

# TBA News

**Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director**

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Greetings from the Texas Bandmasters Association! I hope you have had a successful start to your school year. Your commitment to your students and to the band profession enables Texas band programs to remain the strongest in the country. Thank you for the hard work you do each and every day—keep it up!

The 2009 Texas Bandmasters Association Convention/Clinic was a huge success. I would like to thank Gary Robbins, TBA President, for his leadership as well as the entire Board of Directors for their work in planning the convention. The clinics, concerts, and family activities offered at TBA were outstanding. Even with the current recession, our attendance was up slightly from the previous year and the contribution from our Business Members remained very strong. TBA could not exist without this solid partnership between our band directors and our Business Members! With the addition of TBA Student Day bringing in over 1300 students, our total attendance was at an all time high!

I thank all our clinicians for presenting sessions which were meaningful and inspirational. Feedback to our office and through the “Yellow Board” has been overwhelmingly positive. Special

thanks go out to Michael Haithcock—our Featured Clinician, and to Amanda Drinkwater and the Marcus High School Band and staff who presented outstanding marching band clinics. Our Student Day participants were inspired by Frank Troyka and his staff with sessions designed to improve student leadership in our bands. On pages 24 and 25 we thank the many schools who sent students to TBA. Our Student Day will be continued next year and I hope you will plan on bringing your students to the TBA Convention/Clinic next summer.

The featured articles in this edition of the *Bandmasters Review* should provide useful and inspirational material for you this fall. For those who teach beginning instrumentalists, Lynne Jackson’s “Sculpting 101” provides thoughtful ideas to assist you in structuring those classes. Certainly, we can all find the “David” in each of our students if we are patient and chip away everything else. Lynne’s success as a teacher provides the foundation for offering this valuable insight for today’s band directors. We all profit from Dr.

Tim’s contribution to our profession and his article on “The Personal Values of a Student Leader” is right on! Randy Gilmore’s “What Did You Say?” challenges all of us to be careful as we choose our words to communicate with students, and

Dr. Dean provides insight into clarinet projection in your ensemble. This year, we will feature a series of articles on developing your band booster club. The first article by David Vandewalker is included this

month. Please share these ideas with your staff and parents. I hope you will plan on bringing your booster club leaders to the Convention/Clinic next summer to work with Mr. Vandewalker on developing successful “booster skills”.

TBA is committed to providing today’s band director with valuable clinics and experiences to aid in the pursuit of excellence in music education. Please review the many outstanding opportunities available in our series of TBA Professional Development Clinics during the school year. Have a great fall semester and enjoy teaching every day—you are making a huge difference in many students’ lives!

