Band Boosters Keep The Momentum Going

Riding on the success of the first year of operation, the Trojan Explosion Booster Association has plans to increase its donor base and work closely with current and new partners. Excited by the involvement of parents of freshmen and transfer students, the boosters have strengthened the association by building a strong executive committee charged with reaching out to parents, alumni, faculty, staff and other supporters. The foundation of the hard work that lies ahead is now in place with the selection of Mr. Harold Allen, Finance Chair, Ms. Nellie Spann, Chair of Parent Involvement, Ms. Stephanie Smith, Partnership Chair and Ms. Yvonne Singleton, Programs Chair. The Trojan Explosion Booster Association is open to anyone interested in financially and morally supporting the marching band of Virginia State University. Contact us at VSUBandBooster@comcast.net and on the web at band.vsu.edu.

Band Booster President shows off fundraising items at August 2014 meeting.

Trojan Marching Bags (hanging) are made from retired band uniforms. See page 9.

Trojan Scarves See page 16.

2014 Game Performance Dates

- September 13 – Home – Lenoir-Rhyne Military Appreciation
- September 27 - Home Game – Fayetteville State University Take a Kid to the Game Day
- October 4 – Home Game – Saint Augustine University Cancer Awareness Day
- October 11 – Home Game – Elizabeth City State University Family Weekend
- October 18 – Away Game – Bowie State University
- October 25 – Home Game – Lincoln University Homecoming
- November 1 – Home Game – Chowan University
- November 8 - Away Game – Virginia Union University
- November 15 – CIAA Championship
- November 22 – NCAA Playoff


Trojan Explosion Booster Association Officers

President Barbara R. Steverson
Vice President of Finance H. Ray Davis
Vice President of Membership Bill McGee
"For years the debate has been who has the best bands, Virginia or North Carolina. On Sept. 28th... on the campus of Virginia State University... the answer will be revealed!"

**Battle of the Bands**

Virginia State University
Rogers Stadium
Petersburg, VA

**Sunday, September 28th**

Highland Springs High School
"Marching Battalion"

Virginia State University
"Trojan Explosion"

Hampton University
"The Force"

Virginia Union University
"Ambassadors of Sound"

Hillside High School
"Marching Hornets"

Winston Salem State University
"Red Sea of Sound"

North Carolina A&T State University
"Blue & Gold Marching Machine"

Elizabeth City State University
"Marching Sound of Class Band"

Gates open 2:30 PM • Start time 4:00 PM

$12 in advance • $15 at the gate • $7 with VSU college ID

Tickets available for sale at www.HighSteppingNationals.com

Virginia State University Band Office (Room G29C) in Davis Hall 4pm-8pm
Foster Hall Lobby 12pm-4pm

The following high school bands are selling tickets as a fundraiser:
Highland Springs, Henrico, Hopewell, Brunswick and Greensville County
A Mississippi native, Holden received undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music Education from Jackson State University. He participated in post-graduate studies at North Texas State University and Berklee School of Music. He has performed with B.B. King, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Michael Bolton, Solomon Burke and for Pope Benedict’s Christmas Concert. Arguably one of the top arrangers in the country, Professor Holden is known throughout the musical world as an exquisite saxophonist.

Support Staff from left to right above: Ms. Salena Scott (Coach, Essence of Troy Dancers), Mr. Jairamie King (Choreographer, Essence of Troy Dancers), Mr. Curvy Reid and Mr. E Elisha Powell (Percussion Coordinators).

Not pictured: Mr. Franklin Johnson, Jr. (Recruitment), Mr. Alan Morton (Drum Major Coordinator), Mr. Perry Evans (Satin Divas Flag Coach), Mr. L. Darnell Spicely and Mr. Parris Bowles (Double-Time Entertainment - Media Production), Ms. Nicole Dunnings (Equipment Manager) and Mr. Deondra Edwards, Student Photographer (VSU Mass Communications)
Planning Is Essential For A Successful Marching Season

Planning for a new marching season can be a daunting task. Even more daunting is the fact that Professor Holden is the only full time band staff member. The assistant directors, operations director and other coaches are all part-time staffers, which speaks volumes about the dedication and hard work they provide.

