

MEMBERSHIP



CERTIFICATE

Phi Beta Mu

NATIONAL SCHOOL BANDMASTER FRATERNITY

HONORS

Gravis Smith

AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER

AND IS ENTITLED TO ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES THEREBY CONFERRED



*Robert Simpson*  
PRESIDENT

*John B. Smith*  
SECRETARY

*August 4, 1984*  
DATE

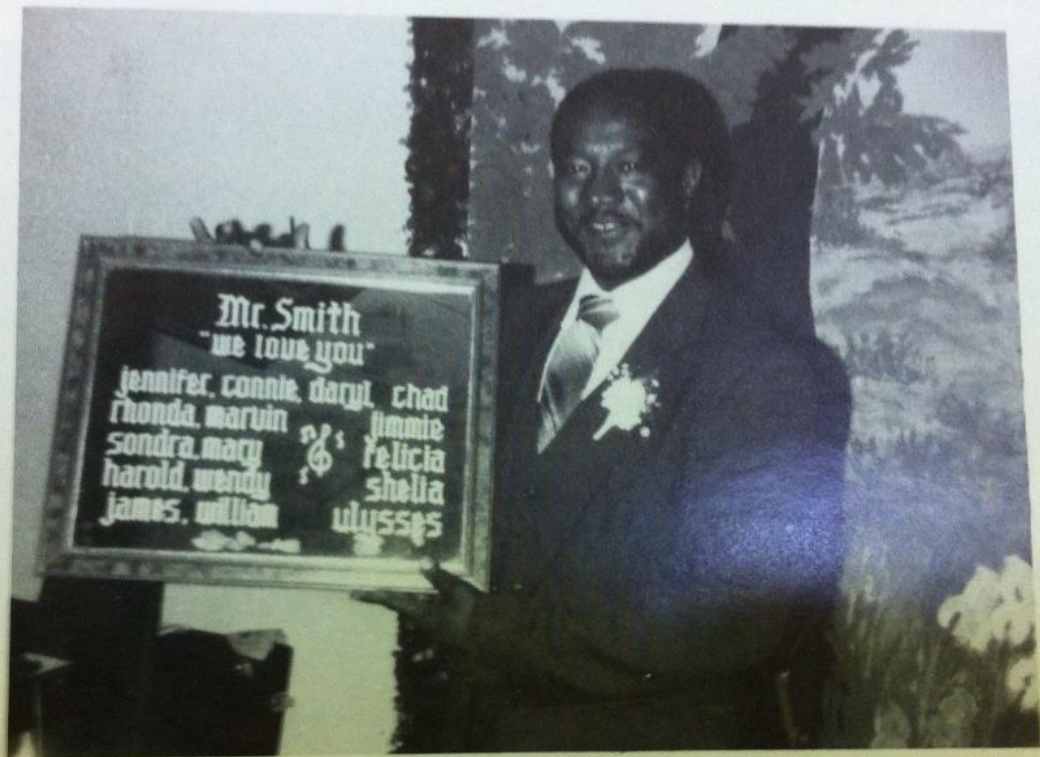


Ashdown Purple Pride Band at the Henderson State Marching Contest



After a long day at the office, "Short Shootin' Sam" (alias Mr. Smith) and "the Trojan Drum Major" (alias Mr. Tucker) search for high school outlaws in the parking lot.





Band Director Travis Smith proudly displays the mirrored plaque presented to him by senior bandmen.

# PLANO People

Plano Star Courier  
July 24, 1992



Travis Smith helps young musicians find harmony — Page 8.

# Travis Smith

Story by Karen Britton  
Photography by Ian Halperin

Helping students achieve goals is music to this teacher's ears

Travis Smith doesn't have any children of his own, but his paternal instinct often kicks in when he's with his band students.

After all, it can take a great deal of patience to teach a youngster how to play a musical instrument and stick with it.

"You gotta love (teaching)," he said. "And you need to love kids and have a great amount of respect for them. Be patient, and loving and firm at the same time."

Those words of wisdom have worked for Smith, 38, who's been the band director for seven years at Williams High School in Plains.

Previously, he spent eight years in Ashdown, Ark., teaching junior high band, assisting with high school band and heading the junior and senior high choirs.

Smith always took a personal interest in choir, singing bass in every major choir in college, but he never expected to be teaching it in Arkansas.

"I wasn't preparing myself to necessarily teach choir," he said. "What I got from that did, and still does, help a lot because of what I do in the band. In the wind area you're trying to duplicate a voice. ... I think it aids in your hearing and it helps with style."

And the Mississippi native knows style. Much of his inspiration came from his musically-inclined family. His older brother played the saxophone in a band, his uncle was proficient on the clarinet and his sister played piano and sang in the choir.

"Being around that sort of served as an inspiration," he said. "I was intrigued with all that stuff. At the time I had no idea that that's what I would be doing for a living, for a career."

Gradually, Smith experimented with different instruments and by the time he was ready for college he "had knowledge" of six brass instruments, understood some of the clarinet and euphonium and played a little bass guitar. His favorite instrument is the euphonium, a brass piece resembling a tuba.

At a young age, Smith also knew something about agriculture as his father was a cotton and soybean farmer and his mother worked for the

Department of Agriculture and for the extension office.

"When I went to college I wasn't thinking about going into music. Well, if I had to list them in order of choices, it probably would have been third. I thought about agriculture and business before music," he said.

But his first two academic choices never surfaced. Smith went to college early to begin band practice and that was when he realized his vocation.

"I never did take any (agriculture or business) classes. When I went to school, I started right into music. I guess during that first week I really enjoyed what was happening, the process that was taking place and the preparing."

"I talked to several people in the band and most of them were music majors and I figured, 'Hey, they weren't that far ahead of me.'"

The clincher was when he called his brother to tell him the news.

