

Florida ACDA Fall Conference Huge Success

By R. Wayne Bailey – Florida ACDA President

November 1-3rd, 2007, members of the Florida ACDA gathered for the annual Fall ACDA Conference at Seminole Community College in Lake Mary, Florida. This year our theme was “Teaching, Worshiping, and Performing with Purpose and Passion”.

In a day where our daily schedules are literally crammed with extraneous responsibilities that sometimes drain us to our very core of being, it was the goal of this conference to energize and inspire those in attendance. It was our hope that after this weekend together, we would go back home with our “batteries” literally charged with motivation by what we had experienced during the conference. Over one hundred fifty Florida ACDA members and hundreds of students, parents, and chaperones responded favorably to our guest speakers, the music covered in our reading sessions, our guest performing choirs, clinicians, and our Honor Choirs. Judging from the comments made by many of those in attendance, it was the consensus that we met and perhaps even exceeded our goals.

I would like to thank the Florida ACDA Board. This board is the most amazing group of professionals with whom I have ever worked. It is this “team” that helped make the success possible this year with respect to pre-activity planning and on-site implementation. I would like to personally thank them for their passion, their expertise and their dedication to ACDA. Members of the Florida ACDA Board are as follows: Larry Sledge; Kevin Fenton; Judy Arthur; Tina Gill; Scott Leaman; Patricia Fleitas; Andrew Minear; Janet Edewaard; Cherry Garasi; Lynne Gackle; Dianna Campbell; Jeffrey Redding; Jason Locker; Darren Dailey; John Sinclair; Cara Tasher.

Purpose and Passion

Thursday - Teach With Purpose And Passion – Peter Boonshaft – Hofstra University
Friday - Worship With Purpose And Passion – Bob Burroughs – Composer and Lecturer
Saturday - Perform With Purpose And Passion – Judy Bowers – Florida State University

Reading Sessions

Kevin Fenton – High School/College Music
Connie Drosakis – Junior High/Middle School Music
Cherry Garasi – Church Choral Music
Darren Dailey – Treble Music
Jeffrey Redding – Multicultural Music

Guest Choirs

Olympia High School Concert Chorus; Daniel Jackson, director
Douglas Anderson Chorale Women; Jeffrey Clayton, director
Lincoln High School Men’s Chorale; Scott Leaman, director
Freedom High School Concert Choir; Antwoin Holman, director
Chancel Choir, Canticum Novum and Sing and Rejoice; Rebecca Bedell, director
Richard Zielinski, Singers; Richard Zielinski, director

Honor Choirs

Intercollegiate Honor Choir – Kenneth Fulton, clinician
Women’s Intercollegiate Choir – Jessica Napoles, clinician
Male Honor Choir – Vincent Oakes, clinician
High School Honor Choir – Joe Miller, clinician

Wayne Hugaboom Award Goes To Rodney Eichenberger

Rodney Eichenberger from Florida State University was awarded the Wayne Hugaboom Award at the 2007 Fall ACDA Conference for his years of outstanding service. Known and respected nationally and internationally as a devoted and innovative music educator, he has also been a lifelong supporter of ACDA. Congratulations and thank you to Rodney Eichenberger for all he has done for music education.

Florida ACDA Winter Luncheon,

January 11th, 2008, the Florida ACDA held their annual Winter Luncheon at the annual In-Service Clinic-Conference sponsored by the Florida Music Educator’s Association in Tampa, Florida. One hundred six ACDA members enjoyed a buffet luncheon and were treated to a performance by the University of North Florida Chamber Singers conducted by Dr. Cara Tasher. Those in attendance were also given an opportunity to share in an up-date of several ACDA opportunities as well as being challenged to attend the upcoming Southern Division Convention. Tucker Biddlecombe was also recognized and congratulated for being invited to perform at Southern Division with his women’s choir, Bella Chantique.

Florida ACDA, under the Leadership of Membership R& S Chair, Scott Leaman, took the opportunity that weekend to maintain a membership booth at the In-Service Conference. We were pleased to welcome at least 12 new ACDA members into our fold. It was a very successful weekend.

This Year... a year of possibilities.

This year the Florida ACDA will continue our journey toward improving our outreach. We plan on giving new emphasis to the following areas: more attention devoted to enhanced utilization of our web site; an expanded emphasis toward enlarging our membership base among teachers, music directors and especially with college students; an increased emphasis toward expanding college ACDA chapters; as well as other soon to be determined goals which will be a natural outgrowth of our spring board meeting. The Florida ACDA is healthy and vibrant and continues to be a “meeting place” for continued professional growth in our state.