

# 25

# STATE SOLO & TEAM JUDGES BIOS

IOWA STATE  
DANCE & DRILL  
TEAM ASSOCIATION



## JESUS ACOSTA

Jesus Acosta is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico. He started dancing at the age of eighteen at Sam Houston State University where he fell in love with dance and decided to pursue a career in dance. He recently retired from dancing full time and is looking forward to exploring different avenues in the dance world. He is a founding member of the Houston Contemporary Dance Company where he danced for 3 seasons and NobleMotion Dance where he danced for 9 seasons while serving as rehearsal director. He has also previously danced with The Houston Metropolitan Dance Company (4 years), The Kista Tucker Dance Company (2 Years), and Hope Stone Dance Company (4 years.) He has also been on staff with MA Dance and Auxiliaries for 18 years teaching, choreographing, and judging all over the United States. Aside from working in high schools throughout the U.S. Jesus has choreographed for The Houston Texans Cheerleaders and recently held a position as a judge on the Contemporary/Lyrical Panel at The Dance Worlds, The Colorado State Championships, and The Utah State Championships. He currently teaches all levels of Jazz at Dance Du Coeur in Sugar Land, TX where he has been a Company Director for the past eight years and Boni's Performing Arts Studio in The Woodlands, TX. When not at the studio Jesus is dad to 2 dogs and 3 cats, Gwen, Ivy, Josey, Penny, and Regina.



## KELSEY ADKINS

Kelsey began her dance career as a studio trained dancer in Morris, Illinois, training and competing in all styles. She then went on to attend Loyola University Chicago, graduating with a business administration degree with a focus on sports management and marketing. While attending Loyola, Kelsey was a 4-year member and captain of the Loyola Dance Team, competing nationally with the Universal Dance Association each year. That collegiate competitive atmosphere inspired her to audition for UDA staff early on where she spent each summer traveling the country teaching camps.

Following college, Kelsey moved into a full-time role with Varsity Spirit as the Dance State Director serving the central and mountain west regions. Her career with Varsity Spirit has now spanned over a decade in which she has helped shape memorable experiences for thousands of athletes and built meaningful relationships with coaches. Varsity has afforded her many opportunities including judging at the regional and national levels including, speaking at conferences nationwide, and directing large scale dance events, including the Dance Worlds. Kelsey played an integral in getting Kansas's first ever state game competition off the ground and has served in an advisory role for several state spirit associations including KSHSAA, AAA, CHSAA, WYHSAA, MHSAA, and NCA. Kelsey is a 2-time State Director of the year and Varsity Eagle award recipient. She takes pride in making the lives of coaches just a little bit easier each day as it's what fuels her passion most.

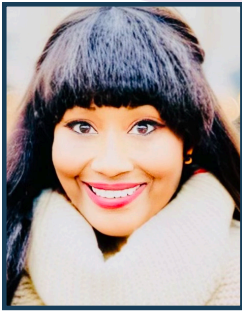
Beyond her full-time job, Kelsey has also shared in the joy of coaching. While living in Chicago, she coached the mini all-star program at Studio 22 in Niles, IL. Instilling that initial love for dance, while teaching the value of hard work was so fun with the littles. She has also coached at the NAIA level, with Calumet College for 2 seasons.

Kelsey currently resides in Denver, Colorado with her husband, son and loyal golden retriever. When not doing something dance related, she enjoys attending CU basketball games, hiking, and watching her 7-month-old take in the world!



## RHODESSA BELL

Rhodessa Bell got her start in dance at the age of 12 under the direction of Koni Riley at Dance Dimensions studio in Mineola, Texas. She received her BFA at Stephen F. Austin where she was a member of the SFA Pom Squad and the SFA Repertory Dance Company. After graduation Rhodessa moved to Houston where she studied under the direction of Richard Hebscher, Jhon Stronks, and Dina Veil. Houston expanded her performance vocabulary and from 2004 to 2008 she performed with several professional companies like Houston Metropolitan, Psophonia, Wyld Style, and Planet Funk. This exploration expanded her training to include ballet, modern and hip hop. Since 2003 Rhodessa has worked for Marching Auxiliaries teaching dance and creating choreography for children of all ages nationwide. In 2009 Rhodessa completed a year of residency in Amsterdam Netherlands. During her stay she taught hip hop and lyrical jazz for Amsterdam Dance Centre, Body Action, and Lucia Marthas Institute for Performing Arts. Within the year Rhodessa also choreographed an evening length work called "Laughter" set on a performance company she created called UniverSoul Dance Company. She was honored to showcase her work as well as perform at several festivals and local venues throughout Holland. Rhodessa's love for teaching and performing has spanned more than two decades. Thorough in her approach, she gives special attention to the specific needs of each dancer she teaches. After leaving a class with Rhodessa dancers are sure to feel more accomplished, energized, and empowered.

