Affectionately dubbed by many as the “Pen of Pageantry” after working on projects for Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International and Bands of America for decades, there is perhaps no one who has amassed a bigger portfolio of writings about the breadth of the modern-day competitive marching arts than Michael Boo.

Originally hired in 1989 as a DCI staff writer to put together the corps program synopses for the organization’s annual souvenir yearbooks, Boo’s byline has been a fixture across DCI’s print publications and website ever since, credited to a diverse array of media including feature articles, CD and DVD liner notes, live play-by-play event blogs, podcast and video commentary, and more.

With a passion for architecture, particularly Frank Lloyd Wright, Boo served as the executive corresponding secretary of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society since 1997. Boo served as a writer for the magazine “American Skating World” and in 1998 published an honors-winning book on the history of figure skating.

Growing up in Steger, Illinois, Boo participated with the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from 1975 to 1977. Pursuing undergraduate studies in music education at VanderCook College in Chicago and master’s degree from Northern Illinois University in music composition and theory.

In 1983 Boo composed the opening tune of the Cavaliers’ production, titled “Jade,” in honor of the group’s 35th anniversary. In recent years Boo has written numerous compositions as composer in residence with the Windiana Professional Concert Band and Confucius Institute of Valparaiso University in Northwest Indiana. That group has premiered and performed his works in China, Malta, Australia, New Zealand and Italy. A number of Boo’s compositions were added to the catalog of Carl Fischer Music. He’s also been seen in the catalogs of Ludwig Music Publishing, Alfred Music, TRN Music Publisher and Grand Mesa Music.

With longevity in the position of interviewing hundreds of DCI performers, staff, designers, and other personalities, Boo by default became one of the foremost experts on DCI history. He maintained a loyal following to recurring Boo-written features on DCI.org under the titles of Fanfare, Spotlight of the Week, and Recap Roundup, among many others. Drum Corps World newspaper publisher Steve Vickers ran a regular column written by Boo called A Bit of Boo. This proved especially helpful when DCI released its Legacy Collection video series which brought performances from the 1970s through the 1990s to DVD for the very first time.

“The value that he’s brought to our world will be forever remembered thanks to the abundant historical record that he’s left behind. The friendship that he brought to the lives of many will enable his spirit to live on as pleasant, cherished memories.”

After a recent cancer diagnosis, Boo passed away November 18, 2020 in his hometown of Chesterton, Indiana. He was 65.

ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL
2022
Michael Boo Memorial Scholarship
Information

ADMINISTRATION & CRITERIA

DCI will administrate the scholarship and has established the following guidelines:

1. The recipient must be enrolled full time in a college/university, or other nationally accredited public relations, marketing, writing, journalism or like degree program.
2. Essays and writing samples should be written keeping the “importance of the word” in mind.
3. The recipient must be an active performing member of a unit who will participate in the 2022 DCI Summer Tour, or other performance program with a DCI Participating Corps.
4. Each nominee must have their corps’ director sign off as an endorser.
5. Scholarship(s) granted will be paid by check written to his/her drum corps OR college/university/school. Scholarship money may be used by the member to pay current educational fees. Any unused scholarship monies, either from the student leaving the education establishment before completing his/her degree or upon the student completing and receiving his/her degree will be returned to DCI.
6. Scholarships granted will not be less than $1000.00 per recipient.
7. The scholarship will be granted for one year only, but recipients may re-apply the next year if he/she remains active with a corps and meets all the other requirements.
8. Selections will be made by a committee consisting of individuals representing various DCI PR, Content & Branding teams, whose decisions will be final.
9. The award will be announced during the 2022 Drum Corps International World Championships event alongside of other award recipients. Recipients will be notified prior to the announcement in order to gain acceptance of the award and its terms.
10. EMAIL application and additional materials to scholarships@dci.org with the subject line: Boo Scholarship. Applications must be received by July 1, 2022.
11. DO NOT MAIL ANY MATERIALS TO THE DCI OFFICE.
PERSONAL DATA

Name _____________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________

City, State, Zip ______________________________________

Phone ___________________________ Date of Birth ________________ Age ___________

Email _____________________________________________

Father’s Name _______________________________________ Occupation ______________________

Address (if different from above) ____________________________

City, State, Zip ______________________________________ Phone __________________________

Mother’s Name _______________________________________ Occupation ______________________

Address (if different from above) ____________________________

City, State, Zip ______________________________________ Phone __________________________

Number of siblings __________________________ Are any involved in pageantry? _______________

Age(s) of siblings __________________________ Any siblings in college, if so, how many? __________

Where do your siblings attend college? (if applicable) ________________

Are you employed? ______________ If yes, where and length of time with that employer? ______________

EDUCATION

High School ________________________________________

City & State ________________________________________ Year in school ________________

College/School ______________________________________

City & State ________________________________________ Major/Program ________________

DCI CORPS INFORMATION

With what corps were you contracted for 2022? ______________

Circle one: __Brass  __Color Guard  __Percussion  How long have you been a member of that unit? ____________

With what other groups have you performed? ________________________________

ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL
ESSAY QUESTIONS (expand box for additional answer development):

Academic progress: this includes grade point average, course load, extenuating circumstances and challenges overcome in your academic endeavors.

Extracurricular activities: including all scholastic, recreational and civic activities including pageantry. Identify YOUR accomplishments and responsibilities for these activities (for instance, outside of the ensembles in which you participate we do not need a list of the corps accomplishments/placements, but also those roles that you have filled within community outreach work, other scholastic honors/teams/works, etc.).

Future plans: your plans and goals for post education, including how you feel that you may be able to advance the DCI brand of promoting the activity and marching arts as a positive experience. (Where do you see yourself in five years? Ten?)

Why do you want or need this scholarship?

I certify that the above and enclosed information is complete and true.

Applicant ________________________________ Date ________________________________

I have reviewed the above application and recommend this member for the Marching Music Health, Wellness & Safety Scholarship.

Corps Director Signature (can attach an email from director) __________________________________________ Date ________________________________

PLEASE ENCLOSE:
High School transcripts (including explanation of system, i.e. 4 point, etc.)
College/Program transcripts (if applicable) or SAT/ACT scores (if just entering college program)
Three writing samples, of which at least one (1) is related to the marching arts
Two letters of recommendation from individuals other than Corps Director
Two photos (one headshot)