

## 2016 Bios for the VBI

### **Steve Abrams – Parade Marching and Field General Effect Music**

Steve Abrams is an educator and adjudicator from Southern California and has been a Marching Band, Color Guard and Drum & Bugle Corps judge for over 35 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education and two California Lifetime Teaching Credentials.

Mr. Abrams was a faculty member of West Los Angeles College and Moorpark College. He judges Marching Bands as a member of the Western Band Association Judging Association and Southern California School Band & Orchestra Association. He also judges Color Guards as a member of the Winter Guard Association of Southern California Judging Association and has served as its General Effect Caption Chief. He has judged marching bands and color guards throughout California and in Oregon, Washington, Utah, Arizona, Texas and Colorado.

### **Oliver Bullock - Timing and Penalty**

Oliver Bullock resides in Clovis, Ca. and has been involved in the marching arts as a performer and designer for 30 years. He is the founder and director of Frené, a Fresno State Winterguard Experience and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in sculpture from California State University, Fresno

### **Yolanda Castellanos-Stone - Parade Majorette**

Yolanda Castellanos-Stone was born in Fresno, attended Fresno High School and is a graduate of Fresno State University where she twirled for the Bulldog Marching Band. Yolanda won the Sr. Women's World Baton Twirling Championship in Tokyo, Japan in 1982. Yolanda has traveled all over Europe, Japan, Canada and the United States teaching the sport of baton twirling.

Yolanda currently works for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. In her spare time, she is kept busy teaching her competitive baton twirling athletes and group. The Dazzling Diamondettes march in parades all over the valley and coast. The Dazzling Diamonettes are former local, State, Regional and National winners! She currently resides in Fresno with her husband and family.

### **Derek Goldenstien - ID Unit Parade**

Derek has worked in Performing Arts Education in various programs through-out the country. He served as Color Guard Caption Head/Choreographer for Oregon Crusaders Drum Corps, worked with the technical staff for both the Seattle Cascades and Madison Scouts Drum Corps, and visual staff/choreographer for the Troopers Drum Corps. Derek is a former staff member of the Frené Winter Guard. His marching band credits include serving as Color Guard caption head for the Fresno State Bulldog Marching band as well as working with several High School Marching Bands and Winter Programs across the West Coast. He has been choreographing for Key Poulan Music since 2007.

### **Tiffany - King Head Judge –Assistant Coordinator**

Tiffany King obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education with a minor in Theatre Arts option Dance from California State University Fresno. She has directed, instructed and consulted at various junior high and high school color guards throughout California. Including the establishment of the Color Guard program at Clovis North Educational Center where she served as Director of Color Guards for over four years developing and implementing an award winning program. King was also part of the elite color guard staff of The United Spirit Association. In addition, King was the movement instructor of the 2006 Rhapsody Independent Winter guard a WGI finalist.

King is a dance instructor at Studio on the Hill in Auberry, California where she teaches Urban Jazz, Ballet, Hip Hop and Contemporary jazz. She is currently a movement judge for CCGC, PPAACC, CVCGP as well as the Utah Color Guard circuit. Monday through Friday Tiffany teaches 7<sup>th</sup> grade English and helps coordinate activities for her middle school students. During field season King works for the Western Band Association as the sponsor liaison.

### **Heather Kuyper-McKeithen – Parade and Field Auxiliary**

Heather Kuyper-McKeithen has been involved in the pageantry activity for over 20 years as a performer, caption head, and now as an adjudicator. She grew up in Visalia, California where she graduated from Mt. Whitney High School. She then went to college at Cal State Fullerton and performed with Fantasia and Kingsmen Winter Guards as well as the Velvet Knights Drum and Bugle Corps. She started judging movement in 1996 for WGASC.

After she graduated from college, she was the color director for Arvin High School and then started the nationally competitive program at Liberty High School in Bakersfield, California. She then moved to Clovis and took over the program at Clovis East High School.

In 2009, Kuyper-McKeithen retired from teaching color guard and took over as judge coordinator for the PPAACC circuit in Bakersfield, and now also coordinates judges for the SVWAA circuit. When she is not watching her son perform as a high school percussionist, she judges field auxiliary, as well as movement and equipment in winter guard.

### **Erik Leung – Parade and Field Music II**

A native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Erik Leung is an Assistant Professor of Music at Fresno Pacific University where he serves as the Director of Bands and Chair of the Music Department. In addition to teaching graduate and undergraduate conducting, he directs the

Fresno Pacific University Symphonic Band and the Pacific Brass Ensemble. Leung completed his DMA in Wind Conducting from Northwestern University and has earned degrees from the University of Toronto (M.Mus) and the University of Calgary (B.Mus with distinction, B.Ed). His teachers include Mallory Thompson, Gillian Mackay, Glenn Price, Mark Hopkins, and Jeremy Brown. Additional studies in conducting also include time with Mark Scatterday, Allan McMurray, H. Robert Reynolds, Craig Kirchhoff, and Michael Haithcock.

