

TBA Bandmaster of the Year 2011

Vincent DiNino

Vincent R. DiNino, “Mr. D,” is in his 56th year of association and service to The University of Texas at Austin. Twenty of those years were as the leader of the Longhorn Bands and 15 as Director of Bands. For most of his active years of service, Professor DiNino and the bands operated as independent musical organizations under the Office of the Dean of Students. During these years, approximately 90% of the students enrolled in the Longhorn Band were non-music majors. The largest number of students were engineering, business, pre-med, pre-law majors with others from the schools of architecture, classics, pharmacy, etc.

In 1955, The University of Texas established the first full-time faculty status position of Director of the Longhorn Band and, after a national search, Vince was appointed to this new position. The marching Longhorn Band at that time had approximately 70 members—all male, all white—and its operating budget was funded through the Student Blanket Tax and not by the University proper. While women had been part of the Longhorn Concert Bands in spring semesters, in 1957, women were enrolled in

the marching band for the first time and, not long thereafter, the Band became fully integrated to include persons of color.



At the time of Professor DiNino's appointment as Director of the Longhorn Band, there was no scholarship program and the Band was in need of a performance style uniform (as well as structure and discipline). During the years between 1955 and 1975, Professor DiNino was instrumental in the design of the burnt orange western style uniform still used by the Band and increasing the size of the Band to 400 members. He established a scholarship program for the Band through the Ex-Students Association and contributions and

scholarships were set up by the University Dad's Association, the College of Engineering, and by numerous personal gifts by alumni and friends of the University and the Band. He, along with his wife Jane DiNino, established the University of Texan Alumni Band, the largest such organization in the country.

In 1957, the Band began its continuing performances at the spring graduation ceremonies. During Director DiNino's tenure from 1955-1985, the Longhorn Band performed at 17 bowl games, including the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, the Sugar Bowl, in New Orleans, the Orange Bowl in Miami,

the Bluebonnet Bowl in Houston, and Super Bowl VIII in Houston. The Band also performed at the Fiesta Flambeau Parade in San Antonio annually, two Presidential Inaugural parades in Washington, D.C., numerous inaugural parades in Austin for Governors and Lt. Governors, as well as many other parades and concerts. DiNino led the Band on its ten-day performance tour of Lima, Peru and surrounding areas.

Professor DiNino introduced new and innovative programs such as establishing the original section

TBA Bandmaster of the Year 2011

leader unit system of marching, a weekly radio concert broadcast series, the first large flag brigade in band history, the Big Bertha Drum Wranglers, among the first, if not the first, to use piccolos instead of flutes in a marching band, the first use by a marching band of March Grandioso, March of the Longhorns (originally the President Johnson March commissioned for the Johnson Inauguration), and Wabash Cannonball.

In 1996, the University of Texas Athletic Association singled out Professor DiNino for special recognition as the only non-athlete or coach member of the elite Longhorn Hall of Honor.

DiNino is a longtime member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association, a charter member of The National Band Association and member of the Texas Bandmasters Association. His other professional memberships include: Chairman for ten years of The College Band Directors Liaison Committee for radio, television, and press coverage of band performances at football games, Board of Directors for the Butler School of Music at The University of Texas, the Austin Headliners Club, Austin Symphony Admirals Club, ASCAP, and Beaded Belts Society of the renowned Gunnison Music Camp. He was honored by being

named a “Texas Cowboy,” a “Silver Spur,” and musical consultant and director of the Austin Headliners Club.

As a philanthropist, Professor DiNino and his wife, Jane, in conjunction with his many former bandsmen and friends, established a “chair” for the Director of Bands at The University of Texas. He has also established a “professorship” in the Butler School of Music for the Director of the Longhorn Band, and numerous “Presidential Scholarships” for Longhorn Band students, and has donated funds for research projects and support for orchestra as well as band activities at the Butler School of Music.



At age 92 and counting, Vince is still an active conductor at U.T. football games and The Longhorn Summer Band Concert Series. Among others, notable high achievers in the music world and former Longhorn banders are Jerry Junkin, Randol Bass, Bob Foster, Glen Richter, David Sloan, Edward Birdwell, Jim Hejl, Patsy Hejl, Bill Harrell, Morton Stine, Robert Botello, Harry Castellano, and James Mabry. Many other past members of the Longhorn Band are now prestigious and outstanding members in their chosen professions such as law, medicine, business, engineering, geology, and banking.