



## ***Spotlight on Robert Wysocki, MD (Baritone)***

***By Bill Rothchild, President, Freeport Community Band***

Sometimes one's Facebook page reveals a back story to a very significant life event. In the case of Robert Wysocki, who plays baritone in the Freeport Community Band, it was a photo of Robert receiving his MD sash at the most recent graduation ceremony at the School of Medicine at Stony Brook University.



There were congratulatory posts making reference to the long time it took for Robert to earn his degrees and the fact that he is now 35 years old. (Spoiler Alert- You'll notice that I said degrees not degree!) More about this later.

Robert is a native of Orient Point, Long Island. You can't go much farther East on Long Island than Orient Point. The last time that I was there was to board a cross sound ferry boat to New London, CT on the way to a visit to Cape Cod.

Robert went to public school in Greenport. His dad was in the lawn care business and his mom was a teacher. While in elementary school he was "forced" to play a musical instrument. So from the first through the fourth grade he played the trumpet. While Robert has three sisters and one brother, the only other musician in the family was a sister who played the flute and alto sax.

His early experiences as a summer volunteer ER technician was the first tangible evidence that a medical career was in his future. After graduating from high school Robert went off to Hamilton College a private liberal arts college in Clinton, New

York. It was founded as Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793 and was chartered as Hamilton College in 1812 in honor of inaugural trustee Alexander Hamilton. He majored in bio-chemistry and graduated in 2007. While in college he played trumpet in the college band. When asked about the type of music that he likes, he said that it depended on what he was doing. His taste in music is “eclectic”.

After graduating from Hamilton College he took off three years to continue his studies in biological and medical sciences at the Rockefeller University in New York City.

With all of this scientific background Robert was then ready to pursue a medical degree. So in 2010 he was accepted to the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University.

(Renaissance? Is this a typo? No! Stony Brook University’s medical school was renamed the Renaissance School of Medicine on November 21, 2018 honoring the more than \$500 million in donations from employees of the investment firm Renaissance Technologies)

Robert was in a dual track program that allowed him to receive an MD degree in Internal Medicine and a PhD in Genetics-four year each, for a total of eight years of study. He received his degrees this past June.

Robert is now a resident at the NYU-Winthrop Hospital in Mineola working six days a week rotating through the different departments at the Hospital. He is now living near the Hospital in Mineola. As he describes it “it’s a lot of work but very enjoyable.”

Because of the demands of his residency it is often not possible for Robert to attend every Freeport Community Band rehearsal or concert. But when he is able to join us it’s an enjoyable experience for both Dr. Robert and the Band.

We wish Robert continued success in his chosen field of medicine.

**“The GOOD physician treats the disease;**

**The GREAT physician treats the patient who has the disease.”**

***Sir William Osler, one of the founders of Johns Hopkins Hospital***