

SfM 10-23-2017
Monday

Dr. Bill Faucett “Chiefly Research: An Historical Examination of a World-Renowned Band”

FSU Bachelor of Music Education
SMU MM Musicology 1987
FSU PhD Dissertation 1992

- Numerous publications
 - George Whitefield Chadwick
 - Anthology of historical documents 1860–1918
 - CDs
 - Music in Boston: Composers, Events, and Ideas* (2016)
 - Institutions, performance spaces, personalities
 - Was the Drum Major of the Marching Chiefs in his undergraduate education

Warren D. Allen Faculty Citation for Excellence in Scholarly Research in Music

- Award
- for an alumnus who has excelled in scholarship
- only a handful of recipients of his award
- College of Music faculty select recipient

Lecture

- Seminole game-day war chant
- Class piano
 - “Sittin’ in a Wigwam” was included in one such instructional book
 - John Thompson’s rhythm underneath the words
 - legend of touchdown indications becoming a chop motion to rhythm of “Sittin’ in a Wigwam”
 - took off
 - mid 1980s, band revived the chant, and it was quickly adopted as a permanent part of FSU football history and tradition

Book:

The Marching Chiefs of Florida State University: The Band that Never Lost a Halftime Show

- wanted to research something other than 19th C Boston for a bit
- son was applying to school, wanted to be a Marching Chief

While at FSU for MM, he became an unofficial grad assistant for the band for experience.

Standard Research on the Project

Primary sources:

- memoirs (few Marching Chiefs did these, though some are starting now)
- interviews (oral history)

- email correspondence
- newspapers

Secondary Sources and Readings

- Local histories
 - My Tallahassee*, Fenton Garnett Davis Avant
- Dissertations
 - many of our students have produced these
- Newspapers
 - Florida Flambeau*
- Genre publications (esp. for marching band)

Archives

- FSU Heritage Protocol & University Archives
- College of Music Band Archives
- State Archives of Florida/Florida Memory
- Personal collections
 - Miscellaneous artifacts (Marching manuals, Chiefs yearbooks, etc.)

Audio-Visual resources

- CDs, DVDs
 - huge Marching Chiefs library on Spotify
- Online shows

Personal Reflections

- Pre-Game and Post-Game

Considerations and Pitfalls

- Difficulty in working with living people
- Historical distance
 - Distance
 - Intermediate
 - Immediate

-Memory vs. Accuracy

- Reliance on Memory
- Facts vs. Historically-Important Facts (“Ah, those were the days”)
- Grievances and biases
- Interviews (almost exclusively via phone to stick to the facts)
 - more objective, easier to keep on track
- Anonymous sources
 - some were happy to talk, but did not want their name in it
 - some never sent the permissions, so interview was unusable
- Only one in-person interview

Ella Scoble Opperman (1941)

- excerpt from his first chapter, "College Town"
- FSCW (Florida State College for Women then)
- Opperman promoted to dean
- Artist Series founded in 1923
- College orchestra founded in 1925, though efforts since 1917
 - aided in establishing a strong wind program
 - Florida State College Orchestra
 - "considered an epoch in the artistic growth of the college."
- Ms. Tripp founded a college band, as well
 - 29 members originally
 - quite large to begin with
 - debuted in November of 1926
 - varied and peppy repertoire
 - "zest"
 - band folded later that year, however
- December 1930
 - NASM association
 - poised for greatness
 - it had everything except a band

FSCW's Broomstick Brigade Company "A" (1915) (picture)

- Chapter 2 reading
- Tally Troopers in 1938
 - founded by Betty Mayer in her sophomore year
 - believed to be only all-girl cadet core in the country at that time
 - quasi-military marching drills for bonding and artistry

Manley R. Whitcomb (1958)

- came to FSU in 1953
- many think he founded the Marching Chiefs, but this is not quite right
- Marching Chiefs became official in October 1950
- "Whit" gets the accolades due to the many things he did for the band
 - Was at Ohio State prior to FSU
 - took little credit for himself
 - "Atomic Age Band" (OSU)
- Hiring him sent a message nation-wide that they were not horsing around with their band.
- Securing a good leader and funds were both important
 - from \$500 budget to over \$10,000 (bought many instruments)
 - "He plain and simple bought the band its sound."

The Flying Seminoles (1956) (picture)

- pageantry, show
- widely renowned, offers from colleges and universities (high school act)
- FSU gave them tuition, books, spending money, laundry stipend

The Go Cadence (1960s) (picture)

- New uniforms! Black military
- Whit brought the use of spats to FSU as well

Dick Mayo (1971) (picture)

- loved Leonard Bernstein's persona, tried to emulate him
- never at rehearsal without a tie
- giving orders from on high

Chiefs on Parade (Early 1970s)

- more 70's style of uniform, less military
- garnet with broad gold trim
- hats rounded, kids called them "Q-tips"

"The Royal Flush" (ca. 1984) (picture)

- Reading, memoir
 - description of training and auditions
 - high-stepping while playing the fight song
- most awesome tuba display
- Pyfe "pump your *darned elbows" (tubas could not do the chop except with elbow)

FSCW Band (1942)

- Owen Sellars as director (amphitheater named after him now)
- First uniforms: white skirts, shirts, garnet jerkins/vests

Charlie Carter (ca. 1960)

- sound of the Marching Chiefs
- OCD

Sun Bowl at El Paso (1966)

- cartoon
- "I didn't want to go to their *darn bowl, anyway
- \$60,000 payout, \$50,000 to get all the administration types there
 - no money left for band, but huge outcry from students
 - Citrus Commission (in government) finally got them there

FSU vs. Cumberland (picture of band formation FSU on gridiron)

- October 9, 1948

Closing Thoughts

- Question he is asked: how are you able to manage a career that is not in music and still continue to write?
- Makes sure he does something every day. Even if just adding bibliography item, reading a chapter or book, or fixing a footnote.
- Writing books that help manage time:
 - Zerubabbel, *The Clockwork Muse*

-*Several Short Sentences about Writing*, Klinkenborgh

-recover your interest on a small scale

-fix little things, and your work will rescue you rather than you rescuing it