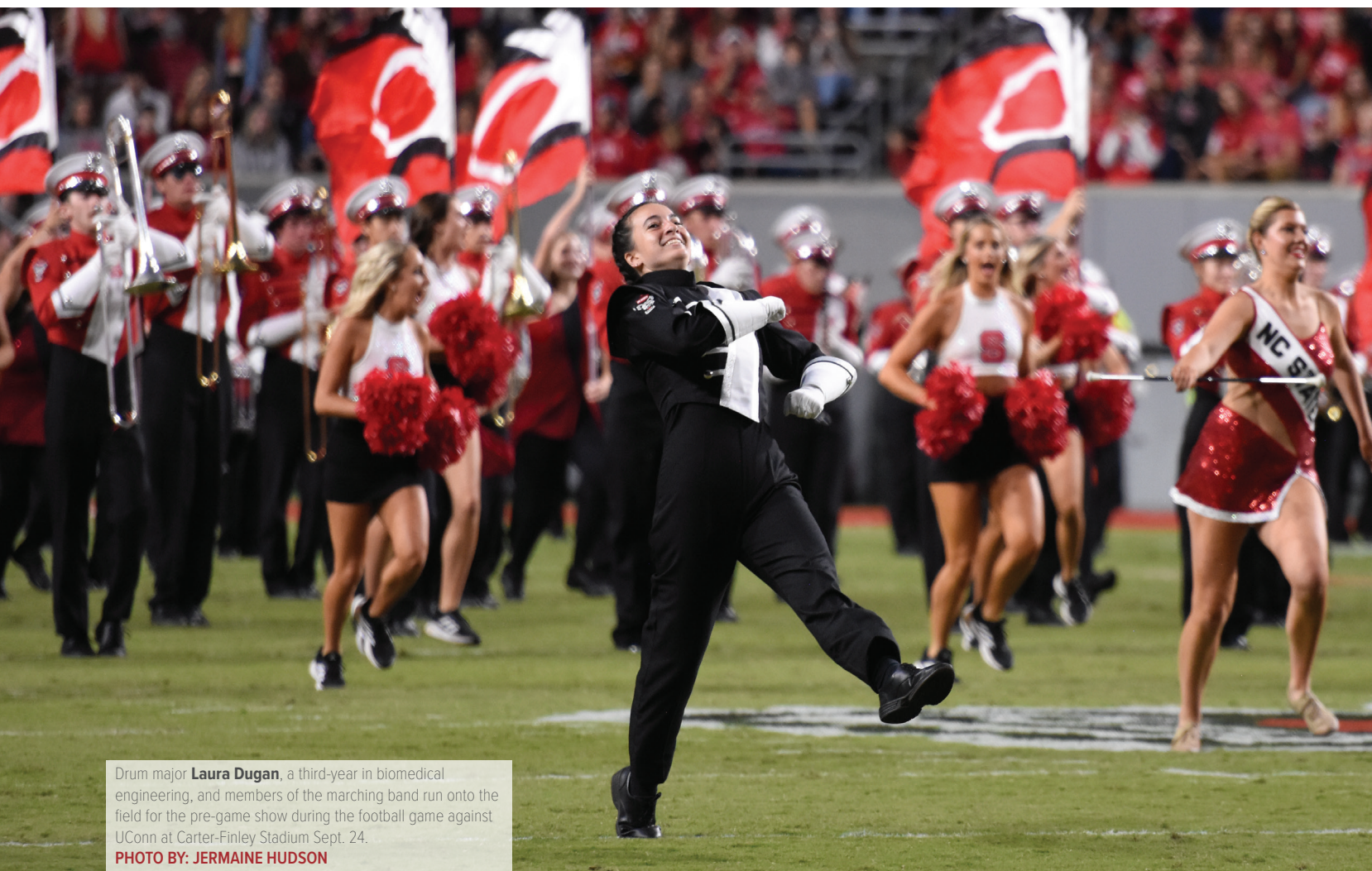


Led by their three drum majors, the Power Sound of the South took to the field to perform at every home game.

CREATING ENERGY ONE SONG AT A TIME



Drum major **Laura Dugan**, a third-year in biomedical engineering, and members of the marching band run onto the field for the pre-game show during the football game against UConn at Carter-Finley Stadium Sept. 24.
PHOTO BY: JERMAINE HUDSON

Clap along as you hear the trumpets honk and the bang of the drums because the Power Sound of the South is making noise all football and basketball season long.

NC State's marching band is a class-based organization that performs at every home football game and other fall athletic events like volleyball and soccer. Due to being a class that any student can take, joining the marching band just takes an audition and registering for MUS 131. Once fall sports conclude, the Marching Band shifts to Pep Band, MUS 132, where they perform at home basketball games, post-season tournaments, and other on-campus events whether it's other spring semester sports or pep rallies. Because of this, the marching band is one of the biggest organizations on campus with approximately 350 members. To handle such a size, band director Paul Garcia has three drum majors to help lead.

"The biggest thing that people see about being a drum major is conducting but that's

only a small part of it," Brian Rossi, a third-year in mechanical engineering and one of the drum majors, said. "Most of the job comes down to leadership and management. Making sure the band is on time during game day, making sure that any issues between sections or people are being handled, but also helping out people when they need to vent. That's the role that a drum major has to take on as well."

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- BRIAN ROSSI

Within the marching band, there are also sections where students who play similar instruments have the opportunity to grow closer but also use each other as motivation.

"My section is really close and in my opinion a genuine family. Our section is so big that we normally have small group events like movie nights and study sessions to help each other out

as well as a retreat to bring the trumpet section together to hang out," Gattis Smith II-McNeil, a second-year in communications, said.

As an organization that's primarily run by students, the section leaders and drum majors alike have goals for the band and hope to see it improve. One of the goals they have is to continue livening up the student section during games.

"I want to make sure that no matter what I do, there's always some sort of energy. I want to be exciting, I want people to be able to feed off my energy. One of the biggest things about game day is that it's so easy to feed off people's energy. If there's no energy and you're not giving them anything, it's just kind of flat and people will feel that and react to that. So if you give any bit of energy, they will run a mile with it," Rossi said.

With the marching band consisting of different instruments, twirlers, color guard and a dance team, the Power Sound of the South is making sure they're heard, whether it's in a football stadium, basketball court or outside on the stands. —

► **Spencer Mavrides**, a second-year in sustainable materials and environmental science, plays the trumpet during the football game against UConn at Carter-Finley Stadium on Sept. 24. NC State beat UConn 41-10.

PHOTO BY: JERMAINE HUDSON

