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4/13/2015

To: The Barnhardt Committee

From: Tom Fairlie

Re: Nomination of Brent Colwell

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Brent Colwell to be the 2016 Barnhardt Award recipient. I have had the pleasure of knowing Brent for the past 25 years during which time he has held several positions of increasing importance in his field.

I successfully convinced Brent to leave his position as Director of Bands at Temple High School and come to Temple College in 2007. At the time he had numerous consecutive years of award winning performances at UIL contests in both marching and concert.

His first success at TC was rescuing the band program, which was in trouble when he took it over because of several years without a strong leader. Within a year he had successfully recruited both adult and traditional students into his ensemble and returned it to the level excellence that it had held for many years prior to its lapse several years before his arrival. He also started establishing himself as an area wide leader in his field.

During my 25 years at Temple College I have not encountered a faculty member with the same combination of leadership skills, drive, intelligence, and vision. His record of service and involvement in his profession is simply unmatched among his peers. His accomplishments are amazing when taken in conjunction with his regular college duties:

1. Since beginning coming to Temple College in 2007 he has served as a judge or a clinician a staggering 157 times. To put this into perspective, these events can take anywhere from 2 to 8 hours. I don't know anyone else who is even close to this kind of participation.
2. He has served as an officer or board member for non-profit educational organizations including the Central Texas Jazz Society, the Texas Jazz Educator's Association, the Texas Community College Band Directors Association Symphonic Band Chair (2 years) and as the vice president for the Texas Community College Band Directors Association for the past two years. The amount of time he has put into these organizations goes far above and beyond the call of duty.
3. He was nominated to the Phi Beta Mu society of Texas by his peers (The International School Bandmaster Fraternity) several years ago. This is the most prestigious band director's organization and this honor is only bestowed upon the best in the field.
4. In service to Temple College he has been a mentor for the Music Major Program for the past 8 years. He started and administers the annual Temple College Band Invitational festival. He has served on several search committees. He served successfully as interim chair of the performing arts department during the 2014-15 school year. He has chaired the recruiting committee for the music program for several years.

5. He has stayed active during this entire time as a professional performing musician as a member of the Temple Symphony and the Temple Jazz Orchestra. This requires hours of regular daily practice. He has served as the librarian for the TSO for the past several years.
6. He is an active member of 7 different professional organizations.

Brent exemplifies the profile of what an excellent college faculty member should look like. He does this with an engaging personality and sense of humor, which endears him to both his fellow faculty and his students. I have never known anyone more deserving of this honor and I recommend him without hesitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Fairlie', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Fairlie, Director Division of Fine Arts.

Application for the Claudia and W.T. Barnhart Teacher of the Year Award

Brent T. Colwell

Educational Degrees:

- Bachelor of Music Education Degree – Southwestern Oklahoma State University – May 1984
- Master of Science Degree, emphasis on music – The American Band College of Southern Oregon University – July 2001

Years of Teaching Experience:

- 31 total years of teaching experience
- 1984 – 1990 – Assistant Director of Bands, Pampa I.S.D.
- 1990 – 1993 – Director of Bands, Rosebud-Lott I.S.D.
- 1993 – 1995 – Director of Bands, Bonham Middle School, Temple, TX
- 1995 – 1999 – Associate Director of Bands, Temple High School, Temple, TX
- 1999 – 2007 – Director of Bands, Temple High School, Temple, TX
- 2007 – Present – Temple College; Band Director, Low Brass Instruction, Music Literature and Music Appreciation teacher

Educational Effectiveness:

- Bands have received “Superior” ratings at every school taught at prior to Temple College
- Bands have won awards on the state and national levels
- Many former students are working in the music field in a variety of areas including, but not limited to; professional jazz musician, free lance performers, music educators at every level, recording artists, recording engineers, symphony conductors and composers. Many others continue to enrich their daily lives as amateur musicians
- Performed with the Temple Jazz Orchestra at the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention, International Jazz Educators Regional Convention at Baylor University and, International Jazz Educators Convention in New York City
- Performed with the Phi Beta Mu reading band at the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention the past 7 years
- Have attended over 60 conventions for professional development over the last 31 years

Educational Projects:

- “A Directors Guide to Timpani” published in Band World Magazine, 2001
- Developed a symposium “How to Prepare the Future Music Major,” presented twice at Temple College
- Presented “How to Prepare the Future Music Major” at the Texas Music Educators Association convention in 2013
- Developed online course components for both online and lecture courses at Temple College

Colwell - Barnhart

Educational Projects (continued):

- Recruited and maintained a 65 – 100 member community/college ensemble over the past 8 years, performing on a regular basis during the traditional school year and in the summer
- Lead Teacher of Performing Arts at Temple High School, 1995 – 1999
- TMEA Jazz Chair for Region 8, 1996 - 2007
- Past Member of the Temple College Curriculum Committee
- Have served as on several Temple College personnel search committees including chairing one committee
- Have served as Interim Chair of the Department of Performing Arts at Temple College 2013-2014

Membership and participation/affiliations:

- Member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Tau Phi Chapter – professional music fraternity
- Member of the Temple College Symphonic Band 1991 - 1996
- Member of the Temple Jazz Orchestra (24 years)
- Member Temple College Faculty Council
- Founding member of the Temple Symphony Orchestra (21 years)
- Formerly on the founding board of the Texas Jazz Educators Association as secretary
- Member of the Texas Music Educators Association (31 years)
- Member of the Texas Band Masters Association (31 years)
- Selected as a member of Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, Honorary Band Masters Fraternity
- Member of the Texas Music Adjudicators Association
- Founding board member of the Central Texas Jazz Society 2007 – present
- Member of the Texas Community College Band Directors Association 2007 – present
- Symphonic Band Organizer for the Texas Community College Band Directors Association, 2010 – 2012
- Vice-President of the Texas Community College Band Directors Association 2012 – 2014
- Current President of Texas Community College Band Directors Association

Community Service:

- Member and former Vestry Member of Christ Episcopal Church, Temple, TX
- Chairman of Scholarship Committee for Central Texas Jazz Society

Additional information:

- In demand as a clinician areas of concert and marching band, have conducted over 150 clinics in the past 8 years
- An active adjudicator across the state of Texas, both for University Interscholastic League and independent contests
- Have been clinician/conductor for several TMEA and independent honor bands