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June

NEWSLETTER

2017

## BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PHIBETAMU - KEITH BEARDEN (ALPHA TX)



The sun has set on another school year. I know you are looking for some rejuvenation through the summer months with more time for family, hobbies, projects, traveling and just hangin' out. Our membership includes a diverse group in various stages of music education. Whether you are a new member in PhiBetaMu, or a retired member, we've all been involved in music education.

Some can review the year with pride as they witnessed their students grow musically, culminating in successful performance experiences (and of course, shiny trophies held high). Some can look back and remember special

moments during clinics. Some will recall the most incredible performances judged at various contests. Many may have attended local concerts or traveled to hear grandchildren perform their first concert. There have been wonderful dinners with colleagues where we've laughed at funny jokes and discussed the "state of the art". We've endured the painful losses of iconic colleagues in our profession. We've written recommendations for those looking for that first job. We've picked up new techniques and learned new approaches to teaching. We've been disappointed for not seeing the whole show during bowl games. We've been amazed at the incredible solo performers, concert bands, and marching bands posted on Facebook. Yes, we've had another typical year in the life of a "band director"-whether young or old. Many will mix in summer "band activities" with their "free time". Try to remember it is ok to take a break and jump off the merry-go-round from time to time. Your well being needs it and your loved ones need you.

The beginning of June is typically a time you're not thinking of PhiBetaMu, but it can be a time for you to recall some of the names of those young teachers who should benefit from PhiBetaMu membership. Make a note of their name and be sure to bring their name to nomination at your chapter's next business meeting. Remember, we're not a "good ol' boy" club. PhiBetaMu exists to honor those doing exceptional work with students. Young teachers need the support and recognition from the experienced teachers in PhiBetaMu. What better way than to bring them into our PhiBetaMu support circle for mentorship and continued growth?

I wish you the best and look forward to seeing YOU at YOUR PhiBetaMu meetings in Chicago this December. In closing, I want to thank the contributors to this newsletter and also express my appreciation to our editor, Mr. Mike Townsend of MuAlpha Chapter in Canada!

*Life, Love, Music,*

Keith Bearden, President  
PhiBetaMu International

### PHIBETAMU NEWS & COMMUNICATION

Welcome to the PhiBetaMu International June 2017 edition. With our new "3 edition format" it is prudent that I draw to your attention the following action items and projected deadlines.

- *This is an opportune time for you to give some thought about nominating a member from your Chapter for the International Board of Directors. The deadline for nominations for the two positions available is October 31, 2017. More information is available at [www.phibetamu.org](http://www.phibetamu.org)*
- *Register now for Midwest 2017 (Dec.20-23) in Chicago and plan to attend the PhiBetaMu International meetings and functions. Early bird registration and discount is only available until Sept. 22. Register online at [www.midwestclinic.org](http://www.midwestclinic.org)*
- *We are in need of reports and/or publications from more Chapters. Submissions to the newsletter need not be long nor elaborate. Submit by the 25th day of the month prior to publication. [Nov/Feb/June]*
- *PhiBetaMu International Newsletters are archived and can be accessed at [www.phibetamu.org](http://www.phibetamu.org)*

*Mike Townsend*

## JERRY JUNKIN - OUTSTANDING BANDMASTER 2017



Serving since 1988 on the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin, where he holds the Vincent R. and Jane D. DiNino Chair for the Director of Bands, and in addition to serving as a University Distinguished Teaching Professor, **Jerry Junkin** is recognized as

one of the world's most highly regarded wind conductors. Previously, he served on the faculties of both the University of Michigan and the University of South Florida. In addition to his responsibilities as Professor of Music and Conductor of the Texas Wind Ensemble, he serves as Head of the Conducting Division and teaches courses in conducting and wind band literature.