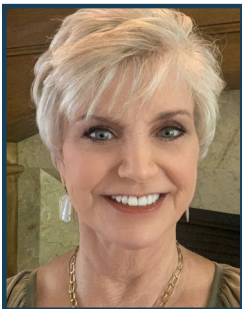


## **KINSHASA GARRETT**

Kinshasa Garrett, a Dallas native, brings over 30 years of diverse experience as a performer, choreographer, consultant, and judge. She began her dance training at age 5, continuing her education and performances through middle school, high school, and university, where she eventually became Head Dance Captain. Kinshasa's professional performances include industrial work with notable brands such as Nike, Juicy Couture, Mary Kay, Toni & Guy, Texas Instruments, Lululemon Athletica, Sephora, Forever 21, Sea World, and AMC Theaters. She has also been a featured performer for the NFL, World Cup Soccer, and the Olympic Games.

As a Director and Choreographer, Kinshasa has led her teams to numerous Platinum and High Gold awards at competitions and conventions like Tremaine, Jump, Pulse, and Adrenaline. She has achieved significant success in school and all-star competitions, earning State and National Championship solo and team specialty awards for Innovative Choreography and Technical Excellence from brands such as AmeriDance, ADTS, Daneline Productions, MA Dance, NDA, Power Dance, The American Championships, Spirit Celebration, Power Dance and UDA.

Kinshasa currently resides in Georgetown, TX, serving as the Southwest Regional Director for The United States All Star Federation (USASF), which governs dance and cheerleading clubs. Her responsibilities include managing membership and compliance for Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, and she also holds the roles of USASF Leadership Director, Enrichment and DEIS Coordinator. Additionally, Kinshasa coordinates the USASF Athlete Advisory Council. She frequently travels both domestically and internationally, judging, speaking, instructing, coaching, and consulting for all-star teams, studios, high schools, and universities across Australia, the United Kingdom, Europe and Central and South America.



## **DONNA HAAS**

Founder and Executive Director Marching Auxiliaries of America and MA Dance, 1976-Present; Creator, Director and Choreographer Texas Christian University "Showgirls", 1976-1998; Charter Member National Council Drill Team Camps, 1983-Present; Director TDDTEA Texas "All-State Drill Team, 1990; Director Houston Olympic Games Opening Ceremonies, 1986; Director Houston Rodeo Opening Ceremonies, 1986; Pageant Choreographer Bluebonnet Bowl-Houston, TX, Holiday Bowl-San Diego, CA, Hall of Fame Bowl-Tampa, FL, Citrus Bowl-Orlando, FL, Maui Classic Basketball Tournament, Maui, HI; Director Opening Ceremonies 1988 World's Fair Brisbane, Australia; Director Opening Ceremonies 1992 Expo Seville, Spain; Current Member of Conseil International De La Danse CID, National Dance Coaches Association Hall of Fame Award Recipient 2021, TCU Ex-Bandsmen Association Band of Fame 2021, Hall of Fame Award Texas Dance Educators Association 2002, Lifetime Achievement Winner National Drill Dance Team Directors of America, 1991-1992; Lifetime Achievement Award Texas Drill Dance Team Educators Association, 1992-1993; Presenter TDDTEA State Conventions, DTDA National Conventions, Illinois State Convention, DTDA Midwest Conventions; Published Author of numerous articles Insights Magazine; Former Director Brewer HS Drill Team, 1976-1980, Yellow Rose Award for Teacher of the Year Brewer HS, 1980; Savant Women's Leadership Honorary, 1974; Dream Girl Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity, 1974; Head Majorette and Feature Twirler University of Florida, 1972-1974, President Delta Delta Delta Sorority, 1972-74; Collegiate Representative for Delta Delta Delta National Board, 1973; Outstanding Young Women of America, 1971; Tennessee Girls State Representative, 1970; Junior National Baton Twirling Champion, 1965.



