Greetings PUWE Alumni and Friends!

My name is Luke Paulsen, and I am a euphonium player in the Wind Ensemble and the Alumni Chair. I have a lot of news to share since last April’s newsletter, so I’m going to go ahead and jump right in.

**Recent Successes**

When you last heard from the Wind Ensemble, we were in the thick of preparing for our Spring 2013 concerts. We held the first of these, our customary “Concert Under the Stars,” on May 4 on the lawn north of Frist Campus Center. Complete with a stage, outdoor seating, and refreshments, this is our best-attended and (to me) most exciting event of the year. A crowd of over 500 joined us for an evening of pop music of all kinds—from *Aladdin* and *The Lion King* to a Benny Goodman medley to Leonard Bernstein’s *Candide*.

Less than a week later, on May 8, the Wind Ensemble took the stage at Richardson Auditorium for a more serious performance. We combined the most challenging selections from our Concert Under the Stars program with a number of modern compositions for wind ensemble, such as “October” by Eric Whitacre and “Blackwater” by Fergal Carroll.

Last but not least, PUWE also performed at Reunions on May 31. Joined by several recent alumni, the Wind Ensemble returned to the Frist north lawn under the hot summer sun and played a show full of marches, pop tunes, and perennial favorites, plus some of the greatest hits from Concert Under the Stars.

This year, PUWE is excited to welcome back conductor Bob Gravener for his 5th year with the ensemble. Mr. Gravener is an accomplished musician and teacher who formerly directed the award-winning Nottingham High School music program for 25 years. As a trumpet player, his recording credits include Peter Nero and the Philly Pops, Manhattan Transfer DVD, PBS Concert with Johnny Mathis and a Grammy Award winning CD with Patti Page. Always up for a challenge, Mr. Gravener is excited about the opportunity to conduct the Princeton University Wind Ensemble and looks forward to continuing success at the helm.

The Wind Ensemble continues to strive for growth in both membership and musicianship. We now have over 60 members, both undergraduate and graduate students, making this
year’s Wind Ensemble the largest ever. In addition, as part of our effort to play our music to its fullest potential, we are organizing independent section rehearsals this year for the first time in our history. Besides these and our two weekly rehearsals, PUWE also organizes social events to help us come together as a group. We organized a barbecue for the whole ensemble at the beginning of the school year, and we recently held a holiday movie night in anticipation of our winter concert.

**Upcoming Events**

Our first big performance of the year is coming up quickly. On **December 9** at 7:30 PM, we will be performing our annual winter concert in Richardson Auditorium. The program will feature challenging classics such as “Four Scottish Dances” by Malcolm Arnold, “Russian Christmas Music” by Alfred Reed, and “Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral” by Richard Wagner, along with rousing renditions of carols and movie music. We are excited about sharing this music, and we hope that you will be able to come and hear us.

The first concert of the season is also the last hurrah for many of our current officers. President Evangelie Zachos and Vice President Noah Apthorpe have done great things for the group over the past two years, and we are sad to see them go. The other graduating officers are myself and Natalie Weires, our Property Manager. The rest of the current officers—Wendy Gu ’15 (Social Chair), David Li ’15 (Business Manager), Nicole Schiavone ‘15 (Concert Manager), and Quan Zhou ’15 (Publicity Chair)—will be staying with us for another year, and we are excited to see them continue to lead the ensemble.

Officer elections for the 2014 Wind Ensemble will be held on December 1. One of the most distinctive things about us is that we are a student-run group, and our officers are the ones who make that possible. We hope to elect officers who will help us continue this tradition.

**Contacting Us**

Even if you aren’t able to come and see us perform, we would love to help you keep up with the ensemble however we can. Our website, [www.princeton.edu/~puwe](http://www.princeton.edu/~puwe), is updated regularly and has information about our schedule and repertoire, along with recordings from many of our recent performances. Also, feel free to send questions, comments, or suggestions to us at our email address, puwe@princeton.edu.

Finally, a quick plug: We are looking for chances to perform at this year’s Reunions. We expect to have about 35-45 ensemble members present, and we’re happy to take requests for specific repertoire or for performances by smaller groups (such as brass or woodwind choir). Please do forward our information on to your reunions entertainment chair!

Sincerely,

Luke Paulsen ’14
Alumni Chair