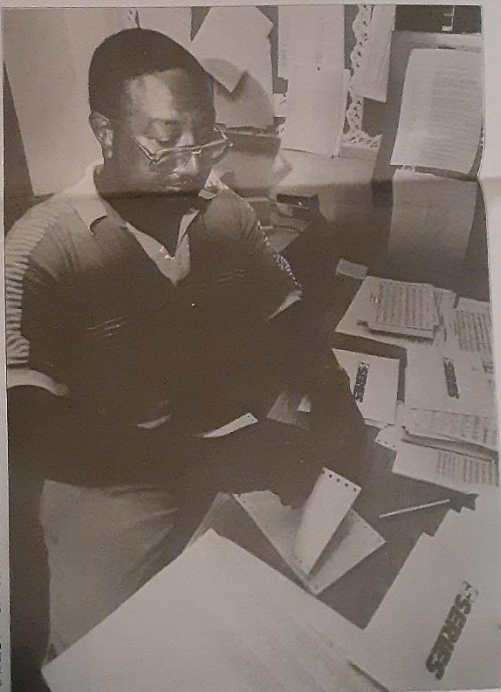
"I called him one day and told him I was thinking about majoring in music. He said, 'That theory is going to kill you. You'll never make it.' And then that did it. I didn't have a choice then. I had to do it. Nobody's ever told me 'you couldn't.'"

The theory class wasn't so bad, Smith says, but he was among a small minority who decided to continue his major in music — only seven of 21 students stuck it out.

Today, Smith never tells one of his students "you can't." He finds some of his best students are not necessarily those with an inborn talent, but those who work hard to improve.

"One of the greatest things is to see a student who at best looks like he has marginal skills, who works hard. And it may not happen in middle school or high school, but you can see them growing and later it finally happens for them. I've seen it happen a number of times in the last 15 years."

"You continue to work with them. It's kind of like coaching, you gotta go with what you got," he said. "I have some students who have a lot talent, and hard workers go just as



Turn to SMITH, Page 9

Travis Smith prepares packets of music for the upcoming school year.





## Smith

From 8

far." Occasionally, Smith will share his stories of days gone by. He remembers a time when he was on the road, providing entertainment to a vast audience. But his favorite audiences were students.

"At first I thought I wanted to do entertainment," he said. "Then after being out there and doing some entertaining (I realized) playing a gig on the road, it's hard to reach people that way. Playing in the schools you could see the students' eyes light up. I felt I could reach more students through the teaching process."

Smith's ninth- and 10th-grade students are at a "tough age," he said. He realizes the challenges they face today may be even more difficult than those in the late '60s and '70s when he was growing up.

"There were temptations, but not as near as great as what's out here today," he said. "We lost a lot of potentially good (musicians) during that time who had a lot of talent, a lot to offer, but wasted it all (on drugs)."

Smith realizes his job description may encompass more than teaching band.

"Not only musically, but help them mature intellectually, and help them make wise decisions about things and instill in them more responsibility and teamwork. And develop the skills necessary for them to be competitive at that level."

Even though Smith is close to his

**Name:** Travis Smith  
**Age:** 38  
**Occupation:** Teacher  
**Family:** Single  
**Hometown:** Renova, Miss.  
**Last book read:** *This Life* by Sidney Poitier  
**Favorite foods:** Seafood  
**Favorite type of music:** Any good music — classical, gospel, jazz and pop.  
**Who had the greatest influence on your life:** My parents, Claude and Rosa Smith  
**Dream vacation:** Hawaii  
**If you won a large sum of money, what would you do with it:** Share and invest it  
**Greatest career achievement:** Being selected Teacher of the Year at Williams High School for the 1988-89 school year.  
**Best career decision:** Moving to Plano  
**Hobbies:** Fishing and fitness walking

family in Mississippi, visiting often and meeting for family reunions, his other family is his students. And he expects the students to follow rules and be respectful.

"We have rules about what we expect and why," he said. "I like for

them to be class individuals and the playing will take care of itself. Our kids work very, very hard."

Smith is proud of the school's large cultural mix and how students get along. At times, students come to him for "rap sessions" in his office to discuss what's on their minds.

"I treat them like adults and at the same time there's a line," he said. "I have a good time with these kids." The many trophies displayed in his office are "icing on the cake," Smith said. If the students perform well and are well-disciplined, winning a trophy tops off the effort.

When school's out, Smith manages to pursue other interests — many of them musical. He judges other bands and solos, attends clinics and guest conducts for performances outside Plano, and sometimes works at band camp. He also provides private lessons in the summer when students are changing over to another instrument.

"You learn a lot and it makes you try some things you may not have tried before," he said. He also enjoys walking and weightlifting, visiting his family and singing in the male chorus at Shiloh Baptist Church.

School starts for him on Aug. 3 when band rehearsals begin. Smith doesn't seem to mind the band uniform inventory and even chuckles when he opens up the storage room to find all but three tubas have been checked out for the summer.

He doesn't take credit for the high interest, but believes the saying: "You're part of all you've met."

Above, Smith sorts through the Williams High School's marching band uniforms. The uniforms are arranged by size for quick distribution in the fall. Below, Smith shows off the University Interscholastic League First Division Marching Trophy his band won last year.









*The Fifty-Fifth Annual*

# MIDWEST CLINIC

AN INTERNATIONAL BAND & ORCHESTRA CONFERENCE

2001

Argentina • Australia • Canada • Chile • China  
Colombia • Denmark • Guam • Holland  
Hong Kong • Hungary • Jamaica • Japan  
Korea • Malaysia • New Zealand  
Norway • Pakistan • Saudi Arabia  
Scotland • Singapore • Taiwan • Thailand  
Ukraine • United States • Belgium • Bermuda  
Brazil • Canada • China • Finland • France  
Germany • Guam • Hong Kong • India • Ireland • Israel  
Italy • Jamaica • Japan • The Netherlands • New  
Guinea • New Zealand • Norway • Philippines • Portugal • Puerto Rico  
Russia • Saudi Arabia • Scotland • Singapore • South Africa • Sweden • Switzerland

## **Plano East Senior High Wind Ensemble**

*Jerry N. Thomas, & Evelio Villareal, Conductors*

*Larry Tucker, Nicholas Williams, &*

*Travis Smith, Guest Conductors*

The Netherlands • New Guinea • New Zealand • Norway • Pakistan • Philippines



UIL Performance at the Allen PAC.





