

## **Adam Gumble '05 M'16**

### **Biographical Information**

I grew up in northeast Pennsylvania and attended Pocono Mountain High School. My father is a professional keyboard player, and much of my childhood was spent attending his gig band rehearsals and soaking in music of all types. Additionally, my older brothers were both heavily involved in the band program at Pocono Mountain and I spent a lot of time following the Marching Band around to contests across the region with my parents. My oldest brother attended West Chester University as a Music Education Major (he is currently in his 20th year of teaching elementary music in the East Stroudsburg School District) and I had always been impressed by the quality of the performing ensembles. To me, it was an easy choice!

### **What made you go into Music?**

I hadn't planned on pursuing music as a profession, however I had an epiphany towards the end of my 12th grade year that my experience in band had been largely responsible for my growth not only as a musician, but as a human being. Along with my parents, the folks that had shepherded my music experience were the most influential people in my life and I decided to dedicate my professional life to impacting others in a similar way!

### **What is your official title? Responsibilities?**

I am the Director of Athletic Bands at West Chester University. My responsibilities include Directing the "INCOMPARABLE" Golden Rams Marching Band, the "Sixth Man" Basketball Band, and the WCU Concert Band. Additionally, I teach courses in Conducting as well as Elementary Band Methods along with the supervision of student teachers.

### **What do you enjoy most?**

It's impossible to rank! Having the opportunity to be surrounded by a world-class music faculty, supportive campus community, and students that are motivated and talented future educators at my alma mater is pretty much a dream come true!

### **What skills, talents, and other traits are useful and necessary?**

In addition to the musical ability and pedagogical acumen that are essential to the position, I think that it is critical that a Director of Bands of any sort be proactive, patient, and positive in order to achieve optimal student success.

### **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

I spend the vast majority of my free time with my two sons (Bennett and Dorian) and my incredible wife, Kelly. In addition to building with Legos, playing video games, and frequent trips to Hershey Park, the entire family very much enjoys spending time with close friends and extended family.

### **Where do you see yourself in five years?**

Standing on the track with my two sons in front of the "INCOMPARABLE" Golden Rams Marching Band on a Saturday afternoon...there's no better place to be!!!!

**What advice would you give to a current student who aspires to your career path?**

Becoming exceptional is about fighting the tendencies of the average. Work harder than you think you can, strive for excellence in everything that you do, and understand that excellence lies in the details that others miss.

**What is your favorite memory from when you were a student at WCU?**

My favorite memory occurred during the first evening after my first day of my first training camp at West Chester University. After a long day of camp, Dr. John Villella (Director of Bands at the time) pulled the entire band into the Old Swope auditorium for an ice-breaker activity. Earlier in the day, I had taken notice of a first-year alto saxophone player and was hoping to get to know her better. Dr. V had half of the group (myself included) line up on the perimeter of the wall, followed by instructions to the remaining members to “find someone.” In an uncharacteristically bold move, I pointed to the saxophone player and vehemently waved her over to be my partner for the first round of the activity. The first question was our introduction (quite literally - “Introduce yourself, what instrument you play, where you went to high school, and why you came to WCU”). Dr. Villella’s day one “speed-meeting” activity in August of 2001 introduced me to my wife Kelly, and we have been together ever since!!!!