

2017 Colts Age-Outs

These members represent the heart and soul of the Colts in many ways, and have contributed outstanding leadership to the entire corps. These members together share 52 years of Colts membership. They will be missed. We thank them for their dedication, commitment, hard work and character. They have perpetuated the momentum of the Red Team!

Mackenzie Bailey

Color Guard

Years (Colts): 4

Hometown: Austin, Texas

College: The University of Texas
(Graduated)

Major: International Relations and
Global Studies

Most Significant Lessons...I gained so many life skills from the Colts that it's hard to pick the most significant. I've certainly learned to have a standard of excellence and how to deal with adversity.

Impact On Your Life...I've grown a lot as a person since my first year of drum corps. I feel more comfortable being myself around others and my communication has vastly improved. I think that the staff and members over the years have really helped me get where I am.

Best Memories...There are a lot of great ones, but the San Antonio regional is always one of my favorite times on tour, along with finals week. Of course there are countless other great rehearsal stories involving the staff and members.

Thank You...I'd like to thank my family for supporting me year after year of this crazy activity. I'd also like to thank every staff member and volunteer that has been a part of my time here. You've all had a profound impact on my life.

Words To Supporters...Thank you for your love and support of this organization. It means the world to me that you help the Colts provide such a wonderful experience over the summer.

Closing Thoughts...It's been quite a ride, and there's no place I'd rather be for my final year. The Red Team will always be family to me and I'm so grateful to have had this experience with this corps. I'm ready to finish strong this season.

Matt Blaser

Brass/Baritone

Years (Colts): 3

Hometown: Des Moines, Iowa

College: Creighton University

Major: Marketing and Management

Most Significant Lessons...How to handle adversity.

Impact On Your Life...Immeasurable.

Best Memories...Spending time on and off the field with my closest friends.

Thank You...My parents and friends for their unwavering support.

Words To Supporters...Thank you for affording me the opportunity to participate in the most formative activity of my life. Without your generous support what we do would not be possible.

Closing Thoughts...One Team Red Team

Kevin Boyle

Brass/Trumpet

Years (Colts): 3

Hometown: Roselle, Illinois

College: VanderCook College of Music

Major: Music Education

Most Significant Lessons...I learned how to push myself harder than I ever have. I also learned how to be efficient with my time.

Impact On Your Life...The Colts have had a huge impact on my life. If it was not for the Colts I would not be the person that I am today.

Best Memories...In rehearsal when a random dog showed up to our rehearsal site in 2016 when we were in Alabama and during our wind sprints would sprint with us.

Thank You...I would like to thank my parents for always being there for me since day one.

Closing Thoughts...Thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way to get me where I am today. My parents, my applied trumpet professor, my girlfriend, Myckala, and of course Howard Weinstein.

Emily Broghammer

Color Guard

Years (Colts): 4 / Years (CC): 3

Hometown: Oxford, Iowa

College: Central College

Major: English

Most Significant Lessons...You never know how much you can give until you have given more than you have previously thought possible, time management, having a positive attitude can get you through the toughest of days.

Impact On Your Life...I wouldn't be the person I am today without this organization and the people in it. I can't even imagine what I would be like if I never came here.

Best Memories...Going to the beach in Mississippi and hearing the hornline play "Morning" as the sun rose above the horizon.

Thank You...I want to thank my family and friends who have supported me throughout the years

Destiny Bruggeman

Color Guard

Years (Colts): 4 / Years (CC): 7

Hometown: Dubuque, Iowa

Most Significant Lessons...I think the most significant lesson that I have learned was to be proactive instead of reactive.

Impact On Your Life...The Colts gave me a second place that I'm proud to call home.

Best Memories...Any moment with the guard. When we are all together it's never a dull moment.

Thank You...I would love to thank my dad. He has been my support system since day one, and none of this would have been possible without him.

Words To Supporters...Thank you for everything that you do. There wouldn't be the Colts without all of you.

Closing Thoughts...Thank you to everyone who has been apart of this journey with me. Keep pushing until the end, and don't give up.

Lulu Chang

Color Guard

Years (Colts): 2

Hometown: Novi, Michigan

College: Eastern Michigan University

Major: Hospitality

Most Significant Lessons...How sometimes, in life, the end results don't matter. It's the people around you and the journey getting there.