**Advocating for a full time assistant director is one of our major goals.**

Listed here are just a few of the tasks for which the Director of Bands and his staff are responsible.

- Hire needed personnel based on limited available funding
- Recruit new student musicians
- Audition scholarship applicants
- Inventory instruments and uniforms
- Plan band camp
- Contact students & parents explaining band camp instructions and fees
- Select instrument section leaders
- Reserve dormitory rooms for students attending band camp
- Provide information to food service regarding meals required during camp
- Hold tryouts for drum majors, dancers, flags, twirlers
- Plan at least three half time shows for the six home games – music & drills
- Arrange music for each instrument section & write original music
- Copy arranged music for each musician in each section
- Have band uniforms sized and altered
- Order marching shoes, gloves and practice and travel clothes
- Hold daily practice of music, marching and drills
- Stock water and Gatorade for hydration
- Budget for travel to away games- motor coaches, meals and hotel rooms
- Work with police and EMT for all travel
- Coordinate arrival and schedule for visiting bands
- Handle any student and staff issues
Band Camp days start with physical training before the sun gets up.

After physical training there are sectional practices, full band practice, marching in block formation & learning and practicing drills.
A special thank you to Dean Andrew Kanu for providing the much needed audio system. This equipment makes it much easier to communicate commands while on the practice field.

The band directors design the drills. Band members learn those drills and not even darkness stops practice.

*The goal is perfection.*

The band room carpet is marked with five-yard lines, allowing drill practice inside.
Work Hard, But Take Time For Fun

And Rest
If it’s Wednesday, it’s mandatory study session time for freshman band members in Johnson Memorial Library.

Students must be great on the field and great in the classroom!

Meet TaVaris Logan, a Provost Scholar in the Honors Program, a cymbal player in the Trojan Explosion Marching Band (he is also a tuba player) and a member of the VSU Gospel Chorale. He is a graduate of Central Senior High School of Lunenburg County and Southside Virginia Community College in Alberta, Virginia. While in high school, he participated in the VSU Dual Enrollment Program, allowing him to take college courses while in high school. He served as drum major of the Central High School Marching Chargers for four years and has been a musician for five churches.

TaVaris came to VSU with 60 transferred credit hours. In his first semester he is classified as a junior. A mechanical engineering major, with two Career Studies Certificates in High Performance Technology and Advance Manufacturing, he plans to pursue a career in mechanical engineering and eventually return to VSU as a professor in the College of Engineering and Technology.

http://vsu.edu/academics/special-programs/dual-enrollment/index.php
http://vsu.edu/about/administrative-offices/academic-affairs/honors-provost-program.php
Partnership Among Band, Band Boosters and Tamm Proves a Great Success

There is a special joy that comes when it is realized that everything needed for a special project is right at your doorstep. The Textile, Apparel and Merchandising Management concentration in the Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum (College of Agriculture) is a program about which more people need to be aware. The band boosters had an idea to turn retired band uniforms into pillows, tote bags or other fashion accessories. But where could a reputable company be found to do the job? In searching the Internet, there was one company, but it was in California, making shipping cost prohibitive. A You Tube video of a university design group repurposing their band’s uniforms sparked an idea. Why not ask if anyone in Consumer Science (Home Economics for you older folks) could help us. Booster President, Mrs. Barbara Steverson, contacted Dean Hairston, College of Agriculture for a conversation about the possibility of working together on such a project.

Within a few weeks, Mrs. Steverson and booster Partnership Chairperson, Ms. Stephanie Smith, met with the Tamm team to discuss the feasibility of teaming to recycle the 100 band uniforms. Dr. Dana Legette-Traylor, Coordinator of the Tamm Program, Dr. Alice Joyner, Associate Professor, Mr. Montoya Phipps, Laboratory Instructor, and Ms. Nikki Hicks, Lead Faculty, discussed the needs of the band boosters and the abilities of the Tamm team to meet those needs.

Quickly, plans were put in place for an instructor and five paid student interns to use summer school sessions to deconstruct retired band uniforms, design tote bags, develop patterns, cut pieces from patterns, serge bag pieces and begin to construct new designer tote bags from the old uniforms.

These uniforms were worn by the band the year the drum line performed at the White House for President Obama. The bags are one of a kind, limited edition (only 200 total), handcrafted and numbered items. Sales will be online only and the pre-ordering website will go live at the end of September.