## **BESTY HEATHCOCK**

Betsy Heathcock has been actively involved in Dance Education since 1978. During her career she taught dance and directed at three premier High Schools, Dulles, Memorial and Austin Fort Bend. She had the distinct honor to choreograph for the 2005, 2009, 2013 and 2017 Tournament of Roses "Music for All Honor Dance Team", Dance Team Directors of Americas 1994 "All Star Dance Team" and was the United State Olympic Festival Assistant Dance Director/Choreographer in 1986. Staying involved is so important and Betsy has done this by serving on the Texas Dance Educators' Association Executive board in six different board positions. She oversaw the inception of the Texas State Dance Assessment, D.E.A.L - "Dance Educators' Assessment of Learning" and continues to Coordinate and adjudicate for this Assessment. Throughout the years Betsy has earned numerous accolades including being named to the Texas Dance Educators' "Hall of Fame" in 2005, "Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2000 and "Dance Team Director of the Year" in 1995.

Betsy is a Clinic Director for MA Dance Officer Camp MA Dance Line camps. In addition, Betsy is a Dance and /Color Guard adjudicator for MA Dance, Marching Auxiliaries of America and several other companies throughout the country. She continues to mentor and provide guidance to Dance educators and Color Guards throughout Texas. Her passion is creating unique choreography in both Pom & Military genres and providing leadership workshops for both Dance Officers and Dance Teams. Most recently Betsy was a presenter for Texas Dance Educators Association and Region IV at Deer Park and Goose Creek ISD's. Betsy and her husband Ron teach leadership/crafting workshops that focus on taking time for yourself and emphasizing the importance of giving from the heart. As a Dance Educator it is important to remain current within the industry and MA Dance & T.D.E.A. have always been instrumental in making this happen. She is thankful each and every day that she is aligned both professionally and personally with so many amazing companies, organizations, Dance Educator's and schools that continue to pursue excellence in dance.



## **TJ JACOBS**

Thomas Jacobs hails from New York City, where he currently resides. Originally from Northern Virginia, Jacobs grew his love for dance culture training at Culture Shock DC and Freestyle. This passion has led him to many amazing endeavors such as TEDx Talk, Bessie Awards Nominee, Founder of Pace Setters Dance Company and the pleasure of performing with Crystal Waters, Betty Who and Wyclef, BMW, World Of Dance and The Wizards, and most recently a residency with Ladies Of Hip Hop and Dance Lab NYC to name a few. He has extensively trained in many styles such as House, Waacking, Popping and Locking from some of the industry's greats. He is also grateful to be a part of the NYC Artistic community, where he most recently collaborated with a group of Artists from TRPNYC Dance Company. During the recent recession, the work he created was featured in the New York Times. This work, commissioned by Stephen Petronio Dance Company, was also nominated for a Bessie Award for Outstanding Production, alongside Bill T. Jones and other phenomenal Artists. These experiences have helped shape Mr. Jacobs' ideology of dance and the arts as a whole. This ignites his desire to transfer knowledge through judging, teaching and mentorships.



## **RAMONA KITCHING**

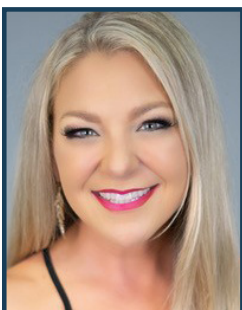
Ramona brings over 40 years of dance team competition experience in dance, drill, spirit, and guard. Since 1997, she has been a dedicated judge as well as lead adjudicator for state, national and international organizations such as IHSA, IDTA, TEAMDance Illinois, Varsity All Star, ISDTA, CSCA, NMAA, OSDTA, MoDTA, AIA, ICU-Australia, The Open World Championships, and Dance Team Union.

In her role as President of Competition for TEAMDance Illinois, Ramona successfully led the competition division, overseeing 350 teams from youth to college levels, managing three state championships and 25-30 regional events annually.

Committed to offering dancer athletes the highest standards in dance judging, she co-founded the Alliance of Illinois Dance Adjudicators and served as their first Vice-President. A member of the National Dance Coaches Association, she also managed the Judge Training and Credentialing Team until 2023. As a passionate advocate for safety within the sport of dance, she serves as the Technical and Safety Liaison for Dance Team Union for their regional and national events.