Southcoast Music Festival in the Galveston 1894 Grand Opera House – Best in Class Performance!

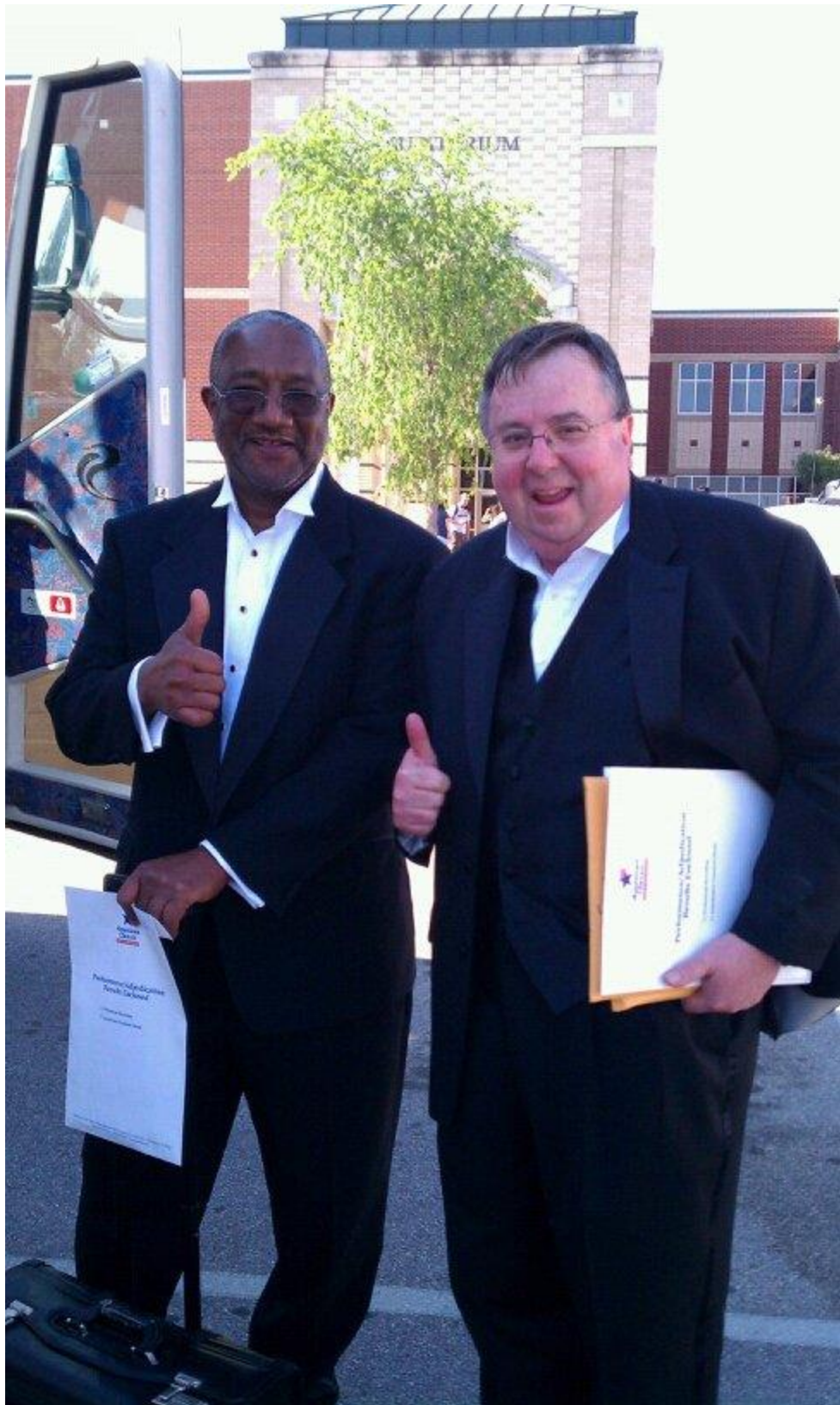


Scott Coulson, Travis, and Mike Brashear after 2016 UIL Concert performance



With Randy Bartlett after 2016 UIL Concert and Sightreading performance .





Travis Smith and Pete Tolhuizen after American Classic Bluebonnet Festival performance in San Antonio.



Travis receiving the PEAK Festivals Most Outstanding High School Group trophy from Andy Davidson.



Travis with former students after U.S. Coast Guard performance at Plano East. Brandon Pedigo, Joshua Thomas, Jana Harvey, Sarah and Scott Quartel, Chris Clark.





EDUCATOR AWARD

*Travis Smith*

Plano Community Forum

Shades Of Emerald

2016



With Williams band students at the 2015 East Cluster Band rehearsal.



Williams High School Band getting ready to take the field at UIL Marching Contest.





2017 Williams Band at the Plano East Marching Festival.







Final UIL Performance at Williams High School – April 2018

April 29, 1997, THE BOLIVAR COMMERCIAL



### *Smith inducted to music hall of fame*

Travis Smith, a Cleveland native, was recently awarded the Outstanding Music Alumnus Award and inducted into the Music Hall of Fame at Delta State University. Smith is currently a band director in Plano, Texas. He returned to Cleve-

land to serve as guest conductor for the Delta State Honor Band. Pictured are: (from left) his parents Claude and Rosa Smith of Renova, Smith, and Jini McCutcheon, president of the music alumni association and a DSU instructor.





My number one supporters!!! Dad, Mom, and my siblings below.





Teacher of the Year Excellence in Teaching Award 2018.