He has served as Music Director and Conductor of the Hong Kong Wind Philharmonia since 2003, and as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Dallas Winds since 1993. Additionally, he serves as principal guest conductor of the Sensoku Gakuen College of Music Wind Ensemble in Kawasaki,

Japan. In 2005 he was presented the Grainger Medallion by the International Percy Grainger Society in recognition of his championing of Grainger's works. A recipient of the Kappa Kappa Psi Distinguished Service to Music Award, he was the 2012 Texas Bandmaster of the Year and in 2015 received the Medal of Honor from the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Mr. Junkin has released over 30 CD recordings for the Reference, Klavier and Naxos labels. The *New York Times* named his release with the UT Wind Ensemble on the Reference Recordings label, *Bells for Stokowski*, one of the best classical CDs of the year. Other

major appearances with the UT Wind Ensemble include two European Tours, the 2007 Festival Del Sole in Napa Valley, and two Carnegie Hall performances.

Jerry Junkin spends his summers in residence at the Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan, as well as appearing at major music festivals throughout the world. Mr. Junkin has served as President of the Big XII Band Director's Association, is a member of the Board of Directors of The John Philip Sousa Foundation, is Past-President of the American Bandmasters Association, and Past-President of the College Band Directors National Association. Jerry Junkin is a Yamaha Master Educator.

## DENNIS FISHER - OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR 2017



**Dennis Fisher** has a wide variety of experience and expertise as a conductor, arranger, clinician, educator, and consultant. He is very active as an arranger for sym-

phonic band, marching band and chamber music. Mr. Fisher frequently serves as a clinician, conductor, and adjudicator throughout the United States, Thailand, Japan, Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, Canada, Greece, and Russia. He recently served as guest conductor of the Southeast Asian Youth Wind Ensemble in Bangkok, Thailand and as judge for the All Asian Symphonic Band Competition. In addition, Fisher currently serves as principal guest conductor of the Volga Band, Professional Wind Orchestra in Saratov, Russia.

Mr. Fisher has recorded extensively on the Mark, Klavier,

and G.I.A. labels with the University of North Texas Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony. He is co-author of *Teaching Music Through Performance in Beginning Band, Volume 2*. He also is recording and editing producer of the *Teaching Music through Performance in Band* series CD recordings, and editor of the Master Conductor DVD series, published and distrib. by G.I.A. Publications.

Mr. Fisher holds professional memberships in the Texas Music Educators Association; Texas Bandmasters Association; College Band Directors National Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He has been elected to membership in

the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and with invited membership in Phi Beta Mu National Band Fraternity. He is a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and is Past-President of the Southwest Division of the College Band Directors National Association.

Mr. Fisher has been awarded the Gagarin Medal of Honor from the Society of Cosmonauts of the Russian Federal Space Agency. Other honors include twice being named "Top Prof" by the Mortarboard Society at U.N.T., and recipient of the University of North Texas Community Award.

## HOW IS YOUR WALK? – TRAVIS J. WELLER (NU/PA)

We all have heard the old adage “Don’t talk the talk, unless you can walk the walk”. It is sound advice for mentors of any age to provide the best possible example for their students and ensemble. In our role as a mentor to our students, one of our fraternity’s goals is to encourage the building of better bands and the development of better musicians. Some of see and connect with our students only a few years at a time, while others might see them grow from grade 5 until they leave to the sounds of Elgar! As we move into summer (some of us will take a *good 2 days* of rest before jumping into marching band!), I ask all of us to reflect on the example we provide to our students: How is your walk?



**Effective Mentors are musical role models:** Taking into account our community and the context of where we teach, we sometimes might be the only professional musical role model students will interact with in their educational careers. Share when you are playing in a community band or in a small group!

**Effective Mentors demonstrate how they reach all their students in meaningful ways:** Whether a marching band of 300 or a chamber group of 5, we are called to educate all students equally. We need to remember our bands continue to offer something that is timeless and always in style – a sense of belonging for individual, and a sense of pride for the school. Sometimes the socializing power of our ensembles does more the student than the student every does for the ensemble – our music becomes a very important and valuable bi-product!

