irish crowd.

As for high school band, it was great too. I remember being very hot during August band camp and having to take salt tablets. I remember leaving a family vacation in Myrtle Beach so I could return to band camp on time. I remember losing one of my contact lenses while doing a halftime football program and finding it hard to concentrate on the music and the marching. I remember having the "Stars and Stripes" piccolo solo my senior year and being very nervous (and because we did not have any piccolos, I did it on the flute, which, looking back, was somewhat weird . . .) I remember that when I was a Sophomore I played the flute for the pit band for the Senior Class Play "Bye, Bye Birdie." I remember watching Joyce Geddens ('75) stick her head into an oven (per the script) but then the oven tipped over on her and Bill Scherger ('75) had to help her get her head out. I remember seeing how hard Bill was laughing and how he tried to cover it up because he was not facing the audience at the time. Of course, we in the pit band (which was beside -- not in front of -- the stage had a clear view. It was one of the funniest scenes I have ever witnessed.

Discipline from band -- like all other sources of discipline -- helped me a great deal in my life. Mostly, though, I view my band experience as a critical part of my life because of the great memories and great fun.

As for my education and career path, I went to Notre Dame after high school and received a BA in Liberal Arts. I then went on the Harvard Law School, where I got a JD. I have had what some might consider a pretty "typical" career path here in Washington DC. I clerked for a Judge, then went into private practice, and then moved into the government sector. I work for the Department of Justice, doing civil enforcement work (as opposed to criminal prosecution work) in the environmental area. I represent the United States as we enforce laws such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Superfund.



By: Stephanie Scherger
Delphos St. John's Class of 2002

I graduated from St. John's in 2002 after eight years of being in band. I first fell in love with band the 1994 football season when I saw the percussion feature that year at homecoming. I was hooked on percussion ever since.

I graduated from Ohio State with a Bachelors degree in Nursing in 2006.

To tell you the honest truth, I never expected to pursue any music in college. I looked at colleges solely based on career and what majors the university offered. The band at OSU sends out letters to incoming freshman who put down they had an interest in band in high school. I received one of these letters and went down to Columbus and attended practices during the summer. The style of marching and playing was so much different than I was accustomed too and the competition was incredibly intimidating. After two or three weeks, I never came back to practice. Everyone tries out for the band every year, and it doesn't matter if you were in the band the year before or not. Every one of the 225 spots is open. Still, there were plenty of people from previous years returning and after watching them practice, I didn't think I was or would ever be good enough. What would you know, that was the 2002 championship season.

I believe once a band member, always a band member. I joined the Athletic Band my sophomore year. This band plays at the men's and women's basketball games as well as the men's hockey games. This was a band that we didn't have to audition for and it gave me the opportunity to learn the style of the band and how they played. I was member of this band every quarter from sophomore year through graduation.

I tried out again for the marching band my junior year and didn't make it past first cuts.

I tried out again my senior year and made it as one of five cymbalists. It is quite the accomplishment to make the band.....ever. I have met a lot of people who have tried out year after year and never made it once. My fiancé is one of those people. He tried out for five seasons and never made it. I guess you now know how we met.

There were several highlights of being in the marching band during the 2005 season. My first ramp was October 15, which was the Michigan State game as well as Homecoming. I was also able to obtain tickets for my parents and it was great they were able to see me march my first game in Ohio Stadium. The Michigan game was in Ann Arbor that year. The band stormed the field after the 25-21 victory against the team up north. My final game in uniform was at the 2006 Fiesta Bowl in Tempe against Notre Dame. What an awesome experience!

My advice to future graduates is always believe in yourself. I started out band, in the fifth grade, the only girl among 13 percussionists. My first year in marching band there were sixteen people in the percussion section and four of us were girls. My senior year, three out of the four snare drummers were girls and out of eleven members of the section that year, six were girls. My success in college I give to Ms. Hare and the band program at St. John's. I would have never made it in the collegiate band world without the instruction I received in grade school and high school. My brother is also a member of Athletic band at OSU and he also agrees he also wouldn't be playing in college if he hadn't had the instruction he did from Ms. Hare. If band is something you love, you have to put yourself out there. I entered solo and ensemble contest every year in high school and it truly prepared me to stand-alone and play. And playing for that judge is harder than playing for 105,000 people in Ohio Stadium or the 10,000+ people I played drum feature for three out of five years at the state football tournament. If you want to pursue a collegiate band career, find out as much as you can about your college's band program before you get there. As for OSU, if you want to be a member of the band, I would attend summer session practices from June to August. They are on Tuesdays and Thursday from 7-9.