Go to the link below to read more about this project in the VSU Alumni Magazine. http://vsu.edu/files/docs/vsu-magazines/Magazine-Summer2014.pdf
Take a Visual Trip Through the Process

Plans call for the online pre order website to become active at the end of September. Keep watching for updates and your opportunity to own a piece of VSU band history.
Open Top Tote Bags – Only 50 of each available. Each bag measures 14”h x 18” w x 4” d. Straps on each bag are made from orange pant leg stripe. $70 each

Navy Trojan Cross Body – Only 11 available Dimensions: 12” h x 14” w x 3” d Made from the uniform cape, this bag includes an adjustable strap from the uniform bibbed pants. $65

Shipping and handling included in all prices.

The Shopper – Only 11 Available Dimensions 17” h x 18” w x 4” d This bag is made from the uniform cape. $65

The VSU Cross Body – Only 37 available. Dimensions: 12” h x 14” w x 3” d Made from the uniform jacket front. $65

The Banker Tote – Only 38 Available Dimensions: 17” h x 11” w x 1” d Made from the throw-back orange uniform pants. The jacket zipper is used as the closure. $55
Band and Band Boosters Use Social Media to Promote the Trojan Explosion’s Thirtieth Anniversary Campaign

For thirty years Mr. Harold J. Haughton, Sr. and Mr. James Holden, Jr. have been working together as leaders of the Virginia State University marching band. Coming to VSU in 1984 to grow a band with dwindling numbers, Mr. Haughton revived the band legacy of VSU and gave the band the name Trojan Explosion. Serving as his assistant director, Mr. James Holden also played a large part in the revitalization of the band. From 2003 to 2013, Mr. Holden continued as assistant director to Dr. Mark Phillips. In 2013 Mr. Holden was named Interim Director of Bands. He knew what it would take to grow the band, having been a part of the steady growth started thirty years before. This year we celebrate thirty years and honor the legacy of Mr. Haughton.

Support the Trojan Explosion!!

Donate by mailing your check, made payable to VSU Foundation, to

Trojan Explosion Booster Association
1726 Hungary Road
Henrico, VA 23228

If a former band member, tell us the years you marched.

Online donations can be made by going to band.vsu.edu and selecting the Booster link. On the booster page is an online giving link. Select a giving level or click “Other” and enter the amount to be donated.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. All Thirtieth Anniversary donors will be recognized in the next newsletter.
Coming to a home football game? Look for our donor envelopes at home football games at the band booster tent. Write and give your check to one of our band boosters or take a courtesy return envelope and mail us your donation. Be a part of our list of band alumni who are giving back to our alma mater.
Ms. Alana Stubblefield and several other football parents are sponsoring this trip. This group attended every football game last year and sponsored travel to away games as well. In addition to the information on the flyer, please note the following:

1. This is an adult "Party Bus". Snacks and refreshments will be provided; however, feel free to bring along a small cooler or any other snacks and special beverages you may wish to consume.
2. The bus will leave on time in order for us to arrive at Bowie and get tickets to the game. Plan to board the bus between 11:30 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.
3. Payment should be made to Alana Stubblefield, whose contact information is on the flyer. Call her if you have questions and to arrange to pay for your bus ticket.
4. This game will be Homecoming for Bowie State University, so tickets may be in the $25+ range. Each person is responsible for purchasing a game ticket upon arrival at Bowie State.
5. We typically donate to the bus driver in the amount of $3 - $5 each (just making you aware beforehand).
6. Come prepared to cheer on the football team and the band. Wear your orange and blue and be ready to PARTY!
VSU HOMECOMING

10th Annual
JAZZ on the HILL
Featuring Grammy nominated
Mr. Will Downing
Virginia Hall - Front Lawn
Friday, October 24, 2014
7pm - 10pm

Also performing;
Curv Appeal featuring
Master Percussionist,
Curvey Reid

$60 per person
$650 per table of 10
(single payments only for tables)
Heavy Hors D’oeuvres
Cash Bar

The Trojan Explosion Boosters plan to enjoy Jazz On the Hill together.