## Arkansas Bandmasters Association

This is to certify that Travis Smith is a  
MEMBER

of the Arkansas Bandmasters Association — in Convention at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

August 7, 8, 9, 1977

[Signature]

President

[Signature]

J. Raymond Brandon, Exec. Secretary





Travis R. Smith

has been elected a member of

American School Band  
Directors Association

and is entitled to all of the privileges and  
benefits of the association subject to the  
obligations set forth by the constitution and  
enactments of successive conventions.

Active Member June 1985

Henry P. Vander Lunde  
President

Edg. Q. Rooker  
Secretary

# Delta State University

Cleveland, Mississippi

To all to whom these presents may come, Greeting  
Be it known that

**Travis Reginald Smith**

having successfully completed the prescribed course of study and having  
satisfied all other requirements for the Degree of

**Bachelor of Music Education**

is entitled to all the rights and privileges pertaining to that degree.

In testimony whereof, the Board of Trustees, upon  
recommendation of the Faculty, has granted this  
Diploma bearing the Seal of the University, this  
second day of May, nineteen hundred and seventy-six.

*M. Shormaker*

Chairman, Board of Trustees



*Kent Wyatt*

President, Delta State University

# Delta State University

Cleveland, Mississippi

To all to whom these presents may come, Greeting  
Be it known that

**Travis Reginald Smith**

having successfully completed the prescribed course of study and having  
satisfied all other requirements for the Degree of

**Master of Music Education**

is entitled to all the rights and privileges pertaining to that degree.

In testimony whereof, the Board of Trustees, upon  
recommendation of the Faculty, has granted this  
Diploma bearing the Seal of the University, this  
eighth day of May, nineteen hundred and seventy-seven.

*Bosewell Stevens*  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



*Kent Wyatt*  
President, Delta State University



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*Robert Simpson*  
PRESIDENT

*John B. Smith*  
SECRETARY

*August 4, 1984*  
DATE



*Certificate of Membership*

**Travis Reginald Smith**

*Phi Mu Alpha*

*Sinfonia Fraternity  
of America*

**Theta Upsilon**

*Chapter*

October 30, 1972



*Robert C. Laub*  
*National President*

*Alan E. Adams*

*National Executive Secretary*  
*David E. Jinsley*  
*Chapter President*

# Omicron Delta Kappa



This certifies that  
in recognition of conspicuous attain-  
ments and service in collegiate activities  
the Omicron Delta Kappa Society  
has this day conferred membership on

**Travis Reginald Smith**

through its Circle at  
**Delta State University**  
April 8, 1975



*Garland R. Rieck*  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

*Charles W. Crawford*  
SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL





**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
**DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI 38733**

March 18, 1981

Mr. Travis Smith  
Imperial Apts. 10-B  
Ashdown, AR 71822

Dear Travis:

Congratulations on being elected president of the Four States Band Masters Association. Both Delta State University and the Alumni Association wish to commend you for achieving this honor. It is always gratifying to see alumni succeeding and receiving recognition in their chosen fields of endeavor. We here at the University are proud of you! This information will be included in the next issue of the "Alumni News".

If the Alumni Office can ever be of assistance to you, please call on us. Come by the campus and have a cup of coffee with us any time you are in this area.

Sincerely,

Hugh E. Walker  
Director of Alumni Affairs

HEW:rm



To

*Travis Smith*

---

*In Appreciation of your Service*

*to the*

**American School Band  
Directors Association**

*and your Contribution*

*to the*

*School Band Movement*

*From A.S.B.D.A.*

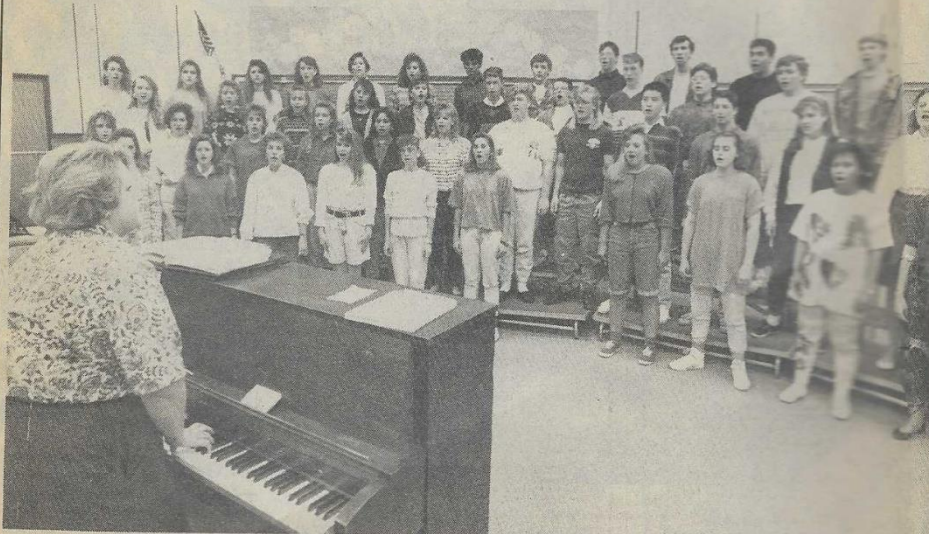
*Valerie Chaffrey*

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## Education

# THE SWEET SOUND OF SUCCESS



Nora Henson rehearses her mixed choir at Clark High School. The CHS mixed choir won sweepstakes this year during competitions of the UIL.



The Williams High School Symphonic Band, directed by Travis Smith, won sweepstakes this year. Sweepstakes means the band received "1's" in the categories.

Schools reap music awards in competition

By Dave Herfort  
Plano Star Courier Staff Writer

This has been a banner year for the Plano Independent School District's musical groups, according to Larry Tucker, director of performing arts.

Earlier this year, Tucker was announced that 18 member PISD bands, choirs and orchestras were named to membership in state organizations through competitive auditions at the regional and state levels.

Last week, he said, Plano choirs and orchestras competed in the University Interscholastic League competitions in sightreading.

