



**From the Fine Arts Office**

**Sam Harris,**

**Director of Fine Arts**

I am truly overwhelmed when thinking back on the tremendous things that we have done together since I left the choir room at North Shore HS seven years ago and moved to the administration building. We have increased enrollment in Fine Arts courses, added art teachers to most of our elementary campuses, written, developed and vertically aligned our curriculum as well as implemented district assessments of the curriculum, increased supplemental pay for staff, increased and centralized secondary Fine Arts funding, begun a program of sending staff members to regional and national Fine Arts conferences, conducted a Fine Arts Program Review and used the data and recommendations from that Program Review in our first Fine Arts Visioning Summit to set goals and priorities for the future.

2006-2007 will be a very challenging year but another one with lots of promise. I hope you are excited by the addition of Mickey Winingar, our new Coordinator of


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**Lazaro Estrada**

*“Student Spotlight”*

Lazaro Estrada of GPHS, pictured above with his choir director, Daniel Ponce, was named as an *Outstanding Performer* at the UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest for the Second year in a row. Lazaro, a tenor, will be attending the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY as a scholarship student studying voice.

Each year, UIL honors less than one percent of the twenty thousand students that advance to the State Solo & Ensemble Contest by naming them as an *Outstanding Performer*. Lazaro joins five other GPISD students who have been named as *Outstanding Performers*: Rod Mathews of NSSH on tuba in 1984 & 1986, Joe Lenzo of NSSH on percussion in 1987, Doug Wright of NSSH on saxophone in 1988 & 1990, Elizabeth Wiles of NSSH, soprano in 1989 & 1991 and Sunny Simmons of NSSH, soprano in 1991. 

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Secondary Fine Arts. Receiving his Bachelors from Morehead State University and Masters from the University of Nebraska, Mickey brings with him fifteen years teaching experience at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels. He will continue his focus on technology as well as working in curriculum and instruction. When I introduced him at TBA and TCDA this summer the question was always raised, "What happened to Debbie!?!?" No need to fear, Debbie is still the woman in charge here at the Fine Arts Office and like Mickey and I, always ready to assist you however we can.

I wish you all the best as we begin another year dedicating our lives to the children of GPISD working together to ensure that they reach their final *Destination Graduation*. ☞

**Mickey Winger,**  
**Coordinator for Secondary Fine Arts**

I am excited to begin the 2006-2007 school year as the Secondary Coordinator for Fine Arts. Since arriving at Galena Park High School as assistant band director three years ago, I was warmly welcomed into the GPISD Fine Arts family. The commitment that our department dedicates to the education of our students, the support of our colleagues, and enrichment of the community is nothing short of phenomenal. Galena Park ISD is a special place that is a reflection of each member of the Fine Arts Department and all that you do every day.

As my role in the district shifts from band director to coordinator, my goal will be to assist every program in any way possible to ensure our students receive a valuable education and meaningful experience in the Arts. I encourage you to contact me any time you feel that I may be of service.

It is through our combined teamwork and sincere efforts that we can best enhance the lives of young people in Galena Park through the study of the Arts. I look forward to sharing a year filled with remarkable achievements and accomplishments. Best wishes for an exceptional year. ☞

Erin Huston, NSMS choir director, pictured with three of her students (Samuel, Oliver, and Esau Hernandez)



## Erin Huston

*"Teacher Spotlight"*

It truly was a "clean sweep" for Erin Huston and the North Shore Middle School choirs during last spring's UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. All three groups Erin conducted received the coveted Sweepstakes Trophy, a feat no other choir or band director in GPISD accomplished. Over the past six years, Erin has directed nine groups that were awarded a UIL Sweepstakes. This past year the Varsity Treble, Varsity Tenor-Bass, and Varsity Mixed Choirs all earned a Sweepstakes. Each of these choirs also earned Superior ratings at the Deer Park HS Festival. The Mixed Choir was named "Best in Class".

Erin Huston, beginning her seventh year as head director of the NSMS Choir, credits her success to the wonderful support of Rebecca O'Donovan, assistant director of NSMS Choirs, Enrique Collazo, director of NSHS choirs, Sam Harris, Program Director of Fine Arts, and Ann Musselman, former NSMS assistant choir director who serves as clinician and accompanist. A graduate of Bowie High School in Austin, Erin graduated Summa Cum Laude from Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University) in 2000. In 2006 Erin was named to *Who's Who Among American Teachers*. Erin is also the co-director of the Hill Country Choral Camp at Texas State University and Associate of Youth and Young Adults at Trinity Episcopal Church, Houston. When asked why she joined the GPISD family Erin replied, "I had known Enrique and Sam through my work at the

*Teacher Spotlight: continued from page 2*

Hill Country Choral Camp. This is how I heard about the opening at NSMS. Honestly, at the age of 21...I came for the money but I stayed because I fell in love with the kids."

Students in the NSMS choir program are very accomplished in their solo competitions as well. Each year, NSMS wins more medals in the GPISD Solo and Ensemble contest than any other band or choir program in the district. The NSMS Choirs consistently place large numbers of students in the TMEA All-Region Choir, nineteen in 2005 and five of Erin's former students have gone on to earn places in the TMEA All-State Choir. In July of 2003, seven NSMS Choir students were selected to perform with the Texas Choral Directors Association Junior High Honor Choir making her North Shore Middle School program number two in the state of Texas!