Best Memories...Honestly, my best memories are the extreme showers. It sounds strange but when the water is peel-your-skin-off hot or freeze-your-snot cold you really just have to laugh and get through it with everyone else.

Thank You...I'd like to thank my parents for everything they've done for me. Without them I would have never been able to experience these amazing summers.

Closing Thoughts...I'm just so grateful that I got to be a part of this organization. Whether a member or on staff, you have changed my life and I appreciate everyone so much.

Jay Cunningham

Percussion/Snare

Years (Colts): 1

Hometown: Boulder, Colorado

College: University of Colorado, Boulder

Major: Environmental Studies

Most Significant Lessons...Time management, perseverance, and how to deal with unfamiliar amount so of stress.

Impact On Your Life...A sense of brotherhood and belonging.

Best Memories...Finishing successful runs of the show and realizing you're actively living your dream.

Thank You...I would like to thank my parents for all of their amazing support!

Words To Supporters...Thank you so much for helping to keep this amazing organization running smoother than anything I've ever been a part of!

Closing Thoughts...The season has simultaneously gone by so quickly and felt like an eternity, but I know I'm going to miss it when it's all over.

Jake Davis

Percussion/Marimba

Years (Colts): 1

Hometown: Huntington, West Virginia

College: Marshall University

Major: Civil Engineering

Most Significant Lessons...Learning how to better communicate, focus on tasks, remain calm and confident, and actively being aware of my surroundings at all times have been main keystones of my time here so far.

Impact On Your Life...The Colts have strengthened nearly every aspect of my life so far. Every attribute I maximize of the field are attributes I hope to maximize for the real world.

Best Memories...There are much too many memories to name. Between the front ensemble and rest of the corps, I've already formed so many relationships that I've never been able to form anywhere else.

Thank You...I'd like to thank my parents, my family back home, my fellow corps members, and every instructor who has ever stood before me and taught me great things.

Words To Supporters...Thank you for believing in me and supporting my endeavors in Colts. Without the support from my family, tour would not be as bearable.

Closing Thoughts...I never realized how much impact the Colts would have on my life so far. Let's keep pushing until the end.

Stephany Gonzalez

Color Guard

Years (Colts): 1

Hometown: Miami, Florida

College: Florida International University

Major: Early Childhood Development

Most Significant Lessons...The most significant lesson I've learned here is to keep pushing forward even when

you may be having a bad day and to hold my self to a higher standard as a performer and as an individual.

Impact On Your Life...The impact the Colts has made on my life is for certain a positive one. I have become a stronger person mentally, physically and emotionally. I now know that I am capable of things that I didn't even know I was capable of prior to this experience.

Best Memories...My best memory so far has to have been my age out stretch with the guard. I was able to lead stretch and got to answer questions that the guard wanted to know about me. It was a funny and enjoyable experience.

Thank You...Thank you Mom and Guille!!! I love you and thank you for always being my rocks! And to my cousins Chantelle and Chris!! Thank you for introducing me to this wonderful activity and guiding me in the right direction! Malcom and Enrique! You both have taught me everything I know and have made me fall in love with this activity! I love you all!

Words To Supporters...Thank you all for your dedication and love to the program! It wouldn't be possible with out you all.

Closing Thoughts...The Colts have opened my eyes to a whole new world which is the drum corps world for me. From the moment I got here I felt welcomed and at home. There were days were I felt like I wasn't going to be able to push through but I had members from every section not just the guard giving me encouraging words to keep fighting. I have only been here for a very short time but it has been a wonderful time. I'm incredibly thankful for this once in a lifetime opportunity. And now the Colts hold a very special place in my heart!

Halena King

Brass/Baritone
Years (Colts): 1
Hometown: Akron, Ohio
College: University of Akron
Major: Early Childhood Education

Most Significant Lessons...I've learned to appreciate the little things in life, and to value the ones around me while I still have the time.

Impact On Your Life...I have met some of the greatest people I will ever meet in life while marching Colts. I have made lifelong friends and in the short amount of time that I have been a Colt, this organization has taught me so much about myself. I'm grateful for this organization and the people i have met through this corps.

Best Memories...Our first full run of the show, seeing our show evolve, and getting to know the people on my bus.

Thank You...My family and friends for all of their support.

Words To Supporters...Thank you very much for all that you do for this corps!

Closing Thoughts...It has been an incredible season with the 2017 Colts, and I am thankful for the opportunity to age out here.