**Effective Mentors are able to motivate their students:** Mentors have the unique ability to develop the trait of being motivated to learn so that it is present throughout their lives, and encourage students to be thoughtful about what they study or participate in. Probably one of the best things teachers can do is to model life-long learning through enrollment in graduate programs and participation in workshops. We must find ways to create musical experiences that fuel intrinsic motivation in our students (e.g. masterclasses with expert musicians, trips to see professional ensembles or military groups).

**Effective Mentors open pathways to new music for their students:** While preference is an immediate, short-term choice that can change at any time, taste is a more long-term or permanent commitment. As directors, we

need to remember that never before has there been more access to high quality recordings on multiple platforms of many different styles of music. It is important that in addition to performance skills, we allow students to develop critical thinking skills to they can make informed analytical decisions, and evaluate music from multiple perspectives including aesthetic, authenticity, entertainment, imagination and quality. They may not react exactly how we want them to the first time they hear Grainger or Persichetti, but we should not abandon sharing that music with them.

**Effective Mentors plan for success and capture emerging teachable moments:** Effective mentors demonstrate that the focus stays on the success of their students. The most successful music teachers I have encountered maintain a student-centered focus, develop a well-organized and creative classroom and rehearsal hall, and encourage student creativity and musical independence. At times, I think of a rehearsal like a basketball coach thinks of a game – and for that reason I place a premium on planning for known variables for which I can control. As the rehearsal (game) unfolds, I must be aware of ebb and flow of communication (both verbal and non-verbal) along musical pathways and make good on capturing an emerging teachable moment that may fall outside my initial rehearsal plan. Breaks (Time-outs) are

occasionally burnt to prevent a moment from slipping away, and I must be aware that everyone understands their role and responsibility as members of our ensemble (team).

**Effective Mentor persevere:** Many pre-service teachers express aspirations to teach but do not necessarily understand the daily demands of the profession. Many of us have “been there, done that” and still have the band trip t-shirt to prove it. Research has shown beginning teachers are more concerned about management and discipline, motivating students, accommodating differences among students, evaluating and assessing student achievement and dealing with parents, and at times are overwhelmed by the barrage of daily responsibilities. We need to remember to reach out to new teachers and directors and offer assistance when possible. We may not have the exact answer they seek, but it at least allows them to consider another perspective.

This list is by no means complete in the mentorship role of young musicians in our bands. We should never forget how important our example can be in the life of a child and aspiring musician. Have a great summer and enjoy your walk!

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*Travis J. Weller is the Director of Music Education at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA. He previously taught for 22 years in the Mercer Area School District located in Mercer. He is currently serving as Public Relations Chair for Phi Beta Mu International.*



## MUALPHA HOLDS ANNUAL BBQ & SOCIAL JUNE 3RD - MIKE TOWNSEND



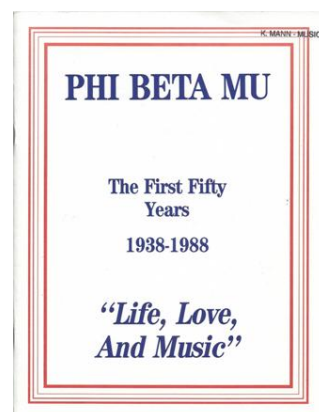
MuAlpha held their annual social and BBQ in Red Deer, Alberta on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the home of Bro/Sis Steve & Val

Sherman. The event co-hosted by Bro/Sis Glen/Lil Traquair, was a tremendous success with 30 in attendance.

It was great to learn from Sis Marilyn Mann (pictured 2nd from right), spouse of Past International President Keith Mann, that she is writing a biography about Brother Keith Mann and to receive from her “hard copies” of many of the PhiBetaMu publications that were edited by Keith in his lifetime.

MuAlpha is honoured to become the custodian of these important publications. One of the documents that I remember receiving some thirty years ago, “The First Fifty Years of PhiBetaMu”, was among the publications bequeathed. It can soon be found in “electronic

form” in the Members Only/Forms & Documents section of the PhiBetaMu Website. Maybe it is time to start compiling a similar publication as we approach our “Second Fifty Years, EH!”



