

Lions keep marching on

Thursday, October 19, 2006

The Town of Chelmsford Music program and the Chelmsford Lion Marching Band were honored Saturday by the University of Massachusetts Minuteman Marching Band during their "5th Quarter" post game show for having the greatest number of alumni among its ranks this year. Professor George N. Parks, Minuteman Band Director, awarded the Certificate of Accomplishment to CHS Band's Assistant Director, Matt Sexauer, a Minuteman Band alumnus.

The Minuteman Marching Band fields over 350 members this year - including 14 CHS alumni, the greatest number of alumni from a single high school represented in the Band. "The Minuteman Band is pleased to benefit from the strong music program in the Chelmsford School System," said Parks. "Having so many students go on to participate and excel in band at the collegiate level is a true testament to their love of music, instilled by the hard work and dedication of folks like Michael LaCava, Director of Music, Chelmsford Schools, Eric Linsner, CHS Band Director, Matt Sexauer, Assistant Director, and the entire CHS Band staff." The award ceremony came at the conclusion of the 22nd annual UMass Band Day, where over 2,800 high school musicians representing 57 High Schools from eight states joined the Minuteman Band in wowing the football game crowd of over 15,000 spectators at halftime.

The Minuteman Band is also very well represented at CHS. LaCava was Drum Major in 1991. Sexauer was Drum Major in 1998 when the Band was awarded the prestigious Sudler Trophy, the collegiate marching band's equivalent to collegiate football's Heisman Trophy, recognizing it as one of the best college bands in the nation. Other Minuteman Band Alumni on the CHS Band staff are: Roz (Mayotte) Bonnar, visual ensemble Head Coach, Alex Bonnar, visual ensemble technician, and Shannon Lynch, visual ensemble coordinator.

Both the Chelmsford High Band and the Minuteman Band will perform at the MICCA festival, in Cawley Stadium, Lowell on Sunday, Oct. 29. CHS will compete in the Festival among its peers, while the Minuteman Band will perform in exhibition at the conclusion of both the morning and afternoon sessions.