In her free time you might find Ms. Huston cooking a meal and enjoying it with friends or biking in the MS150 to Austin. Erin spends most of her off time at Trinity Episcopal Church where she reads Evening Prayer and passes out sack lunches on Mondays, helps lead Young Adult Bible Study on Tuesday and teaches Confirmation class on Sunday mornings. Erin also loves to read so she really enjoyed the opportunity to share her love of books with her Varsity Treble and Varsity Mixed Choirs as NSMS initiated Project Read this past fall.

Erin says, "The wonderful thing about teaching choir to kids in GPISD is all of the additional bits I am able to share with and learn from my students about life. We've made some lasting connections that will go with all of us beyond the memory of trophies. What a lesson in how much we are the same, in spite of ~ or perhaps because of ~ our diversity." ☞

Awards earned by the North Shore Middle School Choirs in 2005-2006 under the direction of Erin



## **Daniel Quiroga Marches in DCI World Championships**

*Galena Park Student Marches with Blue Knights*

Daniel Quiroga will march in the 2006 Drum Corps International (DCI) World Championships in Madison, Wisconsin as a member of the Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps. Daniel is a junior at Galena Park High School and a student of band directors Mr. Mark Richard and Mr. Albert Tate.

Modern drum and bugle corps are independent youth organizations made up of up to 135 14- to 22-year-olds who spend the summer rehearsing and performing an 11-minute show in which they play a variety of horns or percussion instruments, or spin flags, rifles, sabers, and other implements, all while marching on a football field.

Daniel is currently in his second season as a member of the Blue Knights which is based in Denver, CO. Membership in the corps is by audition and open to those twenty-two years or younger. The Blue Knights began their 2006 tour in Mesa, AZ on June 21 and will complete their fourteen state summer tour at the World Championships in Madison, WI on August 12.


In addition to Daniel's participation in the drum and bugle corps organization, he plays baritone in the GPHS band, serves as an officer, has been selected to the TMEA All-State Band, Area Band, and Region Band.

The 2006 DCI Division I Quarterfinals will be broadcast live via satellite on Thursday, August 10 at the Houston Marq\*e Stadium 23 (I-10) and Willowbrook 24 (Tomball FRWY) at 6:00 PM. This live showing will feature the Denver Blue Knights as well as sixteen additional corps competing for the title of 2006 DCI World Champion. ☞

## **Bryan Clements**

*"Friend of Fine Arts"*

GPISD Executive Director of Security and Technology Support, Lt. Bryan Clements, is truly a friend of Fine Arts! Bryan, a graduate of Galena Park HS and life-long resident of GPISD, was instrumental in the

recovery of music department equipment & instruments after their theft from the NSHS 9-10 Campus this summer. When others may have given up, Lt. Clements worked tirelessly to recover the instruments and computers so that they would be in the hands of North Shore HS students the first day of school. His deep commitment to recovering these instruments may have something to do with the fact that he was a low brass player in the GPHS "Band of Gold" as well as during his college career at San Jacinto College and the University of Houston. In our first issue we salute Lt. Bryan Clements as our first, GPISD Friend of Fine Arts! 



Lt. Bryan Clements shown with recovered instruments and computers.

## New Fine Arts Staff

Here are the new faces in the Fine Arts Department as well as some familiar veteran faces that have transferred to different positions/campuses for the 2006-07 school year.

Elaine Black, Music Specialist (NSE)  
Jason Bowie, Assistant Band Director (GPMS)  
Isaias Degollado, Choir Director (Cobb)  
Jeanne Delleney, Art (Cobb)  
Megumi Eliason, Music Specialist (GVE)  
Michael Frieden, Theater (NSHS)  
Ryan Heitzman, Theater (NSSH/NSHS)  
Jennifer Hunter, Theater (NSSH)  
Christina Martinez, Assistant Band (NSSH)  
Ann McNeill, Art Teacher (NSHS)  
Mickey Tate, Assistant Band Director (GPHS)  
Adriana Tikel, Art Teacher (WAMS)  
Rachelle Vasquez, Art Teacher (NSMS)

## Fine Arts Calendar

### "Upcoming Events"

August 5	Fall TMEA/UII Meetings (music)
August 22	Student Organization Sponsors Meeting
September 1	NSSH vs. Aldine (@ stadium)
September 8	GPHS vs. Channelview (@ stadium)
September 15	NSSH vs. The Woodlands (@ stadium)
September 26	Region XIX Jazz Band Auditions
September 29	NSSH vs. Deer Park (@ stadium)
October 6	GPHS vs. Huffman (@ stadium)
October 7	GPISD Marching Band Festival (@ stadium)
October 7	M.S. Region XIX Orchestra Auditions
October 13	GPHS vs. Forest Brook (@ stadium)
October 14	Region XIX H.S. Choir Auditions
October 20	NSSH vs. Pasadena (@ stadium)
October 21	Region XIX M.S. Choir Auditions
	UIL Region XIX Marching (@ stadium)
October 23	Culture Shapers Visual Arts Entries Due
October 27	GPHS vs. New Caney (@ stadium)
October 28	UIL Area F Marching (@ stadium)
November 3	NSSH vs. Pasadena Memorial (@ stadium)
	Region XIX M.S. Choir Clinic/Concert
November 6-7	UIL State Marching (San Antonio)
November 10	GPHS vs. Barbers Hill (@ stadium)
November 11	Region XIX M.S. Band Clinic/Concert
November 15-20	TAEA State Conference (Fort Worth)

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