## EARL D. IRONS PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION - PAUL WORSOELLO (ALPHA/TX)

The purpose of the award is to recognize those bands that exhibit and exemplify the founders’ ideals by honouring superior achievement, moral uprightness, and promoting the international development of bands.

The members of the 2017 Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction evaluation committee are as follows.



Joseph T. Alme (Alpha Gamma, ND) was the Executive Director of all Summer School of Fine Arts programs at the International Music Camp (83-06); serving on an average 2800 students each summer with 22 programs specializing in instrumental, vocal & keyboard, as well as dance, theater, speech and visual art. He is presently active as an Adjudicator, Guest Conductor, & Clinician in USA and Canada and is the Director of the Minot City Band.



Dr. Ike Nail (Lambda Zeta, OR) is Director of Instrumental Studies at Western Oregon University and Music Director of the Salem Pops Orchestra. He earned the Doctorate in Symphonic Conducting from the University of Texas, Austin. He has been the recipient of two Grammy Awards including the 2000 National Grammy Signature School Award recognizing the most outstanding secondary music program in America.



Cynthia A. Lansford (Alpha, TX) has served as adjudicator and clinician throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Utah and Alaska. She recently conducted All-State bands in Arkansas and Georgia. Her professional affiliations include Texas Bandmasters Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, and she is currently serving as past president of Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu.



Dr. Andrew Yozviak (Nu, PA) is the Director of Bands at West Chester University. Dr. Yozviak’s primary responsibilities include conducting the Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds, directing the *Golden Rams* Marching Band, and teaching graduate and undergraduate conducting classes. Prior to this appointment, Yozviak served as Visiting Director of Bands at Susquehanna University and taught thirteen years in the Pennsylvania public schools.



Rex Barker (AlphaTheta, NE) is a Past-President of the Nebraska Music Educators Association and the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association. He is a nationally registered music educator and was selected in 2001 by School Band and Orchestra magazine as one of their “50 Directors Who Make a Difference”. He became a Sales Representative for Fruhauf Uniforms (2015) and was named Director of Performing Arts for Midland University in 2016.

## **"NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!" – TRAVIS COAKLEY (DELTA/MS)**

Within the past year I have had the good fortune to enjoy presentations by the brilliant Scott Rush of South Carolina and the incomparable Paula Crider of Texas. Each a master teacher and musician they both had a similar message about self-preservation and taking care of oneself.

After speaking to Scott and Paula it made me much more aware of some serious issues that are inherent to our profession. I think we can all agree that being a music educator is a worthwhile and wonderful career path but it certainly has its pitfalls if you aren't careful.

We all know someone who has suffered from health issues recently ranging from mild stress disorders to heart complications. We also know colleagues in our profession that have recently gone through separation from a spouse or are attending counselling.

It is the desire to produce great programs and superior musical achievements that often times bring these issues upon us as self-inflicted wounds. It is so vitally important to find a balance in our lives in order to keep ourselves healthy and happy for the long-haul so that we may continue a successful music career for many years.

So how does one find such balance in their lives? This list is by no means complete but through trial and error and speaking to many experienced music educators wiser than I am I have come up with a list of helpful items that have al-

lowed me to find a balance in my life. I hope these can help some of you in some way and as you begin the new academic year you can start the path to a new and healthy YOU!



### **Family / Friends**

Because of the long hours and extended schedules that we keep as music educators it is the people closest to us that suffer the most. Nights, weekends, holidays, and special occasions are often missed as we spend time with our students. Consider yourself blessed if you have a spouse or significant other that understands the rigors of your profession or that spent time as a member of a band program. If not, it is your responsibility to educate and fully explain what you do early in your relationship. It is also your responsibility to consider the needs of your family as you put your yearly calendar together and try your best to avoid birthdays, anniversaries, family get-togethers, etc. Scott Rush is a huge proponent of scheduling "date nights" with your spouse and limiting the number of clinics he does annually, which

are wonderful ideas.

My wife has done a masterful job of creating themed family nights with our children that include decorations, costumes, movie-inspired snacks, and games. My wife and I also enjoy our time serving as cheerleaders at softball and baseball games, soccer games, piano recitals, dance recitals, and anything else our children are involved in. Those are precious moments that I would hate to have missed.