Leung has written for the Canadian Band Journal and has created a critical edition of Jan Meyerowitz's Three Comments on War for concert band, published in 2015 through E.B. Marks Music Company. He has presented at a variety of conferences throughout North America and is scheduled to speak at the upcoming 2016 Midwest Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Leung has been nominated for the Edwin Parr Teaching Award, was a semi-finalist for the Alberta Excellence in Teaching Award, and received the Merit Award for teaching excellence at Fresno Pacific University. He holds memberships in the College Band Directors National Association, World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, the California Music Educators Association, and the Canadian Band Association.

### **Mario Marquez Jr. - Parade Drum Major**

Mario Marquez Jr was born in April 1974 in Visalia. He is the oldest of 3 children. Mario began playing clarinet at Veva Blunt Elementary School under the instruction of Wayne Hodgins. He began playing bass clarinet at Green Akers Jr High under Phil Barker. Mario played bass clarinet in the Redwood High School Concert band under Dennis Bettencourt and also served as Drum Major beginning in the spring of his sophomore year. At College of the Sequoias, he played saxophone in the band and served as the last Drum Major for the Giants Marching Band under Jeff Bilden.

Mario is currently working as the General Manager of White's Music Center in Visalia. He is also an adjunct teacher of clarinet studies at College of the Sequoias. Mario also stays busy by performing regularly in the area. He is a local theater musician and has worked with many of the local high school theater groups as well as the TCOE summer show, COS spring musical and plays traditional jazz with his group The St. John's Riverboat Jazz Band

### **Todd Prince – Parade General Effect and Field Visual Effect**

Todd Prince has been involved in pageantry for the last 25 years. Todd marched in the 1993 Pride of Cincinnati winter guard. Since then, he has judged on the national panel for WGI and the judging panel for WBA since 2007. He has judged both marching bands and winter guards all over the country. He currently resides in Oakland CA with his husband Glenn and their 2 dogs Dutch and Bebe. Todd is currently employed as the Architectural Sales representative for Walker Zanger Tile and Stone.

### **Robert Sanchez – Field General Effect Visual**

Robert has been involved in the marching band and winter guard activity since 1995. He marched with his high School marching band in Bakersfield, California as a trumpet player. During winter guard season he competed with his high School winter guard program along with an independent A guard. After High School Robert began teaching many Guard programs in Bakersfield while marching West Coast Sound Drum and Bugle Corps, Intensity Independent A and Esperanza De Luz World Guard. He was also on the board of directors for PPAACC For 5 years.

Robert has been actively Judging/Timing and Penalties up and down California and Utah for over 10 years in all aspects of competitive activities, which includes: Winter guard, Drum line, Dance, and Cheer. He currently resides in Long Beach, California.

### **Gary Smith - Parade Percussion**

A performer with a versatile musical background, Mr. Smith regularly performs music with unique and cross-cultured personalities. In the last year, Mr. Smith has subbed frequently with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, sharing a stage with such giants as Paul Simon, Steve Martin, Seth Macfarlane, Charles Detoit, Gustavo Dudamel, Leonard Slatkin, and John Williams.

As a teacher in one of the most active marching band and marching percussion locations in the nation, Mr. Smith has put forth strong efforts to marry a well-rounded percussion education with the technical precision of the marching music medium. His role in music education has included front ensemble coordinator for the silver medalist Modesto Fever Drum and Bugle Corps and front ensemble coordinator for the Sacramento Mandarins Drum and Bugle Corps.

Mr. Smith completed his BA in Music Performance from California State University Fresno; his MA in Music Composition from California State University Fresno; and is currently pursuing DMA studies at the University of California, Los Angeles in Percussion Performance. Mr. Smith's primary percussion teachers include Dr. Theresa Dimond and Mr. Raynor Carroll.

### **Meryl Wamhoff – Parade and Field Music I**

M. J. Wamhoff is the Director of Bands at Delta College. Prior to his tenure at Delta College Mr. Wamhoff was the director of Bands and Vocal Jazz at Santa Rosa Junior College, Director of Bands and Orchestra at Clovis West High School and Madera High School. Bands and Choirs under his direction have performed at the Next Generation Jazz Festival, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Monterey Jazz Festival at Sea, CMEA State Convention (1993, 1999, 2001), CBDA State Conference (1999, 2001) and the National Concert Band Festival in Chicago, Illinois and Indianapolis Indiana (1996, 1998). His honors include the Madera County Arts Council Education Award (1993), UMI-ASBDA State and Regional Distinguished Band Director Award (1997), National Band Association Citation of Excellence (1996, 1998, 2000), CBDA Distinguished Service Award (2002).