Eric Medina

Percussion/Snare
Years (Colts): 1
Hometown: San Antonio, Texas
College: Univ. of Texas at San Antonio
Major: Music Education

Most Significant Lessons...Learning about self-assessment and time management.

Impact On Your Life...It has impacted my life tremendously.

Best Memories...Hanging out with other members and getting to know them on and off the field.

Thank You...My parents.

Words To Supporters...Thank you for EVERYTHING you do to make this experience the greatest for all members of the corps.

Sam Mohler

Conductor; Brass/Trumpet

Years (Colts): 2

Hometown: Manchester, Missouri

College: University of Missouri

Major: Music Education

Most Significant Lessons...You are capable of so much more than you originally thought.

Impact On Your Life...Before marching, I was literally incapable of socializing without turning into a nervous wreck. Completing two summers with the Colts has absolutely changed my life for the better. I can't thank this organization enough.

Best Memories...The beach in Mississippi, and riding in the very back of Twit with the 2017 trumpet section.

Thank You...My parents. I've had this crazy dream of marching drum corps since I was 14 and they have shown nothing but support.

Words To Supporters...This organization changes lives. You are absolutely doing the right thing. Thank you.

Closing Thoughts...Returning to this organization and experiencing everything as a veteran member was the best decision of my life. You won't regret it. Moving forward, I seriously cannot wait to see what the Red Team is capable of.

Andrew Moss

Brass/Contra

Years (Colts): 4

Hometown: Shawnee, Kansas

College: Washburn University

Major: Tuba Performance

Most Significant Lessons...How to be efficient. How to trust the people around you. That you can always push yourself to that next level.

Impact On Your Life...They made me who I am today

Best Memories...Tubaland, van squad and the hill.

Thank You...My parents for all the support they've given me. The members I've shared the field with for giving me the best DCI experience around.

Words To Supporters...Thanks. Without them I wouldn't have been able to live out my dream.

Closing Thoughts...I wish it wasn't...

Jeremy Otoo

Percussion/Bass

Years (Colts): 1

Hometown: S. Brunswick, New Jersey

College: Purdue University

Major: Audio Engineering Technology

Most Significant Lessons...When everyone is putting all their energy into a single cause, some really amazing things can happen. In drum corps especially but also life in general, it's a powerful thing when a group of people are focused on a single goal.

Impact On Your Life...More than anything else I've learned to push through the difficult moments not for myself but for the people around me.

Best Memories...Just getting to know everyone and making close personal relationships and inside jokes.

Words To Supporters...Your support helps create an unforgettable experience for many students including myself, and I can't say thank you enough.

Closing Thoughts...It's been an amazing ride so far, and I can't wait to keep grinding with my Red Team family all the way to August 12.
#GetThatMoney

Andres Prieto

Brass/Trumpet
Years (Colts): 1
Hometown: Hillsborough, New Jersey
College: Purdue University
Major: Professional Flight Technology

Most Significant Lessons...How to better manage my time and learn to focus for longer amounts of time.

Impact On Your Life...A very positive impact. They've helped me push through my walls and very understanding and know what my potential could be. It's very nice having that support after a long, hot rehearsal day in Allentown when it was really hot outside, but you could feel the energy on the field and everyone pushing through until the end.

Thank You...I'd like to thank parents for having my back and for always supporting anything I want to do with my life.

Words To Supporters...Without their generosity and commitment, none of what we have accomplished this summer would have been possible.

Closing Thoughts...To enjoy every moment whether it be a good one or a bad one, because all of that sums up into one amazing summer

Jake Prus

Percussion/Vibraphone
Years (Colts): 1
Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio
College: University of Cincinnati
Major: Political Science

Most Significant Lessons...It does not matter what state I'm in or what hot gym I am sleeping in. If I am with the Colts. I am home.

Impact On Your Life...Colts have taught me what real dedication is.

Best Memories...All of the rookies having to run outside and form a chain link.

Thank You...All of the administration for doing everything that we take for granted.

Words To Supporters...Without our donors, we could not grow into the people we become.

Sara Rahimzadeh

Color Guard
Years (Colts): 2
Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia
College: Florida State University
Major: Editing, Writing and Media; Film

Most Significant Lessons...You have to be your biggest critic and your biggest fan, but anything is possible with the right teachers and support systems.

Impact On Your Life...I've found my best friends, met people I never would've had the chance to meet, and honed my craft into not just a hobby but a lifestyle.

