For Immediate Release

**J.D. and the Back Alley Madmen to Perform Reunion Concert at the Pioneer Tavern**

From 1982 until 1989, *J.D. and the Back Alley Madmen* played hundreds of gigs in Eau Claire and around the Midwest, including opening for Stevie Ray Vaughan at Zorn Arena in 1985. They will be putting it all back together for a reunion concert at 8pm on Saturday, Feb. 11 2012 at the Pioneer Tavern, 401 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI.

*J.D. and the Back Alley Madmen* was an R&B band initially formed to play 2 songs for the 1982 homecoming varsity show at Zorn Arena by members of UWEC Jazz Ensemble I. The group was quickly a frequent performer at campus events and on Water St. throughout the 80s. The 8-piece horn band performed a mix of R&B, Soul and Funk songs. Aside from opening for Stevie Ray Vaughan, they also shared the stage with Greg Kihn, Dwight Yoakam, and Atlanta Rhythm Section. For many students “J.D.” is remembered fondly as the soundtrack at UWEC in the 80s.

Approximately 20 UWEC music students performed with the group over the years, including the following players who will be performing at the Pioneer:

- **Scott Davis ’92** UWEC grad. UWEC Jazz I, as well many theatre department pit orchestras and student recitals. Performances with bluesmen Luther Allison, Joe Huston and a member of the Eau Claire based James Solberg Band until joining the US Navy as a guitarist & band leader in 1990. Since then he has performed in approx 35 states and 75 countries in Europe, Africa and South America in support of US and NATO diplomatic missions.

- **Ken Faltinson** - (attended 1982-86) UWEC Jazz I. Bassist and keyboards with Luther Allison, James Solberg, Jimmy Thackery, Sam Moore (from Sam & Dave), Dan Mahar, Tab Benoit, Martha Reeves (Martha Reeves and the Vandellas), Buddy Guy, Kings Highway Blues (Mike Stone of Queensryche), and many more. Ken also taught private bass in Paris, France, and played on the Grammy nominted CD "Luther Allison - Live from Chicago."

- **Ethan Freier ’86** - UWEC grad. Minneapolis based educator/trombonist/arranger/composer. Presently the band director at Northfield (MN) Middle School. Freier earned his Master of Music Degree in Jazz Studies from Indiana University, where he earned a prestigious “Performance Certificate.” Also studied arranging with Dominic Spera and David Baker. Performances with Kenny Rogers, Harry Connick Jr., Aretha Franklin, Johnny Mathis, Barry Manilow, Michael Bolton, Ray Charles, Marie Osmond, The Temptations, The Four Tops, and Natalie Cole. Compositions with Kjos publishing.

- **Bentley Harder** – (attended 1980-81) Eau Claire Memorial High School graduate. Played in Jazz III and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Veteran bassist of the Eau Claire music scene and has played with the James Solberg Band, Otis and the Alligators, Blue Heat, Chris Aaron, the Cruisers, Rubber Biscuit, and many others.

- **Jim Huwe** - (attended 1983-85) as a Music Education Major. Played in UWEC Jazz I. Graduated from Eau Claire North High School. Studied instrument repair in Redwing, MN, which is what he does as a profession now. Jim has been very active as a musician professionally for 32 years. Performs in Madison with The Stellanovas and many others.
• **Pete Keuer -** *(attended 1980-85)* UWEC groups included: Jazz I, Orchestra, Band, Brass Choir, and Trombone Choir. Moved to L.A. as a recording engineer with Yamaha Corp. Pete also freelanced up and down the West Coast for twelve years as a trombonist. Currently plays with Stan Bann's Big Bone band as well as Jim Tenbenens group in the Twin Cities.

• **Kevin Kjos ’88 -** UWEC grad. (BM and MM in Jazz Studies). UWEC Jazz 1. Currently trumpet player and Director of Jazz Studies at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Doctor of Music from Indiana University. Has played with the Cedar Avenue Big Band (founder), Ringing Bros., Allison Miller, David Baker, Dominic Spera, Kenny Aranoff, Buselli Wallarab Big Band, Dynamics, Robert Baca, Geoff Keezer, Tommy Dorsey, Water Street Big Band. Kevin also a published author.

• **Dan Larson (attended 1981-86) -** UWEC Jazz I. Airline Pilot and Commercial Airline Flight Instructor/saxophonist based in Minneapolis. Dan was a Saxophone Performance Major with a Telecommunications Minor. He was a DJ at Shenanigans from 1983-85 and a DJ at radio station Z100 from 1984-88. Also, while a student, he created the world’s longest beer bong--at 18 feet! Dan stays busy as a tenor and alto saxophonist in the Minneapolis area. Played in the Dick's Bar and Grill house blues band from 2001 to 2006, jazz quartet "One for Daddy-O" from 2008-2010, and played flute and saxophones on Minneapolis-based Waxing Phil's latest album.

• **Paul Lehner** *(attended 1980-84) -** UWEC Jazz I. Arranger/guitarist with the Milwaukee-based groups The Swingomatics, The Temperments, and the Mr. Lucky Orchestra. Played in Symphonic Band, Jazz I, Orchestra, pit orchestras for summer stock theatre and Caberet, and several small ensembles. Has played at the Wisconsin Governor's Mansion and SummerFest (Milwaukee). Has played with the Coasters, Fabian, and opened for Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Cherry Poppin' Daddies, and The Temptations.

• **Gary Smith ’86 -** UWEC grad. (Music Education). Currently teaches Middle School Band in Edgerton, Wisconsin and has been selected one of the Spring Valley High School’s Top Ten Honored Teachers six times during his career. He holds a Master of Sciences in Education from Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota. He has served as music director and performer for multiple musical theater productions.

• **Paul Stiller ’86 -** UWEC grad. Founder of UWEC’s *The Innocent Men* and member of Singing Statesmen. Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music in Boston since 1995 and just received the “Berklee Distinguished Faculty Award” for 2012. Founding member of award-winning a cappella group Vox One. Has performed with or opened for Gloria Estafan, Bobby McFerrin, Ahmad Jamal, Ray Charles, Chicago, the Woody Herman Orchestra, and the Count Basie Orchestra.

• **Keith Thompson ’86** UWEC grad. Keith is a software developer for industry giant Microsoft. He has been a trumpeter with the Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra since its second season with featured solos on several concerts, including a performance of J.S. Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2* and the world premiere of Robert J. Bradshaw's *Sonata for Trumpet and Strings*. He can also be heard wit the Borderline Brass Quintet and the Sheldon Theatre Brass Band, both of whom also perform his music arrangements.

• **Kent Williams** *(attended 1980-85)* He went to the University of Minnesota for his Bachelor of Arts and law degree, and is currently an attorney at Williams Law Firm and has been practicing law since 1991. He has two teenaged daughters and lives on a hobby farm in Medina, MN. Kent has not been performing professionally, but has a serious reputation for dominating karaoke bars!