If you are a band booster or band parent interested in sitting at the band booster table, contact booster president, Barbara Steverson, at VSUBandBooster@comcast.net. Each ticket is $65. Make check payable to Barbara R. Steverson (who will reserve the table for the group) and write Jazz on the Hill in the memo line. Seating will be on a first come first served basis, as there are only 10 seats per table. If you find that you cannot attend, you may sell your ticket to another booster or parent. Join the fun and enjoy an evening of jazz with other boosters and band parents.
Keep warm while showing school pride! This Jacquard knit scarf measures 7” x 54” and is made of 100% acrylic.

The double-sided scarf has fringed ends and displays the word TROJANS and the VSU logo on the orange side and the words VIRGINIA STATE and the Trojan logo on the reverse navy blue side.

Cost: $20 per scarf, plus S&H

Order Form (PLEASE PRINT)

Name ________________________________

Mailing Address ________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ________________________________

Telephone # ________________________________

Email Address ________________________________________________________________

How many scarves? ________________  @ $20.00 each = _____________________________

Shipping & Handling 1 – 3 scarves = $5.00  __________________

4 – 7 scarves = $6.00  __________________

8 – 10 scarves = $7.00  __________________

TOTAL __________________________

Mail check and order form to
Trojan Explosion Booster Association
1726 Hungary Road
Henrico, VA 23228
Checks made to: VSU Foundation
Memo Line: TEBA Fundraiser

Thank you for your support!
Questions to VSUBandBooster@comcast.net
My time at VSU in part, provided me the credentials and life experiences to have the quality of life that I have. Even though I was not in the band, it has always been a highlight for me to witness the performances. I’m convinced that the band has a great impact in recruiting potential VSU students. I’ve also learned of some of its needs not being met by the University due to financial constraints. These are just a couple reasons I feel obligated to do what I do for my alma mater!

Harold Allen ’75

The Virginia State University Band is my family. I transferred to VSC in 1973, at the age of 21, and it was apparent that I would not be marching in the band. As a music major I wanted to contribute, so I asked Director O’Neill Sanford, in lieu of marching, could I arrange music for the band. He said absolutely and took me under his wing as teacher, mentor and friend. He also appointed me his first student director of the band. Under his leadership & mentoring I learned to write music for marching band and wrote for the VSU band for about 15 years. It was in 1974, that I wrote the original funky tune "Funk Fare", specifically for the VSU band. "Funk Fare" is the theme song the band has played consistently for 40 years. I love the VSU marching band, one of the best experiences I have ever had and by far one of the university’s absolutely best recruiting tools.

Bill McGee

As a former twirler in the Marching 110, I remember the excitement of game day performances at home and when traveling to other universities. I also remember performing during halftime shows for the Baltimore Colts, the Pittsburg Steelers, the Philadelphia Eagles and the Washington Redskins. Those were the days! I do what I do for VSU and the Trojan Explosion because I want our current students to experience the pride and excitement I felt years ago when the drum major's whistle blew and the drum cadence signaled show time. Come on Marching 110 alumni, join us in our support of the VSU Trojan Explosion with your donation.

Barbara Steverson ’66

I support the VSU Trojan Explosion foremost because my daughter is a member of the band on the drum line. I want her to see my efforts so she will learn to give back to the program. I personally wanted to attend an HBCU but financially my parents could not afford to send me to college. So I can see the importance of supporting young adults in aiding them with scholarships to help them reach their dreams and goals.

Nellie McIver Spann
I have always enjoyed the band while attending VSC (I am a product of the 70s). Many of my dear friends were band members, twirlers and majorettes. I was so proud of them as they displayed their gifts and talents. The band is a vibrant representation of our beloved VSU. As the tradition continues, we must support our Trojan Explosion Marching Band, alumni, so we can continue to see them “take the field”!

Yvonne D. Singleton ‘77

I have wonderful memories of my years at Virginia State College (now University). I have great pride in my University and am convinced there is none better. I made life-long friends at VSU and the lessons learned there benefit me daily.