Several musical groups won sweepstakes awards during 1989-90 UIL events.

Sweepstakes, Tucker means the PISD bands, orchestras and choirs each received "1" concert music and sightreading contests. An additional category for marching contests is included for high school bands.

Tucker said the UIL uses judges for each event.

Each judge rates the choirs and orchestras on a scale of one to five. A "1" rating is poor, "2" is excellent, "3" is fair and a "5" is poor.

Two out of three judges must concur in a ruling, he said.

For example, if two judges award the group a rating of "3" and one judge gives a "3" rating, the final score is a "2."

On the other hand, he said, if three judges should rate a group a "1," the group receives a "2."

All groups perform three positions in the concert which are prepared about two weeks in advance of the competition.

In the sightreading contest, Tucker said, middle school students are permitted to look over the music for seven minutes.



EDUCATOR AWARD

*Travis Smith*

Plano Community Forum

Shades Of Emerald

2016



**CERTIFICATE**

**OF**

**APPRECIATION**

**TO**

**HALL OF FAME HONOREE:**

**TRAVIS SMITH**

**JANUARY 30, 2016**

**FOR**

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

**AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**IN THE**

**FIELD OF MUSIC**



**DMMA PRESIDENT**

*Michael A. Ford*

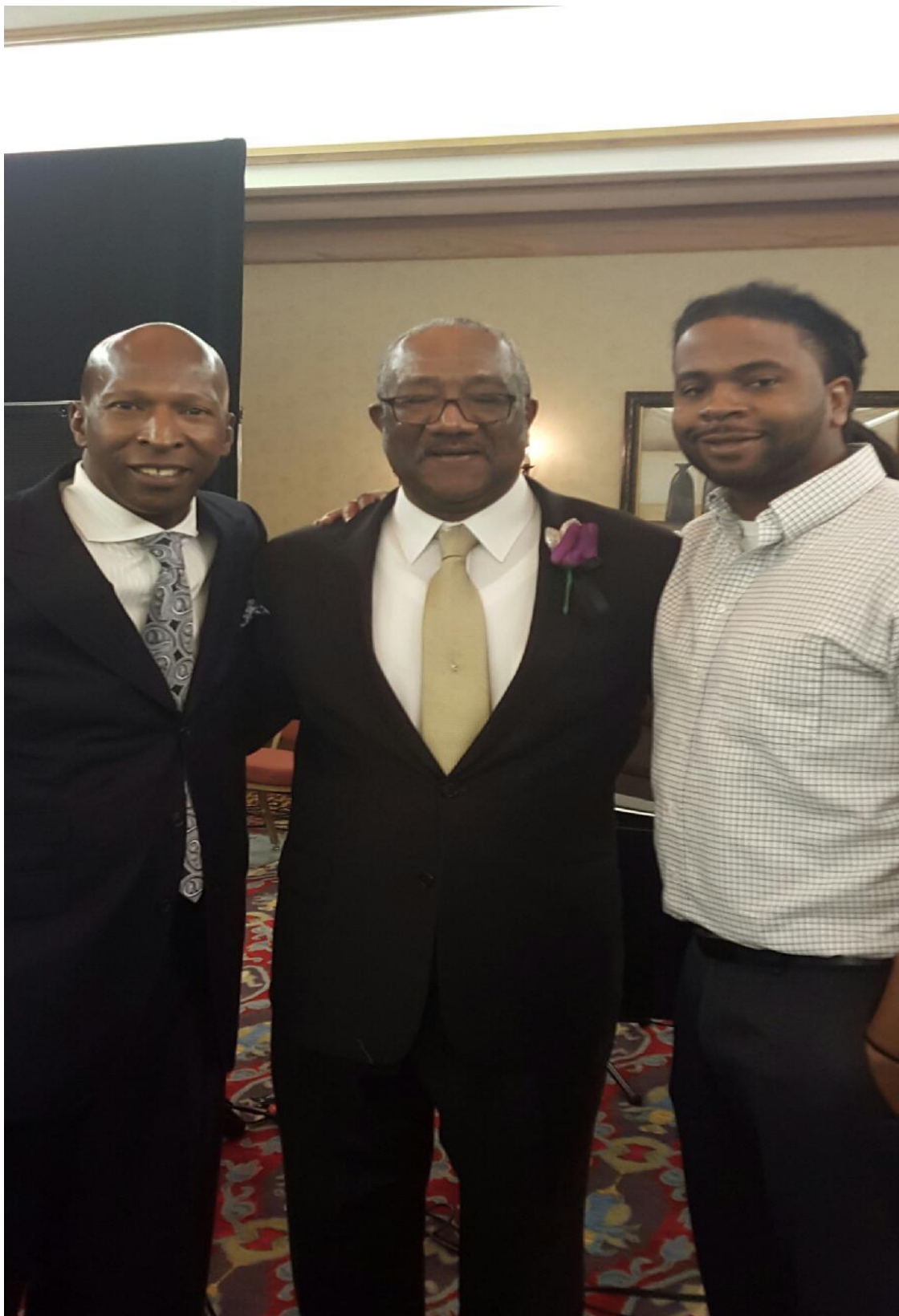
**LUNCHEON CHAIR**

*Brian K. Roberts*

**DALLAS METROPLEX MUSICIANS ASSOC.**  
**(an Affiliate of the National Association**  
**of Negro Musicians Inc.)**







Andre Morris, Travis, and Clyde McGuire at the DMMA Hall of Fame Award Ceremony.







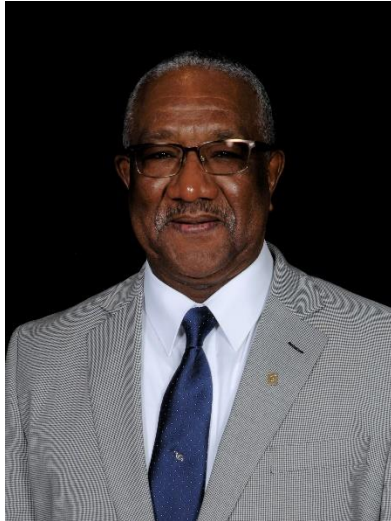


Rehearsing the Mississippi All State Clinic Band in December 2017



After my final concert as high school director at Williams. Pictured are colleagues Nick Siebert, Nicki Chappell Diaz, Clyde McGuire, and student Elisabeth Ling.

