

Terry Gardner

Class of 1965

“My musical career began back at the age of seven, when my father took me to Wooster Music Store to see Wally Franks,” recalls Terry Gardner. “Mr. Franks asked me what instrument I was interested in, and I responded, ‘the trombone.’ He brought out the horn, put it together, instructed me on how to play a B flat scale, and I walked out of the store smiling ear to ear.”

Gardner said when he attended Wooster High School, his band director, Bill Shepherd pointed the way for him and what he would be able to achieve.



He enlisted in the U.S. Army music program in 1967 and studied at the School of Music in Norfolk, Virginia, graduating 3rd in his class. He went on to perform in service bands as well as other professional groups including the Buddy Rich Big Band. Degrees in Communication and Secondary Education from Ashland College led him to teaching opportunities at the school. As a result Gardner performed with such groups as Woody Herman and Doc Severenson and The Tonight Show Band.

Community member Joan Goodright nominated Gardner to receive this honor, stating, “He’s done so much for our community in the field of music.”

According to Gardner, some of his most distinguished achievements include: being the first winner of the John Phillips Souza Band Award in 1965, playing with various professional bands, starting his own band, Good Company, which has played all over Ohio for forty-five years, his daughter singing in his band, and being the voice of the Wooster High School Marching Band.

“As a musician and businessman, he attends to all the details and makes sure everyone knows what their role is, better than anyone I know. His family is also very important to him; his wife and daughter are always involved,” Wooster High School Music Dept. member Dan Adams said.

— Emily Zimmermann, *student interviewer*

“Wooster High School is a tremendous place to start when considering pursuing a career in Fine Arts.”