Inspired by the complicated journey her daughter had to navigate in efforts to achieve a position on a nationally-ranked collegiate dance team, Ramona is currently the coordinator for SharpenUp Dance Team Training's College Dance Launch division. CDL is fully comprehensive program that provides detailed initial dance evaluations, professional and personalized goal-setting and authentic mentoring partnerships that ensures a focused holistic approach, minimizing the stress for both the dancer and parent throughout the entire collegiate dance team matchmaking process.

Hailing from the Midwest, Ramona now proudly calls Arizona home, where she resides with her husband, two adult children and two dogs. Outside of her dedication to all things dance, she works as a Physician Associate in Phoenix.



## **LINDSEY LARSON**

Lindsey Greer Larsen knew she was destined to be in the dance world at a very young age. Her love to create artistic dance pieces that push the physical limits of the dancer and off the wall style was what drew her to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with an emphasis in Choreography from the Herberger College of Fine Arts in 2006 from Arizona State University. While in College her passion for mentoring and coaching aspiring dancers grew as she opened a dance studio (Cynergy Dance Studio/ Inspiration Dance Company) as well as coaching all-star and high school dance/pom teams. She pursued an active role in the competitive dance industry taking on national choreography jobs for various high school, all-star, collegiate, pro teams, and as well as various musical artists and celebrities.

While pursuing her career in dance and choreography, Lindsey had the opportunity to perform with amazing artists such as Black Eye Peas, Wyclef Jean, The Who, Alice Cooper, Sarah Dash, CaZo Dance Company, and was a part of the first NHL dance team to perform directly on the ice the Phoenix Coyotes "PACK" dancers.

Lindsey currently holds multiple National, State, and Regional titles for her Coaching and/or Choreography. UDA, NDA, USA, AIA, Celebrity Competitions, Starpower, and KAR are some of the organizations titles that Lindsey holds in her resume and dear to her heart. Her passion for Choreography, Dance Team Training, and Inspiring Coaches has lead her to partnering up and developing Sharpen Up Dance Team Training with her two fellow coach colleagues. When Lindsey isn't teaching master classes with SUDTT she is continuing to expand her passion for choreography nation wide for High School, Professional, and College Dance Teams along with educating, speaking at many State Association and Nationals Conferences, or Judging. She feels honored for the amazing opportunities she has been fortunate to experience over the years and that she is actively involved in today. Lindsey feels very blessed for the strength that God gives her to continue to dance, educate, and inspire the up and coming new generation of dancers, coaches, and educators!



## **KATIE MARSH**

Katie Marsh is an experienced dancer, choreographer, coach, and judge. She currently serves as an official for Dance Team Union, as well as the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota State Associations. As the Head Dance Coach at Midland University from 2017-2021, she led the team to one national championship, two conference championships, three regional championships and in 2019, Katie was named the NAIA Dance Coach of the Year. A native of Miami, Florida, Katie was a member of the nationally ranked Coral Reef Dance Team and won multiple titles through UDA. After high school, Katie joined the Young Americans- a non-profit music outreach organization based out of Southern California. As a Company Manager, Casting Director, and Performer, Katie traveled all over the world and taught performing arts workshops to over 20,000 students. Katie is an alumni of Chapman University in Orange, California where she received her B.S. in Business Administration with Magna Cum Laude honors. In her spare time, Katie is the Marketing Director for the National Dance Coaches Association and enjoys spending time at home in Sioux City with her husband, one year old son, and puppy named Ruffles.



## **DEE DEE MUNSON**

DeeDee is the Founder/Owner of DDAMdancewear & Manager for Tippi Toes Dance Roswell. She is the former Managing Director a The Moment Dance Experience at KM Agency. She is also the former General Manager/Artistic Director for Power House of Dance Dallas / Frisco & the former Artistic Director of Dance for North Texas Performing Arts. Her credits include Kilgore College Rangerette, Stephen F. Austin Repertory Company, Stephen F. Austin Pom Squad member and coach, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, and Dallas Mavericks Dancer. She is also a former Walt Disney World Dancer where she performed in The Beauty & The Beast Show, Pleasure Island Explosion Dancers, various conventions and special events, and the Rhythms of the World Show at Tokyo DisneySeas. She has also served as audition choreographer for Walt Disney World, Disney Cruise Lines & Disneyland Paris.