# Travis Smith, Excellence in Secondary Teaching



Williams High School - Band Teacher

## Teaching Philosophy

Philosophy of Teaching - Travis Smith

I believe teaching is the most important and rewarding profession of all. Leaders in every profession begin their career preparation and develop a passion for learning through education. It does not matter if students placed under our care become lawyers, doctors, teachers, white or blue-collar workers, we have the awesome responsibility to foster and instill in every individual a sense of self-worth, responsibility, teamwork, and dedication, as well as a workable knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.

In doing so, we must teach with a growth mindset and be versatile in our teaching styles. Students come into every classroom with different life experiences. My goal each year is to meet them where they are and put them in a position to be successful at a higher level. Therefore, it is important to know what their strengths are and what areas need improvement. In many instances, I use their strengths to strengthen the areas that need improvement. As stated above, students come to us with different experiences and meeting them where they are means that we will always have some students more advanced than others in certain areas. Therefore, we must meet the needs of those that are not as advanced while challenging the others. In my teaching, I make every effort to provide as much information about the culture, history, inspiration for the piece as well as how it may relate to other subject areas. I also make a point of letting students know why or what the benefits will be because of our daily work on the basics. It is important to know what was good about what we or I did or what is it that I did not do well and how can I make it better? Students and teachers need to know why they are doing what they are doing and not because that is what everyone else does.

In my opinion, all students have the capacity to learn. Therefore, in addition to teaching the essentials of the subject matter, we must teach responsibility, teamwork, an understanding and appreciation for other cultures, citizenship, diligence, how to overcome short comings with success, and above all, we must be positive role models. We must make what we are teaching relevant. Students also need to know that you genuinely care for them.

It is so rewarding to see individual students perform a solo or audition for a leadership position or honors group they never would have attempted without the encouragement and a little prodding to do so. For them to realize the growth that took place in the



process of preparing and to see them encourage others is one of the most fulfilling moments one can experience. I have had students who never auditioned for all region band or played a solo at UIL Solo and Ensemble do so for the very first time and tell me how great the experience was for them.

It is equally rewarding to see students put in the effort and do their best to contribute to the success of the full group. It is truly amazing to see student's exhibit pride, take ownership in their individual, and group efforts. To see the jubilation and excitement when they hear the results of their performance says it all.

Teachers need to be lifelong learners, feel good about themselves, love children, love teaching, know our subject matter, and continue to study and grow in our area of concentration.

## **Principal's Recommendation**

Dear Teacher of the Year Interview Panel:

We are extremely blessed to have Travis Smith representing Williams High School as the 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year! It is with much excitement, joy and enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation to for Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith has been an inspiration to our campus and to the Eastside community. His 32 years of service on this campus have truly been remarkable and his loyalty has created a longstanding sense of continuity and stability for our Fine Arts program.

I have now had the pleasure of working with Mr. Smith for four years. Throughout this time, I have learned that Mr. Smith has built and established quite a reputation for himself as a band teacher. Every year that I have been at Williams High School, our band program is always recognized. Bands under his direction have consistently rated superior in UIL Marching, Concert and Sight-reading contest. In addition to receiving a number of sweepstakes awards, his bands have also been selected as "Best in Class" or named "runner-up" at numerous invitational music festivals. Not only does Travis have an award-winning program; Travis has an excellent attitude and is always willing to serve when needed.

Travis always has a bright smile on his face and is loved and respected by his students and his peers. He is one of the hardest workers I know and he spends countless hours on his program and with his students. When I asked a parent about what she likes best about Mr. Smith, she stated, "He gets the most out of his students because of his dedication and commitment to what he does." Mr. Smith is demanding, yet caring and he shows this through the numerous hours spent in band. His colleague's state: "Travis has such high integrity both personally and for his program. He is compassionate about teaching and building relationships with his students and families." "His car is one of the first in the parking lot in the mornings and one of the last ones to leaves in the evenings." "Travis creates an atmosphere in the classroom that promotes respect for musicianship and the benefit of working toward continuous growth." "His dedication is

unsurpassed.” “He is student focused and dedicated to student success both in and out of school.”

Mr. Smith serves on the Williams High School Leadership team as Fine Arts Department Chair and he has the Plano Community and School District as a member of the Plano Independent School Districts' Multi-Ethnic Committee, The Plano I.S.D. Martin Luther King Steering Committee, and as a mentor for new and veteran teachers in Plano.

On the weekends, Travis is actively involved in his Church, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Plano where he serves as an Adult Sunday School teacher, a member of the male chorus, and the hospitality committee.

I am truly pleased that Mr. Smith is the Williams High School Teacher of the Year. The passion that he continues to show for his craft is priceless. After 33 years, Travis is still going strong and continues to add to strong legacy that he himself created. He is much deserving of this award and he is a well- rounded, dedicated, experienced candidate that can serve as the next Plano ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year!



