

# Alumni, Current Band Members Share Experiences

By LAUREN RIPPEY  
Staff Writer

Watching a drum major salute, hearing a brass company front, admiring the band's formation and sensing the adrenaline generated by applause is enough to bring back memories for former marching band members.

On Saturday, 89 UNC alumni will relive a part of their Tar Heel experience as they join the Marching Tar Heels for a performance during the Homecoming football game.

This occasion, part of the festivities of Alumni Weekend 2001, is an annual tradition.

Erin Houser, a UNC junior, explains the special meaning the tradition holds for band members.

"It makes me think about what I will do after I graduate. I see myself coming back, eager to show my children what band offered me," Houser said.

Houser and her fellow band member Erin Starr, also a junior, are the coordinators of this event.

"The most interesting part of my job

has been talking with the alumni and finding out what they are doing with their degrees and the variety of jobs that they hold," Starr said.

Carter Brown, a 2001 UNC graduate, is eagerly anticipating his debut in the Alumni Band.

"Marching band has been such a large part of my life up to this point. I've not had a chance to play since graduating, so coming back should be a wonderful experience," Brown said.

Current marching band students are looking forward to the day, as well.

Junior Tamberly Ferguson said she looks forward to the annual event as an opportunity to become reacquainted with old friends.

"I think people are generally excited, especially about seeing those alumni who have just recently graduated," Tamberly said.

But not all participants are recent graduates. This event is one that spans the decades, uniting the generations.

Greensboro resident and member of the class of 1945 Wade Phillips said he



DTH FILE PHOTO

The Marching Tar Heels play in the stands at a football game. They will add 86 alumni this weekend as part of Homecoming festivities.

he is excited about the possibility of being the oldest marcher on the field.

Phillips, who shared his trombone stand with Andy Griffith when he was at

UNC, said, "I enjoy returning so I can reminisce and visit old friends. I'm just looking forward to marching out on that field once again."

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