DeeDee has taught and choreographed for studios, dance teams & theatres across the country. She has choreographed over 60 musicals. Her Freaky Friday new works choreography was showcased at The Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta, GA. She is an international adjudicator & master teacher. She has served as a judge for MA Dance, Varsity Brands, Cheer Power, Freedom Dance, The Groove, HTE, The USASF Dance Worlds, COP Brands, Inferno Dance & The Kilgore College Rangerettes. She was also a dancer/actress in the movie Miss Congeniality starring Sandra Bullock.



## **GRETCHEN NOACK**

Gretchen is a graduate from California State University Fullerton where she majored in Dance and Public Relations. She began her dance career as the director of an award winning dance team in Southern California and then transitioned into the role of Dance Program Director for the United Spirit Association (USA) where she was in charge of staff training and program development for 5 years. Her association with the USA has continued for more than 25 years through her ongoing involvement in dance.

Gretchen has choreographed for many nationally ranked dance/drill teams and for numerous professional dance teams, such as the 49er Gold Rush, Golden State Warriors, Sacramento Kings and Los Angeles Clippers. Gretchen was honored to choreograph for the first-ever NFL international cheerleading auditions held in Tokyo Japan in 2003. She has been involved in the production and teaching of many NBA and NFL halftime shows, as well as traveled to Paris and Australia to help produce holiday parades encompassing over 500 performers. Gretchen has been selected to the judging panel for many state and national competitions, as well as the "All-Star Dance Worlds" Competition.

Currently Gretchen's full-time career is coordinating Educational Dance Trips for Dance Teams and Studios, all over the United States. She also recently purchased a new business "All Star Spirit Productions LLC" that produces parades at Disneyland in CA with middle school & high school dancers & cheerleaders.

Gretchen has extensive training in jazz, ballet, hip/hop, pom and traditional dance/drill and recently completed her comprehensive training in Pilates. Gretchen's training in Pilates has provided her a new understanding of the body, movement principles, and how to train the body to move more efficiently.

Her passionate involvement in the world of dance team continues to present her with exciting opportunities.



## **DEBBIE NORDSTROM**

Debbie Nordstrom has been a Dance Educator and Dance Industry professional for the past 44 years. Formerly a National Award-winning Dance Team Director, Debbie is the President and Owner of Ascension Dance. She is the former Contest Director for Champion Dance and the Contest of Champions in Orlando, Florida. She is a Past President, Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame Award recipient of the Texas Dance Educators Association. Debbie originated and developed the Collegiate Program for TDEA 17 years ago and currently continues to serve TDEA as their Collegiate Chair. An original NBA Houston Rockets Cheerleader, NFL Houston Oilers (now Tennessee Titans) Derrick Doll, University of Houston Dance Team Captain and former Tyler Jr. College Apache Belle, she continues to adjudicate around the country. Debbie has been married to her devoted husband Rick for 25 years and now resides in the Texas Hill Country town of Horseshoe Bay, TX with their active 6-year-old Border Collie BarkLee.



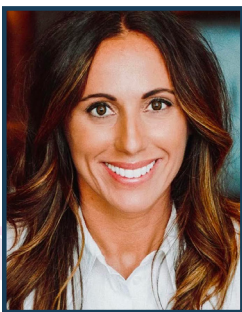
## **HELEN NORRIS**

Helen Wild Norris is a professional adjudicator and choreographer for both dance and cheer. She currently works for the Tobin Center in San Antonio as a Fine Arts Instructor and administers art classes under an education grant for San Antonio ISD. Helen is a Competition Director and Clinic Director for MA Dance FX and hosts dance competitions and adjudicates both nationally and internationally. A former Houston Rockets Dancer and National Cheerleading Association employee, Helen relocated to Los Angeles and enjoyed a career with Universal Studios and Mari Winsor Pilates before relocating back to her beloved state of Texas in 2010. She lives with her husband and four children in San Antonio, Texas, and has dedicated her life to helping every child develop an appreciation for the Fine Arts.