As a student, I was a fan of The Marching 110 and took great pride in their nationally televised appearances at professional football games in the late 1960’s. I had no idea of the amount of time and money it takes to field a marching band, until my nephew played in one a few years ago. The band is the Best Ambassador of VSU to the larger community. Even those who do not enjoy sports enjoy a great marching band. A marching band draws attention. It enlivens all occasions. The Trojan Explosion shines musically and on the field. We need to ensure that the students have everything they need to continue to shine in every respect. We have a dedicated band staff. Most of us have no idea of how much the staff gives to teach, train and guide these students. We need to support the students and the staff who give so much of themselves to ensure we have an excellent marching band. I have chosen to give back to VSU by supporting the band and I encourage others to do the same.

Stephanie Smith

Why do I support the band? Because it is the right thing to do. The members of the group deserve no less than what we had in the good old days when we were the proud Marching 110... so I am calling on all band alumni, especially music majors, to dig deep and help these most worthy band members- they are great to see and hear. GO TROJANS!

H. Ray Davis

From the beginning of my collegiate experience the VSU Marching 110 has been synonymous with excitement, precision and music with a soul. As the university has transitioned into a nationally identifiable institution, so has the band. I feel that it is incumbent upon me to help continue this incredible legacy so that future generations may experience the pride and excitement of the new and improved VSU Trojan Explosion.

Calvin Rasberry
To my knowledge, the first marching band I ever remember seeing was Virginia State University's "Marching 110" about 35 years ago at a VSU Homecoming with my parents. That same day, I remember hearing an announcement over the PA that Central High School's "Marching Chargers" from Victoria, Virginia had placed 1st in the VSU Homecoming Parade. I will always remember my mother saying "that's Central's Band," and the enthusiasm she had in her voice hearing our hometown band had won.

I'm not sure what it was, but something on that October day really sparked my interest. Maybe it was the drums, maybe it was the uniforms, maybe it was the energy and excitement that VSU's band displayed. Regardless of whatever it was, nine years later, I found myself playing sousaphone in the Central High School band and would become drum major my junior and senior year.

It was those years in my high school band that I realized I had a sincere passion for music and more specifically marching bands. My director, Dennis Snead, was also the leader of Central's Band that day I first saw them as a small child at that VSU Homecoming game. As a graduate of Virginia State, Mr. Snead always encouraged students to attend his Alma Mater and exposed us to many great things that were happening at the institution. After high school, I would go on to attend Virginia State University and participate in that same band I saw as a small child thirteen years earlier. This was the same band that my parents, both as VSU Alumni, bragged about and my high school band director had marched in. Almost my entire family had attended VSU and we all loved “Orange & Blue.”

While at Virginia State, I was asked to be drum major by my director Mr. Harold Haughton, Sr. but turned the position down because I loved playing my instrument and my sousaphone section. Even though I wasn't drum major, I still decided to take on a leadership role in the band and stayed by Mr. Haughton's side every possible minute to hear old stories of how he had successfully built band programs over the years. I felt like I was hearing history that should be documented for future generations of music educators to know and if by chance it wasn't documented, then I wanted to carry on a piece of such a legacy and tradition. I can vividly remember sitting in the back of the band room in Lindsay-Montague Hall dreaming of what it would feel like to one day be one of the directors of the VSU Marching "Trojan Explosion".

When I was offered the job as band director in Warrenton, North Carolina, I had no idea of the struggles that I would go through or the many accomplishments that would come years later. One thing I knew for sure, I loved what I was doing and was prepared to give everything I had to succeed. I even got the opportunity to work with my old high school director again as he served as my assistant principal. Even though I was responsible for Warren County's band, I always kept close ties to Virginia State and helped with various parts of the program over the years, just as members of the VSU band program helped me. Because of this close relationship, my love for my Alma Mater never changed and I have always remained a proud Trojan. I also still had a desire to one day return to VSU and to carry on my director's legacy.

With all of that being said, I can only say how amazing it feels to stand in front of the 2013-2014 Virginia State University as the new Assistant Band Director. As the band takes the field this Saturday at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey versus Benedict College, I am sure I will be overcome with the emotion of this 35 year journey. I am truly blessed to be working with Mr. James Holden, Jr. (Director of Bands) & Rev. Sylvester Bullock (Assistant Director) as they both served as Assistants while I was a student at VSU. I will forever be grateful to Mr. Holden for extending me this opportunity and allowing me to reach my dream and work with such a wonderful group of talented students. I only wish that my father was still alive to see all of this unfold, as I know he would be proud of me. He referred to VSU as "State" and waited for this day just as I had. So, as I step into this new journey, I say look out for great things to come this year in Petersburg, Virginia & Warrenton, North Carolina.

