

Towson University Bands

In 1962, Benjamin Glover became the first Director of Bands at Towson State College.¹ At this time there was no Marching Band, only a Concert Band. In the late 1960's when Mr. Roberts left, Dale Rauschenberg, who is now the percussion instructor, directed the band.² During this time Towson was honored with two guest conductors, Vincent Persichetti and William Revelli. The next director directed the band for the next five years, and his name was Ray Moore. After Mr. Moore, Dr. Marchand directed for three years. Under Dr. Marchand's direction, the Music Department held a Summer Band Music Camp, which was highly successful. Dr. Marchand also led the band on its first ever tour during the spring semester of 1975. Dr. Marchand, in 1977, then took the office of Chairperson of the Music Department.³ When he left, Ray Moore again became the Director of Bands. The next director, Robert Doster, was brought to Towson State for the main purpose of starting the Tiger Marching Band. And in 1980 he did. In the fall of 1983, Dr. Dana Rothlisberger assumed the role of Director of Bands. Under Dr. Rothlisberger's direction, the Towson Band's have gained the most exposure.

The Concert Band, which eventually became the Symphonic Band, has performed for the Maryland Music Educator Conference (MMEA) in 1986 and 1988. In 1987 the Symphonic Band performed at the Music Educator's National Conference (MENC) Division. In 1996, the Symphonic Band had the former Maryland Lieutenant Governor, Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend, narrate a piece during a concert. More recently, in 2002 the Symphonic Band went on a short tour through the Southern U.S. concluding in a clinic in Nashville, Tennessee. During the spring of 2003, the Symphonic Band traveled to Rhode Island to perform as an exhibition ensemble for the National MENC Conference. Dr. Dana Rothlisberger currently directs the Symphonic Band.

The Symphonic band expanded in 2001 to include a second band, known as the Concert Band. This band has been under the direction of the Assistant Director of Bands, who has also become responsible for the Marching Band. The band was revived to give both music major and non-music major students a chance to perform in a stage ensemble. The Concert Band is currently under the direction of Mr. John Miliauskas.

In 1979, Dr. Marchand, the Music Department, and the Towson State administration, brought Mr. Robert Doster to Towson State to create a marching band.⁴ Mr. Doster earned a reputation for his work with Marching Bands at various schools in Frederick County, Maryland and Fairfax County, Virginia.⁵ The band he created has performed at many exhibitions throughout the state along with the Baltimore Cavalcade of Bands. The Marching Band was also the host band for the Maryland Tournament of Bands in 1986, and from 1993-today (with the exception of 2002). Throughout the past few years, the Tiger Marching Band has been under the direction of many different directors. Each year from 1999 through 2002, there was a new Marching Band Director. The Marching Band is now under the direction of Mr. John Miliauskas.

As he did the Marching Band, Mr. Robert Doster started the Pep Band.⁶ In 1981, one year after the marching band was created, Robert Doster had officially created the Towson Pep Band. This ensemble has expanded since then to play at lacrosse games as well. Mr. John Miliauskas currently directs the Pep Band.

The Jazz Band has its origins with Mr. Dale Rauschenberg and Mr. Ray Moore, who began the Jazz Program in 1966 and proceeded to then direct the bands until 1968, when Mr. Hank Levy took over.⁷ Mr. Levy directed the Jazz Bands until the early 1990's when he retired for health reasons. Mr. Levy was best known for his use of odd meters in his songs, which he wrote for Towson, the Stan Kenton Orchestra, and the Don Ellis Orchestra, among others. Glenn Cashman, currently a professor at Colgate University, then took over as director of the Jazz Band until 1999. From then until 2001, Ron Deihl, best known for his years in the US Navy Commodores Jazz Ensemble, was the director. The current director of the Jazz Band is Mr. Jim McFalls, a former member of the US Army Field Band Jazz Ambassadors and current Jazz Trombone teacher. The Jazz Band has won many awards including the Villanova Jazz Festival Beset Band Award in 1995 and in 2000. Sadly, in September of 2001, Mr. Levy passed away, leaving a great legacy at Towson University.