## **RANI REICHOW**

Since 2002, Rani has coached many award-winning dance teams, most recently, the 2023 UDA Spirit Programs Game Day National Champions, Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ. Rani also served as the Director of Education for the National Dance Coaches Association, has presented for several coaches' conferences including NDCA and Iowa, and as co-founder of Sharpen Up Dance Team Training, she produces large scale educational workshops & recruiting events for high school dancers. Rani received her Judge's Credential through NDCA and DTU, and has judged for multiple state and national organizations. She is honored and excited to be a part of the legendary ISDTA State Championship and wishes the best of luck to all of the coaches and competitors.



## **SHAN STAVROPOULOS**

Shan began dancing at the young age of three in sunny California and has continued her dance career for 21 years as the coach and choreographer for the nationally ranked Millard West Dance Team. Under her direction, the team was crowned UDA National Champions in 2009 and National Champion Runner-Ups in 2011 and 2021. They also obtained 12 Nebraska State title awards. Some of her other accolades include 19 Best Choreography Awards, being a 4-time recipient of the Coaches Leadership Award and was named MBJ's Top 40 Under 40. She has choreographed for the University of Iowa, the University of Nebraska Wesleyan, and the University of Nebraska-Omaha, as well as instructed at Nebraska Dance, Kitty Lee and coached/choreographed for the No Limits Senior All-Star Team. She was also the Director and Choreographer of the United Football League's - Omaha Nighthawks Professional Cheerleaders and Dance Team and is currently a Regional/National Championship judge for Dance Team Union.



## MARY WENDT

Mary has been involved in the dance team industry for over 41 years as a coach and industry professional. A part of the original judging panel at The Dance Worlds, Mary was the Dance Scoring Director for the IASF, the International All-Star Federation. She has served as the Scoring and Adjudication Director as well as the Pom, Junior, and High Kick Category Advisor for the Dance Worlds. Mary was the Education Director for USASF Dance and the Associate Director of Enrichment/Leadership, assisting in the development of workshops for coaches and athletes such as Bolt, Dance FUNdamentals, What's your IQ Jr, and Impact. Mary has judged internationally and facilitated coach and athlete workshops, including developing a leadership program for students from Moldova.

Mary is the former director/choreographer of the North Texas State University Songleaders and the Assistant Director/Choreographer for the Texas Christian University Showgirls, her alma mater, where she received a BS and MS in Kinesiological Studies. A former Kilgore College Rangerette Lieutenant and TCU Showgirl Captain, Mary has been a director for several high school teams in Texas, Ohio, New Jersey, and Washington. The Texas Dance/Drill Team Educators voted her as their youngest Lifetime Achievement Recipient and Hall of Fame Recipient. She has received the Hall of Fame award from DX Events and NDCA. Mary was the executive director and former choreographer of the Citrus Bowl and worked for MA Dance as their Vice President for over 35 years.

Mary has been married for over 34 years to Ted Wendt and has a son, John, a 2018 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

## DAVE SANCHEZ

Dave Sanchez is one of the founders of Dance Team Union (DTU) and co-head adjudicator for DTU. Dave has over 30 years of experience in dance team as a music editor, coach, choreographer, judge and competition company owner. Prior to DTU, for almost 20 years, Dave provided commentary on major state and national competitions as well as other issues important to dance teams on Yahoo! under the name "dazzman1999." He also had over 30 years of experience judging dance team competitions for several national companies as well as for state championships and regional and local events. Dave assisted several state and national competition organizations with score sheet design and has been invited to speak about judging issues and judges training at coaches' conferences throughout the country. Dave has also presented to several coaches' conferences with respect to legal and consumer rights issues affecting dance team coaches. Dave was choreographer for musical theater productions in college and graduate school and he has also provided music and choreography for Macy's fashion shows, a regional dance company and a regional ballet company.

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## COLOR GUARD JUDGES BIOS

IOWA STATE  
DANCE & DRILL  
TEAM ASSOCIATION



### EVAN COONROD

Born and raised in St. Louis Missouri, Evan has been involved in the color guard activity since 1996. Upon high school graduation he attended Southwest Missouri State University from 2000-2005 as a music education major and performed with the Pride of SMSU Color Guard. He was captain of the color guard from 2002-2005. In addition to performing with the color guard at SMS, he was a member of the Pride of SMSU Winter Guard from 2000-2004. After aging out of the SMSU winter guard program he made his way to Jacksonville, FL and performed with the Independent World Winter Guard, Northeast Independent from 2007-2009. Since moving back to the St. Louis area, Evan has taught many color guard programs in the area and is currently in his 13th year as the Director of the Lafayette HS Color Guard program in Wildwood, Missouri.



