

Tennessee – American Choral Directors Association
2010 STATE CHORAL FESTIVAL JUDGES



Gayle B. Smith

Gayle Smith received the Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree from Samford University and the Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from Auburn University. Mrs. Smith taught music education in the public schools of Florida, Colorado and Alabama for 29 years having taught all levels, K – 12th grade. She retired from her position of Choral Director at Auburn Junior High School in 2006. She is the founding Music Director of the East Alabama Children's Choir as well as the Choral Director at Chattahoochee Valley Community College in Phenix City, Alabama. Mrs. Smith is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association. She is a past Alabama State President of the organization.

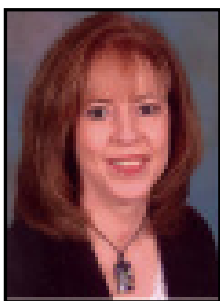


Dr. Thomas R. Smith

Dr. Thomas R. Smith, Professor Emeritus of Music at Auburn University, retired as Chair of the Department of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Auburn University in 2006. After receiving the Bachelor of Music from Samford University, the Master of Arts in Music Theory from the University of Iowa, and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting and Literature from the University of Colorado; Dr. Smith came to Auburn University in 1972, where he taught choral music-related courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In 2000, he became Chair of the Department of Music, a position that he held until his retirement.

Dr. Smith also founded and conducted of the Auburn University Singers and also conducted the Concert Choir. He conducted two concerts in Carnegie Hall in New York City and has conducted nine European concert tours with the Auburn University Concert Choir and University Singers. Under his direction, the Auburn University Singers and Concert Choir have performed at four Southern Division Conventions of the American Choral Directors Association. In 2005, the Auburn University Singers performed for the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Los Angeles.

In 1998, Dr. Smith received the Frances P. Moss Choral Directors Award from the Alabama Vocal Association and was recently presented the Paul Stewart Service Award in recognition of his work in the Music Ministry. In 2008, Dr. Smith was inducted into the inaugural class of the Alabama Music Educators Association Hall of Fame. As an active member of the American Choral Directors Association, Dr. Smith served as Southern Division president and has served as Program Chair for three divisional and four national conventions for the organization. At the Southern Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Louisville, Dr. Smith was honored by his colleagues as recipient of the 2008 American Choral Directors Association Award of Excellence. Dr. Smith continues to serve as Minister of Music at Providence Baptist Church in Opelika, a position that he has held for the past 34 years.



Donna McCommon

Donna McCommon is currently Chairman of the Fine Arts Department for Pearl Public Schools and Director of Choral Activities at Pearl High School. Mrs. McCommon has taught for more than 30 years, 23 of which have included junior and senior high choirs and ensembles. She is teaching her 29th year at Pearl High School. Prior to Pearl, she was Choral Director at Jackson Academy in Jackson, Mississippi and Aberdeen Junior and Senior High Schools in Aberdeen, MS.

She is a member of Music Educators National Conference, Mississippi Music Educators Association (MMEA) and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). She has served as a MMEA Board Member, Chairman of "State Music in our Schools", District Chairman, District Treasurer, State Secretary, State Chairman Elect, State Chairman and Choral Camp Treasurer. She has served as ACDA Southern Division High School Chair, Mississippi ACDA Treasurer, High School Chair and All State Chair. She has organized and coordinated the Mississippi ACDA All State Honor Choir since its inception more than 20 years ago. She currently serves and treasurer of the Southern Division of ACDA which encompasses 11 states. In 1998, she was awarded the "Ernestine Ferrell Award for Choral Excellence" by Mississippi ACDA. She has served as President for Mississippi ACDA. She is also a member of National Federation Interscholastic Music Association (NFIMA). NFIMA awarded Mrs. McCommon the "Outstanding Music Educator for Mississippi" award in 1999 and the "Section Three Outstanding Music Educator" award for 2000.

Mrs. McCommon has been a clinician for both junior and senior high choirs. She has served as an adjudicator in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and Georgia. She has performed with the Jackson Choral Society, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, Mississippi Opera Chorus, Jackson's New Stage Theatre and as a soloist in the Jackson Metro area.

Mrs. McCommon was selected as the 1990 Teacher of the Year for Pearl High Schools and Pearl Public Schools. She has been named among Who's Who of American Young Women, and is a 2005 National Board Certified Teacher. She holds the Bachelor of Music Education and Masters of Music Education from Mississippi College in Clinton, MS.