

Nostalgic Reminiscences from Brandt Hall: A Study of Human Nature at Its Finest?
Mr. Dr. Gifford

Ah, the memories, where does one start... Some highlights that come to mind (what's left of it at this point):

- All the stairs in Brandt!
- The day that one of the Golden Eagle sousaphone players walked into the plate glass window on the main floor (pre-elevator). Lots of glass, but tuba players can survive anything!
- Sousaphone players breaking ceiling light fixtures.
- Jeff Doty playing "Hey, Baby." (Detect a lower-octave theme here?)
- The day in Golden Eagles rehearsal when during one of the Drum Major's long drills, Tom Sanders shouts out "My water just broke."
- The day, no doubt early in the season, when your Director shouted over the PA, "What the H___ just happened," and a string player who was getting out of her car in the parking lot just east of Brandt, was so scared that she got back into her car!
- Or the classic faux pas when your Director told the student staff to "run a pole up the woodwinds."
- The time that the Pepsi hot air balloon appeared over the power plant and headed our way. Somehow, because you were never that quick with printed charts, the entire band spelled out LAND HERE, and they did! Free Pepsi for all!
- Mosquito drills, which I inherited from John Locke, and which I discontinued ASAP.
- Singing the *Alma Mater* in the wine cellar at the President's home.
- Golden Eagles' performances in various pro stadiums.
- Replacing the yucky mustard and blue uniforms with the new red ones.
- Academic Hall acoustics (or lack thereof!)
- Tom Sanders "inadvertently" whistling "to himself" in rehearsal, but only once!
- Flute section falling in love with guest composer/conductor Franco Cesarini
- Shattering new music reading sessions
- Guest composer who said to Wind Ensemble, "College students can't play soft!"
- Dr. Gifford having to take guest composer Karel Husa to the emergency room
- WE giving guest composer from Hungary, Frigyes Hidas, his favorite gift of all time, a bottle of maraschino cherries
- Lots of guest conductors, composers and great music shared in Room 100!
- My last Pops Concert in the UC Ballroom when the Wind Ensemble students surprised me with a work they had composed and written for my retirement