### SAM HOUSTON BROWN

Samantha Houston Brown has been involved in the marching arts since 2004. In high school, she competed in Bands of America and Winter Guard International with Odessa High School Band of Distinction, Odessa, Missouri. While attending the University of Kansas, she served as a 3 year guard captain with the Marching Jayhawks, 3 seasons with Synchronicity Winterguard, 3 seasons with Avidity Independent Winterguard and a summer performing with the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps, from Santa Clara, California. She became a member of the Zeta Delta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma in 2008, serving as chapter President for 2 years. In March of 2020, she was welcomed as an Honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi by the Epsilon Omega Chapter.

Samantha has experience instructing and choreographing for high school and collegiate color guards in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Texas, Hawaii and Nebraska. 2024 marks her 6th year as the Color Guard Instructor for the Cornhusker Marching Band at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition to color guard, she completed her first season serving on the visual staff for the Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps. She has her Music Education Degree from the University of Kansas and a degree certification in Physical Therapist Assistant.



### SANDI ELLIS

Sandi Ellis has been a color guard performer, choreographer, instructor, and judge in the Midwest for more than 30 years. She performed throughout high school and college, including two trips to the Tournament of Rose Parade, and groups for whom she has written have performed at numerous college football bowl parades. Sandi is a long-time staff member at the Central Iowa Color Guard Camp and has been a choreographer and instructor at other camps in Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois. The Iowa high school marching bands with whom she has worked range in size from Class 2A - 4A, and she currently is the instructor with the award-winning Dallas Center - Grimes Marching Mustangs.



## **DANNY MARTINEZ**

Mr. Martinez has been a colorguard director for over 30 years and is currently the Guard Director at Reedy High School and Highland Park High School.

He was an active performer, instructor and judge with the North Texas Colorguard Association. He has served on the Board of Directors and also served as President of NTCA. Mr. Martinez was inducted into the NTCA Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mr. Martinez has been involved with the design and instruction of winterguards since 1992. From 1992-1999 he taught at Springtown High School and led them to be one of the top colorguards in the Ft. Worth area. From 2000-2008, he taught at Crowley High School. During his time at Crowley High School they were a perennial NTCA medalist. Danny was an Instructor, caption head, and camp director for Marching Auxiliaries for 13 years. From 2009, he has taught at The Colony, Highland Park and Lake Highlands High School. These schools compete at WGI and NTCA events and are award winning programs. Highland Park was the 2019 Texas State Marching Competition Silver medalist.

Mr. Martinez also was the director of Ars Nova "A" Winterguard (a 6 time WGI Finalist) and was the director of White Gold for 2 years. White gold won the bronze medal in 2011 at the WGI World Championships in Dayton, OH.



## **VICTOR MOONEY**

Victor Mooney is the Color Guard Director for Burleson Centennial High School, and is a long-standing and active member of the color guard community. He is a marching band and winter guard adjudicator in the southeast as well as Texas. He comes to us from South Carolina, where he programmed and taught many successful programs. His groups have collectively won 13 Marching Band State Championships and 2 Bands of America Regional Championships.

As a winter guard director, he has earned numerous championships in the Carolina Indoor Performance Association as well as the North Texas Colorguard Association. During his time in CIPA, he served on the Executive Board and has served as the Circuit President. Mr. Mooney's hard work and dedication were recognized by being the very first inductee into the CIPA Hall of Fame. The Guard program at Centennial has experienced a transformation in just 5 short years, winning an NTCA Middle School title, an NTCA Scholastic A Class title as well as 2 MA Dance National Winter Guard Titles

He began his WGI Career as the founding director of Infiniti Winter Guard, South Carolina's first Independent Winter Guard. Under his direction, Infiniti Winter Guard was the first group from South Carolina to compete in the WGI World Championships. In 2000, Infiniti was the first group from South Carolina to win a World Championship title. He also served as the Co-Director for The Cast Winterguard, 2017 WGI Independent A Silver Medalist.

Mr Mooney was also responsible for building an award-winning color guard at Atlanta CV Drum Corps, which won the DCA High Color Guard Award at the 2017 DCA World Championships. He also serves as the Color Guard Director for TCU Horned Frog Band.

Mr. Mooney calls Cleburne Texas home where he resides with his husband Carlos.