In addition to family, do not isolate yourself from friends in your life. Having lasting relationships with friends, particularly outside the music community, will do wonders for your mental health and overall happiness.

### **Your Body is a Temple**

Time constraints of the profession, the convenience of fast food, and the budgetary constraints we sometimes face can lead us to neglecting a healthy diet. In the hustle and bustle of our everyday responsibilities one can easily fall into the rut of eating out too often. It is imperative to do some simple planning and provide your body what it needs to maintain a healthy heart and strong immune system.

There are a myriad of sources of great information about maintaining a healthy diet available. The hardest part is to take that first step towards making the switch to healthy eating. A little over twenty years ago I stopped drinking soft drinks and recently have reduced the amount of coffee I

consume. It is one of the best decisions I've ever made. Do not wait any longer and take that first step today!

### **Get Moving!**

In addition to eating healthy you must remain physically active and schedule at least a minimum weekly exercise routine. The Mayo Clinic suggests that for most healthy adults you should get at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity a week. Benefits of aerobic exercise include improved symptoms of depression, lowered risk of diabetes, lower cholesterol, improved blood pressure, and strengthened heart and lungs.

Two years ago I began walking each evening after my children went to bed. It gave me time to think and I could feel the stress and hardships of the day melt away. After several months of walking each night I completed the "Couch-to-5K" app and then the "5K-to-10K" app. I now run a 5K a month with my local running club, I am training for a half-marathon, and I have never felt better.

### **Hobby (Non-music)**

I was lucky very early in my career to cross paths with a retired band director in my area named Jackie Davidson. We quickly became close friends and I consider her to be my mentor teacher. One of her challenges to me was to find a hobby that had absolutely nothing to do with the music profession in order to

## "NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!" – CONTINUED

unplug and get away momentarily.

I took up the game of golf that summer and fell in love with in! Unfortunately I am horrid at playing golf and I have never played a sub-100 round in my life but that is not the important thing. The important thing is to find something you enjoy in those precious moments you have away from the rehearsal room. Having hobbies relieves stress, allows you to socialize with others, and it's just fun! I also enjoy traveling and bourbon tasting.

### **Read**

Eating right and exercising are great for a healthy body but you also need to take care of your mind. I intentionally did not include reading as a hobby because I consider it to be a necessity. Health benefits of reading include reduced stress levels, improved sleep patterns, improved symptoms of depression, and improved brain health while possibly staving off Alzheimer's disease. Currently I am reading "Rehearsing the High School

Band" by Stephen Meyer and "The Obstacle is the Way" The Timeless Art of Turning Trials into Triumph" by Ryan Holiday. These are books I would highly recommend to anyone.

### **Professional Development**

We encourage our students to be lifelong learners and we should certainly follow that advice. Attending professional development opportunities is a way for you to reconnect with your chosen profession and to reconnect with professional friends and colleagues while making new acquaintances.

Kaplan Financial states that benefits of professional development include increased retention of subject-area content, increased confidence and professional credibility, acquisition of new knowledge and professional techniques, and a way to reenergize oneself.

I strongly encourage every music educator to attend their state music conference and the Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago as a minimum. Other great opportunities include the Conn-Selmer

Institute, the Music For All Summer Symposium, one of the NBA Wind Band Symposiums hosted around the country, or one of the many wind band conducting symposiums that are available.

### **Oh, my Ears!**

One of my personal missions in the coming year is to bring hearing loss and healthy hearing habits to the forefront in our profession. It is a topic that is rarely discussed and could be disastrous if not taken seriously by music educators.

Normal conversation is about 60 dB and a loud rock concert is about 120 dB. In our profession most instruments, particularly while in a marching band rehearsal, will average around 100 db and max out around 140-150 dB. The issue is that sustained exposure to a decibel level over 85 dB is unhealthy and could result in hearing damage or hearing loss.