The Williams Band Boosters are  
hosting a retirement party for our  
band director of 33 years and PISD

Top Ten Teacher of the Year,

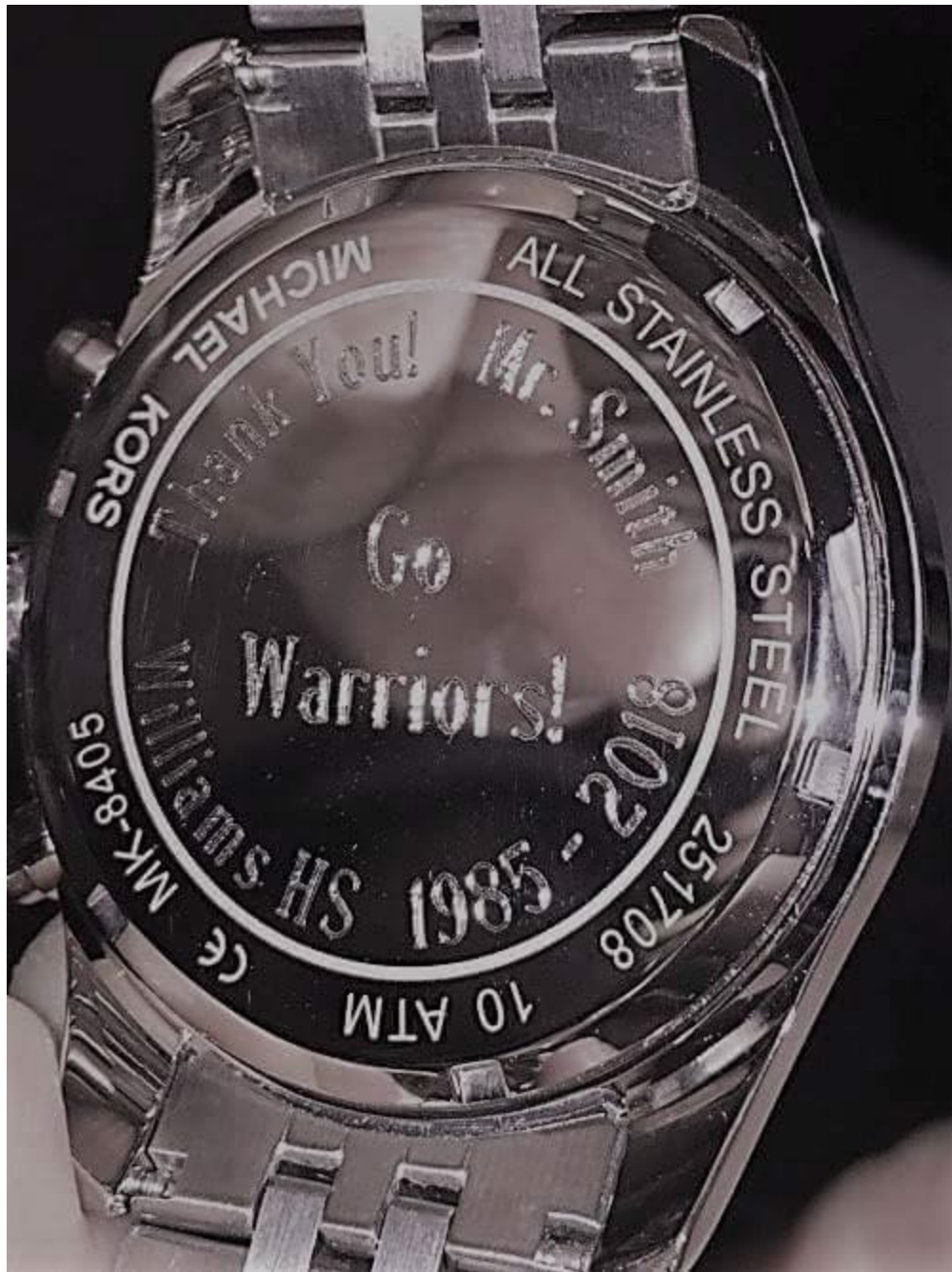
**Mr Travis Smith.**

It will be May 30 from 3:30 to 5:30  
in the library, come and go.

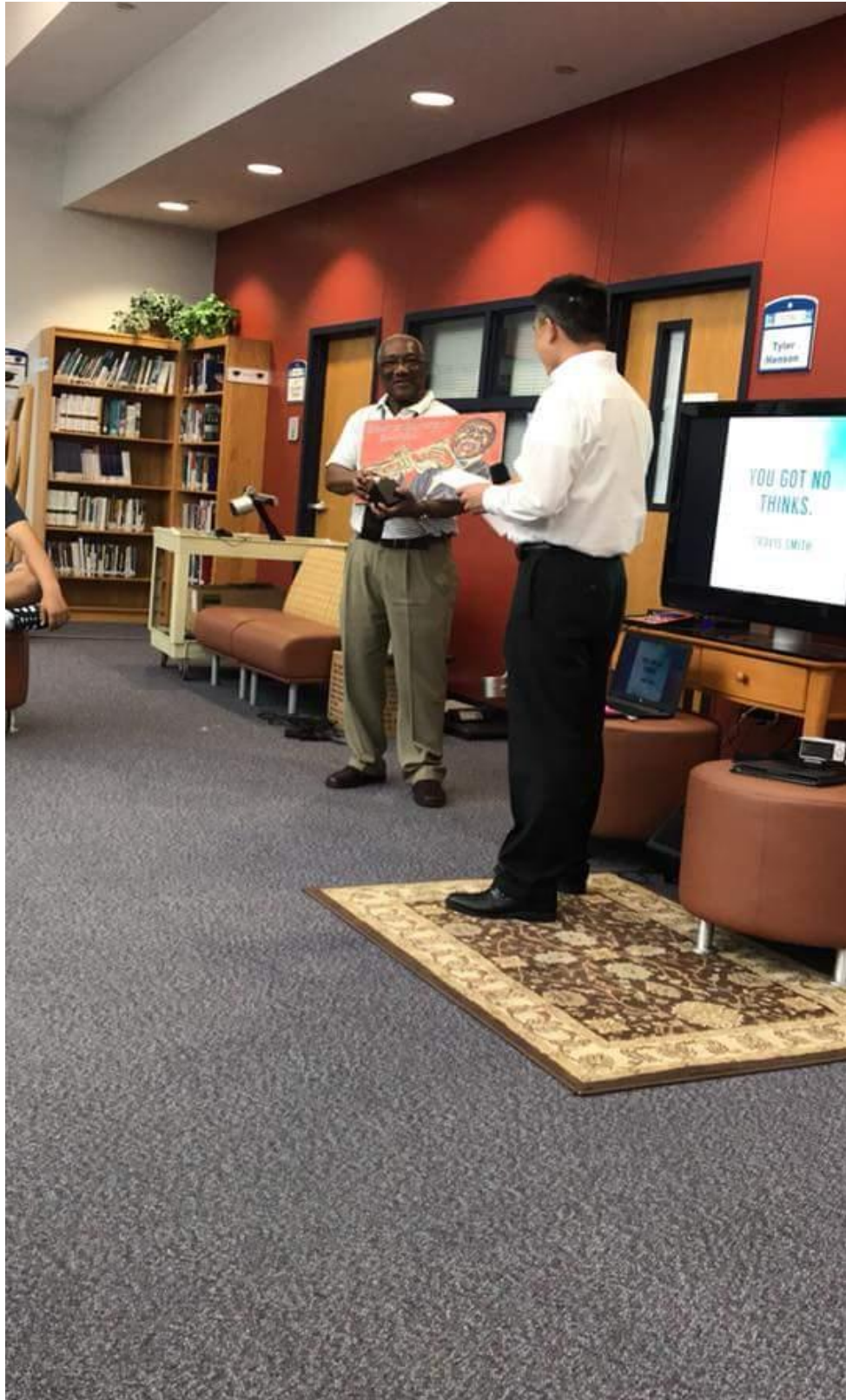
Please stop by and let him know  
how important he has been to our  
community!