Best Memories...DCI week in 2015, home shows, and listening to staff tease each other.

Thank You...I'd like to thank the 2015 and 2017 CCG staff. A special thanks to Brandon, Stephen, and Vicki who reminded me of how much of a home I have at the Colts. I want to thank my close friends and family for supporting me in all my decisions and for pushing me to make my ageout one to remember.

Words To Supporters...I can't make a difference if no one comes after me, takes my place. So thank you for carving a path for future generations to make memories for a lifetime.

Closing Thoughts...Good or bad, I don't have any regrets. The Colts has provided a safe place, trusted friends, and lifelong bonds with people I don't even know. Just saying I marched with the Colts or Hold On will remind me that the world is small but we can achieve greatness together.

Jack Roberts

Percussion/Cymbals

Years (Colts): 4

Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

College: Washtenaw Community College

Major: Welding Technology

Most Significant Lessons...How to truly care for the people that are close to me. How to be successful in adverse conditions.

Impact On Your Life...Many of the members I have marched with have become my best friends, although we don't live anywhere near each other. I can always count on the support of my fellow Colts in times of need.

Best Memories...The feelings of success I shared within each cymbal line here. Making connections that will last a lifetime.

Thank You...My parents, Mark and Cathi Roberts. Every tech and staff I've ever marched under, as well as everyone I've ever marched with.

Words To Supporters...Thank you! This activity is life changing and it wouldn't be possible without your help!

Closing Thoughts...Drum corps has been the most worthwhile investment I have ever made. I wouldn't change a single thing about my time here, and I still can't believe how lucky I am to have been a part of the Colts.

Austin Seybold

Percussion/Snare

Years (Colts): 1

Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

College: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Most Significant Lessons...Leadership skill.

Impact On Your Life...I can definitely say that I feel like I have really learned how to better appreciate the people around me and the limited time I share with them.

Best Memories...Every moment. Every show. Every day was just exciting and fun. The people around me have made this the most fun summer to date.

Thank You...I would like to thank my parents for always being supportive of my endeavors, my friends, anyone who has ever taught me, all of the Colts staff and volunteers, and god for guiding me down a path in life that has allowed me to be a part of drum corps and gain this life experience.

Words To Supporters...Thank you for everything you do. Nothing we do would be possible without all of your support.

Closing Thoughts...As an age out to anyone else, really make sure you never take for granted the people around you. In the end, it's not about the scores. It doesn't matter how the lot was or the show was. What matters is the people who are marching next to you. The people who gave up their summer, and worked their hardest right alongside you. The people who you went through your best and worst days with. The people who helped you to find a deeper understanding of the human connection. That is what matters. Take that with you wherever you go and never forget it.

Will Shriver

Percussion/Cymbals
Years (Colts): 2 / Years (CC): 2
Hometown: Gallipolis, Ohio
College: Hobart Institute
Major: Welding

Most Significant Lessons...Working hard, especially when not directly asked to.

Impact On Your Life...This activity has made me want to be the best version of myself.

Best Memories...Swamp tour!
Thank You...My Mom and Dad, as well as Mr Bones.

Juan Suarez

Percussion/Marimba
Years (Colts): 1
Hometown: Houston, Texas

Most Significant Lessons...
Accountability, anything is achievable through hard work.

Impact On Your Life...The staff and the members have become a new family for me during a time in my life where I really need encouragement and support. I will forever cherish my time with my fellow Colts.

Best Memories...Night Ensemble Block with beautiful Iowa sunsets.

Thank You...My Parents and my greatest mentor Greg Tsalikis

Words To Supporters...Thank you for supporting such a great organization!

Closing Thoughts...I couldn't dream of aging out anywhere else.

Juan Angel Vallejo III

Percussion/Synthesizer
Years (Colts): 1
Hometown: Laredo, Texas
College: Texas A&M International University
Major: Music, Performance of Percussion

Most Significant Lessons...One of the most significant lessons the Colts has taught me is that of trust. To let yourself be fully invested in what you're performing, and to have the confidence in the members around you to do the same is a truly remarkable feeling. This trust in my fellow member to carry this show and bring it to life is something that the Colts has helped me to do.

Impact On Your Life...The Colts has helped me to reignite my passion and love for musical performance. The adrenaline rush of performing for packed stadiums and bringing this show to life every night is awesome. I'm glad that I get to do this all and I'm eternally grateful to the Colts for taking me in and allowing me to take part in this show.