For your health it is vitally important that you limit your exposure to high decibel levels as much as possible, wear pro-

TECTIVE ear plugs when needed, and receive an annual check-up from a licensed audiologist.

Starting this fall I am starting the "8/5" movement on August 5th to help promote good hearing habits for music educators and to remind professionals about the 85 dB exposure limit. It is my hope that this promotes conversation about the issues we face with prolonged exposure to high decibel levels and better rehearsal techniques for everyone.

### **New Year, New You**

I wish all of you a happy and healthy new school year and I hope some of these things that I have had great success with in my life will benefit you in some way. If you have any suggestions for additional life strategies that have worked for you or if you have any good book or good bourbon suggestions I'd love to hear from you. Cheers!

### **Travis Coakley**

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## **GAMMA CHAPTER PRESENTS AWARDS - KEITH RUDOLPH (GAMMA/IN)**

Gamma (IN) Chapter recently presented awards to two distinguished members at the Indiana All-State Band Concert at Purdue University. Dr. Daniel Bolin was inducted into the Hall of Fame and Mr. Tom Dean was presented the Outstanding Bandmaster Award.

Photo (left to right) Doug Fletcher, Keith Rudolph, Tom Dean, Lissa May, Dan Bolin, Matt Harrod, and Mark Eifler.





## REPORT FROM MU CHAPTER - LINDA FOX MILLER (MU/OHIO)



The Commissioning Project will continue with a new selection composed by Jack Stamp commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the MU Chapter. The selection will be performed at the 2019 Ohio Music Education Association Conference. A new CD will also be produced with recordings of all the Ohio Commissions.

Elaine Ostrander and William Wittman are chairing these committees.

Our fellowship gathering this summer will be held on June 12, at the Apple Valley Golf Course in Howard, Ohio. The chapter golfers and guests will meet for a scramble for 18 holes of golf and a meal and plenty of fun and fellowship.

The MU Chapter website has been created by Greg Taylor, [www.pbmoh.org](http://www.pbmoh.org). Our page includes "Commissions", "In Memorium", "and "Members Only" sections.

At our annual meeting on February 4, we welcomed a transfer member, Isbah Cox, from Gamma and two new members; Ivan De La Cruz and



Gary Tirey



Thomas Groth (c) with Pres. Jeff Keller (l) & William Wittman (r)

Matthew Spradlin. Tributes were made for Allen Beck, Donald McGinnis, Robert Neumann, and Dwight Somerville. Eighty-five members were present for the meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

Hall of Fame presentations were made to Thomas Groth at the Packard Band Concert on April 23, in Warren, Ohio and Gary Tirey on March 25, at his home in Bexley, Ohio

## BRASILIAN BROTHERS ORGANIZE BAND FESTIVAL - MIKE TOWNSEND

March 9-12, 2017 saw an array of band activity on the grounds of the Santuario Nacional Aparecida, Sao Paulo, Brasil at the Brasil Open 2017.



During the 4 day event, 35+ entries which included Marching Bands, Winterguard, Colorguard, Concert Bands and Balizas performed in competition and exhibition to audiences in attendance. It is estimated that on any given day some 20,000 visitors come to Aparecida and most of these experienced the midday parade of bands that marched to and around the Cathedral.

The Brasil Open 2017 was organized by "dois amigos", Rogério Brito and Leandro Pascui, both members of the

Braslian Chapter of BetaZeta - PhiBetaMu. The event was run extremely well with in excess of 70 volunteers, clad in bright green T-Shirts, assisting with the organization and logistics. The event, sanctioned by World Association of Marching Bands, WAMSB, was among the best run event in Brasil of it's nature organized in the past ten years.

I and my wife, Sharleen, were fortunate to be in attendance at the Brasil Open 2017 in the positions of Supervising Judge and Chief of Results.



"Obrigado meus amigos por um evento tão gratificante e bem sucedido."