Directors of Bands (Chronological Order):

- Mr. Benjamin Glover 1962-1963
- Mr. David Roberts 1963-1967
- Mr. Dale Rauschenberg 1967-1968
- Mr. Ray Moore 1968-1973
- Dr. David Marchand 1973-1977
- Mr. Ray Moore (again) 1977-1979
- Mr. Robert Doster 1979-1983
- Dr. Dana Rothlisberger 1983-Present

¹ Towson Towerlight, 1962.

² Interview with Mr. Dale Rauschenberg.

³ Interview with Dr. David Marchand.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Information provided by Dr. Terry Ewell.

⁶ Marchand.

⁷ Rauschenberg.

Directors' Biographical Information:

- Mr. Benjamin Glover (1962-1963) was first hired in 1962. He received his B.M. from West Virginia University, and his M.A. from Long Beach State College.⁸
- Mr. David Roberts (1963-1967) succeeded Benjamin Glover as Director of Bands at Towson State College in 1963. His B.M.E. is from Murray State College, and his M.M. is from George Peabody College for Teachers, a division of Vanderbilt University.⁹
- Mr. Dale Rauschenberg (1967-1968) took over the duties of Director of Bands for one year, the year after he was hired. During his tenure, Vincent Persichetti guest-conducted the band. Mr. Rauschenberg was also responsible for hosting the first outdoor Pops Concert at Glen Esk. Jointly with Ray Moore, Mr. Rauschenberg created the Jazz Program in the Fall semester of 1966. Mr. Rauschenberg also taught high school in Ohio before coming to Towson University. He received his B.M.E. from Youngstown University, and his M.M. from Indiana University.¹⁰
- Mr. Ray Moore (1968-1973 and 1977-1979) was Director of Bands twice, both before and after Dr. Marchand. Mr. Moore was a commercial trumpet player throughout his tenure at Towson. Mr. Moore frequently performed in the community with John Malick, trombone, and Dale Rauschenberg, percussion.¹¹ While he was Director of Bands, he made numerous attempts at creating a second band, which would be of higher caliber, but his attempts were never realized.¹² Also, during this time, a ΦMA chapter was colonized: ΣT.¹³ His B.S. is from State University of New York at Potsdam, and his M.M. is from Peabody Conservatory.¹⁴
- Dr. David Marchand (1973-1977) was the first Director of Bands to take the band on a tour. He was also the first Director of Bands to create a summer music camp. Before coming to Towson, Dr. Marchand taught music in Minnesota.¹⁵ Dr. Marchand also taught at a military dependence school in Heidelberg, Germany from 1962 to 1966, where he met his future wife, Mara.¹⁶ After directing the bands, Dr. Marchand became the Music Department Chairperson from 1977 to 1994, and again from 1999 to 2001.¹⁷ Dr. Marchand received his B.M.E. from Bemidji State College, his M.M. from the University of Illinois, and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.¹⁸
- Mr. Robert Doster (1979-1983) was hired for the main purpose of creating a Marching Band.¹⁹ Even though his tenure was not long at Towson, he created two student activity organizations that are still in existence today: the Marching Band and Pep Band. Mr. Doster was brought to the attention of the University after he earned a reputation for his work with marching bands in Frederick County, Maryland and Fairfax County, Virginia.²⁰ Mr. Doster's degrees are a B.A. from Lebanon Valley College and a M.S. from the University of Maryland, College Park.²¹
- Dr. Dana Rothlisberger (1983-Present) is the current Director of Bands at Towson University. He is responsible for many aspects of the band and music education program.²² Prior to teaching at Towson University, Dr. Rothlisberger taught at schools in Maryland, Utah, Texas, and Arizona. He was awarded his B.M.E. from East Texas State University, his M.M. from East Texas State University, and his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park.²³

⁸ Towson University Catalog, 1962.

⁹ Towson University Catalog, 1963.

¹⁰ Rauschenberg.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Marchand.

¹³ [http://www.lyrecrest.net/Directory/chapbystate.asp?STATE=](http://www.lyrecrest.net/Directory/chapbystate.asp?STATE=MD&STATENAME=Maryland)

[MD&STATENAME=Maryland](http://www.lyrecrest.net/Directory/chapbystate.asp?STATE=MD&STATENAME=Maryland)

¹⁴ Towson University Catalog, 1968.

¹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵ Marchand.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

²⁰ Information provided by Dr. Ewell.

²¹ Towson University Catalog, 1978.

²² <http://www.towson.edu/~dana/bands/DrR.html>

²³ Ibid.