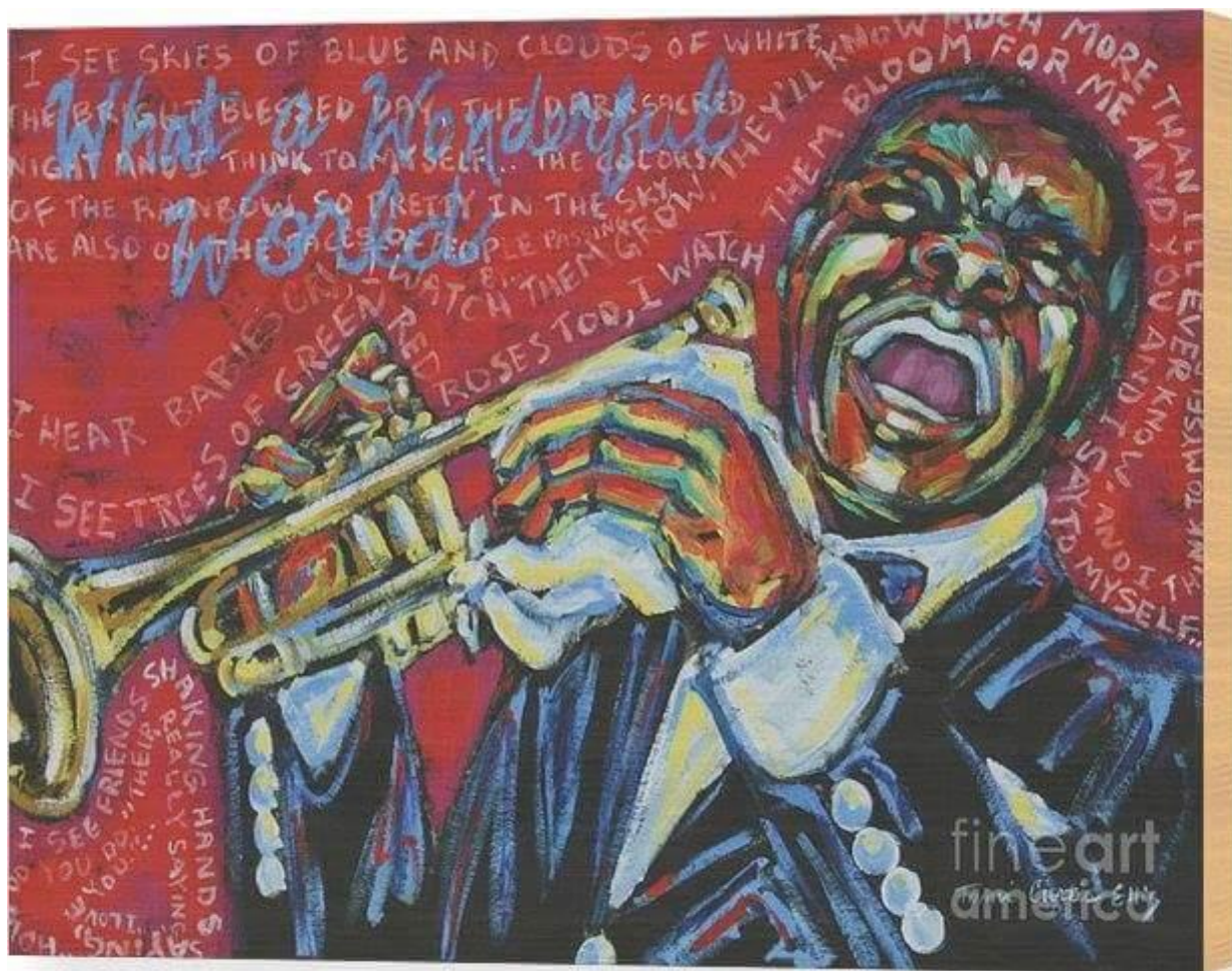






Band Boosters President, John Lao presenting a wonderful gift!







Abby Villarreal and I sharing our retirement celebration at Plano East.



Retirement reception with Band parent Sudi Randoing, former All State Students Jared Sanders and Ben Randoing, long time colleagues Abby and Evelio Villarreal and Pete Tolhuizen.





Delta State University

Office of the President

May 27, 2021

Travis -

Congratulations on your  
selection for induction into the  
Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters  
Hall of Fame!

Your Delta State Family  
is very proud of you.

All the best  
Bill LaFarge