

Lake Forest High School Drumline trip to PASIC

The LFHS Drumline had a wonderful time on their trip to the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) November 12-14. The convention was held in the newly renovated Indianapolis Convention center, one of the largest convention halls in the country. Students and faculty attended a variety of percussion performances, clinics, master classes, labs, and lectures. In addition, each night the convention featured a professional percussion ensemble from abroad (Which included groups from Taiwan and Spain).



The LFHS Drumline participated in the inaugural Percussive Arts Society Marching Festival Interactive Clinic. The students had the opportunity to work with She-e Wu, Professor of Percussion at Northwestern University, and Dennis Delucia, a Drum Corps Hall of fame member and associate Professor of Percussion at Rutgers University. The students performed their cadence series and a performance piece called Rolling Blackout. The clinicians stressed fundamentals and musicality.



She-e Wu



Dennis Delucia

At the conclusion of the convention, students attended the Grand Nationals Finals of the Band of America Marching Band Competition, featuring our nation's top high school marching band.

Student comments on the trip:

“PASIC 2009 was a fantastic experience. It seemed as if I had died and gone to percussion heaven.” ~Christian Schmidt, senior

“Another highlight of the trip was the interactive clinic and being able to get advice from people who are masters in the field of drumming. What I learned from the interactive clinic is how to be a better drummer overall and how to bring out my full potential when drumming.” ~Charlie McKiel, senior



“One of the top highlights of the trip was the Virgil Dante drum set clinic. He was so fast with his hands and feet and it truly amazed me. I had never before seen someone of that talent play by himself, and to me, it was astonishing to see the things that he could do.” ~Tommy Kinzer, junior

“In our clinic and others, I learned that dynamics mean a lot more than just volume. They make music so much cooler and She-e Wu showed us that playing at the same volume is like talking in a monotone voice.” ~Wesley Cary, senior

“After returning home from this incredible experience, the first thing I wanted to do was jump on my drums and jam.” ~Andrew Piechota, sophomore

“The exhibit hall was really huge and awesome, there were drum kits everywhere that anyone could hop on and play.” ~Vic Capaul, junior



“From the Ju percussion group, I learned how important visual communication was during performances.” ~Richard Daniels, freshman

“The timpani clinic taught me that listening is the most important skill a musician can have.” ~Sean Grady, freshman

“I found that the most influential and meaningful events of the trip were the new experiences that allowed me to reexamine my outlook on the music of the world. I have not listened to much atonal music and I had not tried to understand it because it sounded too exotic and strange. Now I understand that it can be beautiful when it’s written and played well.” ~Jacob Crofts, junior

“Now that I look back on this trip, I am ever so grateful that I went. I learned so many things, saw multiple famous musicians and directors, became friends with the other percussionists in our ensemble, and overall had such a fun time. It was such an experience that I’ll always remember!” ~Laurel Worthen