Best Memories...The moments that I will forever cherish are those of the Front Ensembles hanging out together be it at rehearsals, on the bus, or during free time. This group of 14 people is a family that I will truly miss performing with and being with.

Thank You...I would like to thank my mom, dad, and sister for their continued support of everything I do and for always putting up with me no matter the circumstance or situation. I would also like to thank Dr. James A. Moyer & Dr. Lorraine M. Dinkel, you both have shaped the way I play and the performer I am today. Words cannot express how grateful I am for the two of you. You both were the first teachers I had that taught me concert percussion and how to improve my musicianship. I'm lucky to have you both as my teachers.

Words To Supporters...Thank you for your support of the Colts and all that your continued support has done for this organization. Without your help we could not have the amazing experience we get here at the Colts.

Closing Thoughts...Enjoy and cherish every moment you have with your corps. This season will be one to remember and you don't want to leave with "what ifs". Go all out, perform every second of everyday, and be the best at all you can. Once finals rolls around this family will be gone and be nothing more than a memory. So go capture this moment because you only have one shot.

Sam Van Dielen

Brass/Contra

Years (Colts): 3

Hometown: Springfield, Missouri

College: Missouri State University

Major: Music Education

Most Significant Lessons...Patience, resilience, and persistence are key factors in any person or organization's success.

Impact On Your Life...The Colts have given me the opportunity to hone my musical and professional skills in ways that only drum corps could. This experience has made me a more mentally and physically strong person than I ever thought I'd be.

Best Memories...Coming off the field in 2015 at Lucas Oil to the third standing ovation we received in a 12 minute span. Watching storms develop over the Rocky Mountains and roll over our rehearsal site in Colorado. Every experience we've had on the East Coast.

Thank You...My parents, Julie & Jerry, for their willingness and utter selflessness throughout the last ten years of music making, and for their sage advice and caution in

every difficult moment. Dr. Steve Rock and Dr. Dee Higgins, as well as Katie Broghammer and every other orthopedist that have helped me last through the last 3+ years of drum corps. Without them I simply could not have done this.

Words To Supporters...Every penny and every applause is invariably put to good use.

Closing Thoughts...My joints will always remember these last 3 years. Thanks, drum corps.

“““On and ever upward”””

Evy Vankeirsbilck

Color Guard

Years (Colts): 1

Hometown: Zwevegem, West

Vlaanderen, Belgium

Most Significant Lessons...I learned how to push myself even when it is really hard.

Impact On Your Life...The Colts have learned me to be great at everything I do.

Best Memories...The best memories are the small things: getting ice cream/strawberrys, a guard staff who tried to learn Dutch, the feeling after a good run/show.

Thank You...I want to thank my parents and friends for the support. I also want to thank the Colts and the staff for this amazing opportunity! And thank you to Calypso!

Words To Supporters...Thank you to all the supporters and donors! Without you, this organization wouldn't be the same.

Closing Thoughts...I'm so happy to get this opportunity! No one can take this away from me. Thank you!

Chloe Wood

Color Guard

Years (Colts): 3

Hometown: Tinley Park, Illinois

Most Significant Lessons...Patience and determination

Impact On Your Life...The Colts have made this drum corps somewhere where I can escape reality and not deal with real life. Even when I have to adult in real life it's nice to know I have some people I can rely on here to help steal me away again.

Best Memories...“You're not stupid just confused” “Tiny tina” performing on every field I've ever stepped on because no matter what show I end up having, I know that I was in an amazing creation. And every day that has ever gone by all I want is to get better and that is where I push myself to become a greater performer.

Thank You...My mom and step dad for helping me be able to march all my years of drum corps through

tremendous support. My brother for always being there for me when I need him the most. Alex who has always been loving and supportive and even on my hardest days is able to put a smile on my face and push me to become a better person and never give up. And finally Marian Catholic High School marching band, for making this option available to me in the first place and teaching me from the very start how to be the very best.

Words To Supporters...Thank you tremendously for every effort you put forth to help make this drum corps experience even possible. You truly are appreciated and play a huge role in helping the very foundation become something magical.

Closing Thoughts...You cannot go through life regretting every decision you make. Life is about living, so live in the moment and even if life takes an unexpected turn, sometimes you need to just roll with it because you may end up right where you need to be.





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