Dear PUWE Alumni and Friends,

Greetings, and welcome to the first issue of the new Alumni Newsletter! My name is Luke Paulsen, and I am a euphonium player in the Wind Ensemble and the Alumni Chair. I am very excited to update you on the ensemble and all of its progress, but in particular make sure to check out the information about our Alumni Concert at Reunions on page 2.

Recent Successes

The Wind Ensemble’s winter 2012 concert, held on November 29 in Richardson Auditorium, saw us performing one of our most exciting and challenging programs in recent memory, including “Armenian Dances” by Alfred Reed and “Mars” and “Jupiter” from Gustav Holst’s suite The Planets. We also featured music from the soundtracks of The Polar Express and Miracle on 34th Street. The concert concluded with Leroy Anderson’s “Sleigh Ride,” a Wind Ensemble tradition. Over 150 people attended, and the performance was a great success.

More recently, on March 3, the Wind Ensemble participated in the Columbia Festival of Winds, performing alongside the Columbia University Wind Ensemble and other wind ensembles from the greater New York area. The Wind Ensemble’s program featured the “Overture” from Candide by Leonard Bernstein along with “Mars” and “Jupiter.” Several Wind Ensemble members were also selected to play in the Festival Band, which performed Chester by William Schuman.

This year, PUWE is excited to welcome back conductor Bob Gravener for his 4th year with the ensemble. Mr. Gravener is an accomplished musician and teacher who formerly directed the award-winning Nottingham H.S. 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.
Over the past year, the ensemble has continued to grow in both membership and musicianship. We now have over 50 members, both undergraduate and graduate students, making this year’s Wind Ensemble the largest ever. Recently we have also added seating auditions and rehearsal attendance records as ways to encourage involvement in the music-making process. Sectionals have also been an important tool for our musical improvement, and several sections (including flutes, saxophones, and low brass) have recently rehearsed and performed music of their own. Besides our two weekly rehearsals, PUWE also holds occasional social events, including a barbecue at the beginning of the school year and a movie night in November, both of which were quite successful and helped us to come together as a group.

Although we remain an entirely student-run group, we are also pleased to announce that, as of this concert season, the Wind Ensemble is officially affiliated with the Princeton Music Department. This will give us more opportunities to coordinate with other music department ensembles and to hold our twice-annual concerts in Richardson Auditorium.

### Upcoming Events

The climax of our concert season is still ahead of us, and you are enthusiastically invited to attend any or all of our events. On **May 4**, we will perform our annual pops concert, “Concert under the Stars,” on the Frist North Lawn at 9 PM. Our spring concert will be at 7:30 PM on **May 8** at Richardson Auditorium. This semester, we are hoping to play pieces such as the “Overture” from *Candide*; “October” by Eric Whitacre; and “Blackwater” by Fergal Carrol.

Most importantly, we will be performing again at this year’s Reunions! Our Alumni Concert is on Friday at 2:00 on the 1879 Green, directly north of Frist and outside Woolworth. We’ll play some songs from our current concert season as well as arrangements of some popular songs. If you’re an alumnus/alumna, feel free to bring your instrument and play along! We would love to have you there at 1:40 so we can warm up with you.

### Our History

The first student wind ensemble at Princeton was part of the University Band and played concerts from 1950 to 1988. The modern Wind Ensemble was founded in 1996 by Rick Modica ’99. Rick was tragically killed in a car accident in March 1997; the ensemble
resumed the following year and continues to play in Rick’s memory to this day. Since its inception, PUWE has played under five different conductors and has grown from containing 20 Princeton students to containing over 50. The group welcomes not only undergraduates but also graduate students, as well as scholars with the Institute of Advanced Study and Princeton staff or faculty members.

The Wind Ensemble currently plays five major concerts each year. Our winter concert, played in Richardson Auditorium near the end of the fall semester, is a combination of classic wind ensemble repertoire and holiday music. In March, we head into New York for a day to perform with other area wind ensembles at the Columbia Festival of Winds. The height of the Wind Ensemble season comes in May, when we perform two concerts within a week of each other: the outdoor, pops-focused “Concert Under The Stars,” which regularly draws crowds of over 500 attendees, and a more serious concert the following weekend in Richardson. Finally, a large part of the ensemble stays on campus after the end of classes to perform for Princeton Reunions.

In recent years, the Wind Ensemble has used the spring Richardson concert as an opportunity to expand its horizons and collaborate with other artists. At our spring 2010 concert, we gave the world premiere performance of “The Ninth Wave,” an original composition for wind ensemble by Princeton student Nick DiBerardino ’11. Our spring 2012 concert featured a collaboration with saxophonist Paul Cohen on Frank Erickson’s “Concerto for Alto Saxophone” and on the John Williams score for Catch Me if you Can.

Officer elections for the 2013 Wind Ensemble were held on November 18. President Evangelie Zachos, a mathematics major and oboe player, and Vice President Noah Apthorpe, a computer science major and trombone player, were both re-elected as officers. They are joined by returning officers Natalie Weires (Property Manager, trumpet) and Quan Zhou (Publicity Chair, saxophone) and new officers David Li (Business Manager, clarinet), Nicole Schiavone (Concert Manager, percussion), Sunyoung Wang (Events Coordinator, clarinet), Wendy Gu (Social Chair, clarinet), and myself. The student officers have always been a crucial part of PUWE’s success, and we hope to continue that 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, 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, we are always looking for new chances to perform and are available for gigs at Reunions—if you know of any opportunities in those areas, please do let us know!

Sincerely,

Luke Paulsen ’14
Alumni Chair