## **"SO, YOU WHAT TO BE A BAND DIRECTOR" – SEAN MCBRIDE**



As I approach the beginning of my 19th year of teaching, I find myself reflecting on these past years and what I did and did not know about being a band director and living with being a band director. When I was about to start out my career, I knew what my job would be, but the path was not clear. I knew that I wanted to teach band and hopefully have a positive impact on my students as many teachers had on me, but I had no idea what a ride it would be full of ups and downs, successes and frustrations.

My friends and I often say, "So, you want to be a band director" when something difficult or out of the ordinary occurs. We muse that it would be great if someone would have told us about the other side of teaching. I think we received the advise, but may not have "heard it" from our older more experienced colleagues.

Recently, I have had my biggest struggles with an ever changing education landscape. I have encountered issues that

have made teaching difficult. It has felt like a "job" at times and I was feeling twinges of burning out. It has been a struggle. Working with students is still something that drives me and encourages me, but so many other aspects of teaching have had a negative impact on me. I have sought out help from my colleagues both young and old. They have helped me gain perspective and look for other aspects of what we do to help me move forward.

So, with this in mind, I met with directors from the Zeta Chapter in Georgia at the Georgia Music Educators Association in-service conference to discuss what advice they would have for their younger selves. What did experience and time teach them about teaching and life. What helps them to achieve longevity in their careers despite all of the changes and tough times? The directors range in age and years of experience, but it was great to hear the different perspectives that each presented.

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**Kenneth Beard -30 plus years-**  
 "Find people who are good at band directing and ask them

questions. Do not be afraid or embarrassed. You did not learn enough in college to be a good band director, period. You don't learn enough in college. You have to ask questions, find mentors and ask them questions. Don't stop getting an education...get advanced degrees. When you get older you'll be glad you got your advanced degrees."



**Pat Gallagher -30 plus years-**  
 "To my twenty-year old self, I would make sure that I spend more time working on my family and spend less time in the band room in the evening"



**Dwight Satterwhite -50 years-**  
 "Hang in there, its going to be one heck of a ride, there's going to be lots of ups and downs, but there is always going to be an up after that down."



**Eric Willoughby -** "My twenty year-old self would need to hear these words for sure... don't get caught up in the pizzazz of the profession and forget that the advancement is only important as each individual kid. So, put kids first in every decision you make all the time, and it will make most a difference in their music educations and their lives."



**Matt Fuller -29 years-** "I would tell my twenty-year old self what my high school band director told me eons ago. He said "good things happen to good people." Continue to be good to people and do the right things. Goodness continues follow me wherever I've been, so keep I keep listening to Pat Dunnigan when he says "good things happen to good people."



## "SO YOU WHAT TO BE A BAND DIRECTOR" – CONTINUED



Lloyd McDonald -18 years- "I would say tell my twenty-year old self to find a place to work and stay a while. I spent the first ten years of my career moving from one green pasture to a greener one, two to three years at a time. I never had time to really get any teaching momentum going. I have been in my current gig for 8 years, and "staying put" has allowed me to grow so much and build on my experiences."



Mike Walsh -32 years- "If I could go back and address my twenty-year old self, I would stress to not take this job too seriously and to make it more about the kids and not about me."



Ryan Borger -21 years- "The reason you go to work each

day is to make friends and play music."



Al Estep -34 years- "Make sure that every day you love what you do and you do what you love. You will have a wonderful time and it will keep being fun. You will touch lives and it will be an absolute blast."



Dion Muldrow -15 years- "I would tell my twenty-year old self to not underestimate the power of relationships and how important they are to our activity. When kids learn to be relational, they tend to achieve at higher levels. Once I figured that out and could teach that to our students, the quality of our performance went through the roof."

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Sean McBride is the director of Bands at South Effingham High School in Guyton, Georgia. He is in his 14th year as Director of Bands and his 19th year at South Effingham. Mr. McBride holds a BMus and MMed degrees from the University of Georgia and is currently pursuing a DMA from Boston University. He is a member of GMEA and serves as the Music Selection Committee Chair, the District 1 All-State High School Audition organizer, and the District 1 District Honor Band Organizer. He lives in Rincon with his wife Melissa and their two boys Alex and Patrick.

