

Gregory Ball

Class of 1981



“My experiences in the music program at Wooster High School were the foundation to my musical career,” says Ball. “The literature, performance level, rehearsal techniques and expectations were all of such high caliber that I felt very well prepared for my university training.” He singles out teachers such as Pat Grutzmacher, James Nunley, Jim Byo, and especially Robert Bayless as having a strong influence on him.

Greg attended and received his Bachelors Degree at Youngstown State University. While there he played with the wind ensemble, jazz orchestra and quartet and also served in the orchestra pit for many musical productions.

He then went to North Texas State University to receive his Masters Degree in Woodwind Performance. His first year with the top wind ensemble he played oboe, his second year saxophone, and his third year bass clarinet. He served as a Graduate Assistant and taught private saxophone and woodwind methods. Ball performed with the orchestra at the Texas Music Education Association conferences under the baton of guest conductors William Revelli, Frederick Fennell and Mark Hinsley.

After graduation his first teaching position was for two years teaching music at Howard Payne University in Texas. This was a brief period prior to his current teaching position at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas where he has been the last fifteen years serving as the Assistant Professor of Woodwinds and Jazz.

His student jazz band is renowned in the area and has been asked to perform in London and Ireland. In 2001 the band was selected to perform at the prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

He toured with the Glenn Miller Orchestra as well as the Maynard Ferguson Band which included a tour in Japan. Greg has also played with Billy Jo Royal, Rich Little, Carol Channing, The Dallas Jazz Orchestra, The Collection Jazz Orchestra and recorded a Christmas album with the Texas Saxophone Quartet. He has also been the featured guest artist twice with the College of Wooster Jazz Band.

“The arts are where humans can express their deepest human emotions. The arts are not needed to live, but I can’t imagine a life without them.”