Director of Bands - Warren County HS "Dynamic Marching Machine"
Virginia State University Alumni
Norfolk State University Alumni
Thank you, donors, for your generous support.

**Benefactor**
$5000+
Mr. Jimmie L. Steverson

**Baton Society**
$2500 - $4999

**Leadership Circle**
$1500 - $2499
Mrs. Nellie Spann

**Director’s Club Level**
$1000 - $1499

**Drill Master’s Club Level**
$500 - $999
Mrs. Janis T. Whitehead
Mr. & Mrs. Kylor (Mary) Reed
Mrs. Annette Rose
Dr. Conrad Gilliam
Mr. Steven Banks

**Cadence Club Level**
$250 - $499
Mr. & Mrs. Porcher Taylor, Jr.
Ms. Charlyne Jackson-Fields

**Tempo Club Level**
$150 - $249
Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Powell
Dr. Thomasine H. Mencer

**Supporter**
$50 - $149
Ms. Anita Wynn
Mr. Harold Allen
Mr. & Rev. Lewis Armstrong
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Ponton
Mr. Alga Evans
Mr. Jay Brown
Mr. Theodore Scott
Mr. Hamlet E. Hood, Jr.
Mrs. Valerie A. Jones
Mr. Bill McGee

**Student (with college ID)**
$30
Miss Dominique Spann

**Troy’s Troupe**
(K – 12 Student)
$15
There are several ways to donate to the Trojan Explosion Marching Band. Whether making a cash donation to help with scholarships, travel and other needs of the band or buying a Trojan Scarf, your assistance is needed and welcomed. Another option is to purchase a Trojan Explosion Booster cap (shown above). These caps sell for $25, of which $15 covers the cost of the cap and $10 will be used to purchase two cases of water for the band.

The boosters have received requests for an online donation option. To honor those requests and to keep our donation levels in line with the donation levels on the Institutional Advancement website, two of our giving levels have been changed. The Supporter level is now $50 - $149 and the Tempo Club level is $150 - $249. Three additional levels have been added – Leadership Circle, Baton Society and Benefactor. Please see the entire list of donation levels on the next page.

Thank you to all of our donors. Your support makes it possible for our students to enjoy a wonderful marching band experience.

2014 – 2015 Marching Season

Hydration Donations
(For cases of water & Gatorade)

Ms. Geraldine Spicely
Ms. Artrelle Spicely
Mr. Garvester Thompson
Ms. Rosa Banks Grant
Mr. Milton Hill
Mr. Darryl Sharp, Sr.
Mr. Raymond Covington
Ms. Frozine Reece-Smith
Ms. Theodosia Briggs
Miss Ruth M. Chaney
Ms. Marian Hinton
Mr. Lewis Armstrong
Mr. Harold Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond McClenny
Mr. Franklin Johnson
Mr. Marcese Brown
Mrs. Gilda Bates
Ms. Alana Stubblefield
Mr. Brian Robinson

Cap Inscription
Front- Raised VSU and the words Virginia State
Back – Trojan Explosion
Side - Booster
Donor Levels for the Trojan Explosion Booster Association (TEBA)

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<td>Drill Master’s Club</td>
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<td>Student (with a College ID)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troy’s Troupe (K-12 Student)</td>
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Water@$5/case Gatorade@$12/case

Trojan Explosion Booster Association
PLEASE PRINT

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Email
Benefactor/Baton Society/Leadership Circle/Director’s Circle/Drill Master’s Club
Circle one - Cadence Club/ Tempo Club / Supporter/ Student /Troy’s Troupe

If band alumnus, instrument __________________________ Year __________________________

Who was your band director? __________________________

Auxiliary? ______ Which (Ex: Flag, Twirler, etc.) __________________________

Band Parent? ______ Band Student’s Name __________________________

Donation Amount __________________________

(Make checks payable to VSU Foundation & add Trojan Explosion Booster to memo line.)
Mail checks to Trojan Explosion Boosters
c/o Barbara Stevenson
1726 Hungary Road
Henrico, VA 23228

Thank you for your support.