

# Women and Minorities in the Band Conducting Profession: Past, Present, and Future

Linda Hartley and Deborah Sheldon  
The Midwest Clinic Band and Orchestra  
International Conference  
December 18, 2008, 10:00 am  
Chicago Congress Plaza Gold Room

# The Conductor and His Score

ELIZABETH A. H. GREEN  
NICOLA MALKO

# Marin Alsop

## Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Conductor

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

## Band director beats 'What's My Line?'

**By MICHAEL SHELDON**  
Special to The Beacon

**SIRQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP**—Doh Capparella could stand the point of "What's My Line?"

The 32-year-old, and a graduate of Marshall Hall State College, being awarded in the art of education, the director of the township's band program, she plays the piano and clarinet. As a matter of record, she plays several musical instruments. But all of this is over when the excitement begins and the questions start.

She talked about the focus of music education and how things such as night reading have become increasingly important. Delating in the weekly episodes that add in between verbal directions to students or stopping occasionally to answer a question for help with the score, she said she has philosophy of music education that she believes in.

"As many musicians, this (the students) don't have enough exposure to different styles. Music is not just to play notes but to play music. It's how they interpret that music and listen to one another."

Outside of her classroom office, the state of brass instruments and change of drums signaled their readiness to continue her work but she passes for one thing.

"It's like to get these kids in a classroom, in small groups, more a work, every week so I could find each other in a concrete base. There's a lot of hands, but there's a lot of work."

And she'll be young and named Doh, who suffered from low self-esteem. It's a teaching story of an extra effort by a teacher who said, "As for my marching band, I'm not a marching band director. I'm a band director."

Doh Capparella took the time to change it. She said, "I'm not a marching band director. I'm a band director."

She said, "I'm not a marching band director. I'm a band director."

## Hartley 1st woman to lead UD band

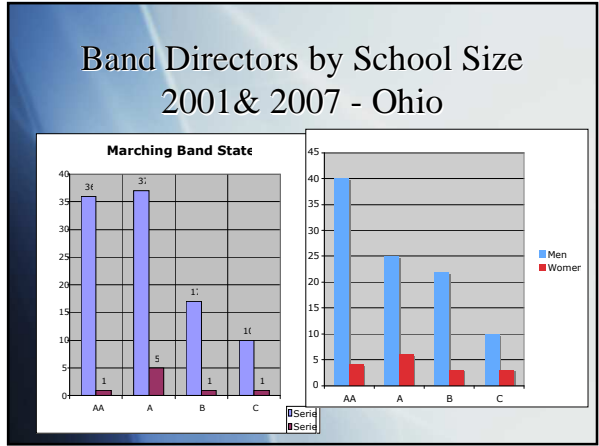
**By Mickey Davis**  
Special to The Beacon

Linda Hartley never heard the Dayton Valley March before she came to the University of Dayton. She heard it in a rehearsal.

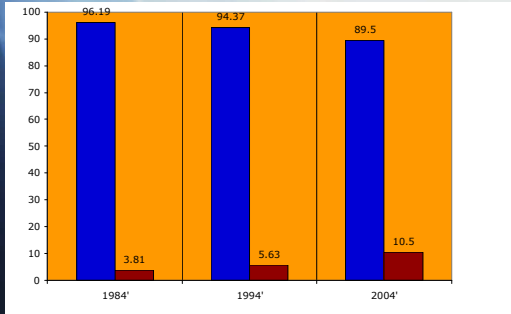
Hartley, UD's first female band director, will lead the 100-member band when it performs at halftime of UD's 3 p.m. game with Drake.

A native of Ravenna, Hartley, 35, earned a directed musical education at Virginia Tech University before coming to UD in 1996.

"To show her enthusiasm for the band program, Hartley invited high school bands from Belmont."



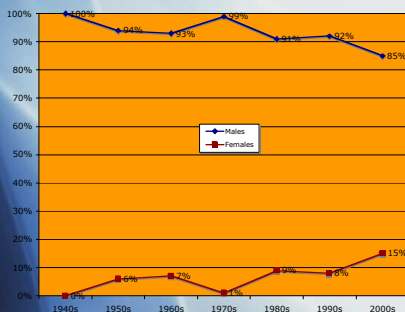
### CMS Stats: College Band Directors Over Three Decades



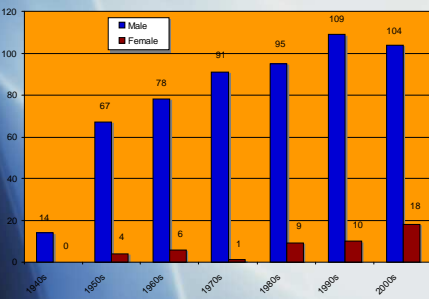
### Female Conductors Appear at Midwest

|       |                              |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 1950s | 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959       |
| 1960s | 1960, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1968 |
| 1970s | 1971                         |
| 1980s | 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1989 |
| 1990s | 1990, 1992, 1993, 1996-1998  |
| 2000s | 2000-2007                    |

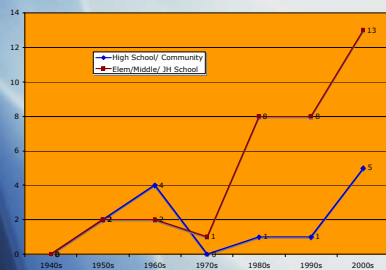
### Distribution of Male and Female Wind Band Conductors at Midwest



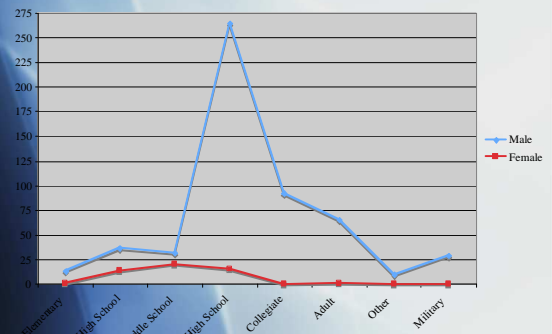
### Distribution of Male and Female Wind Band Conductors at Midwest



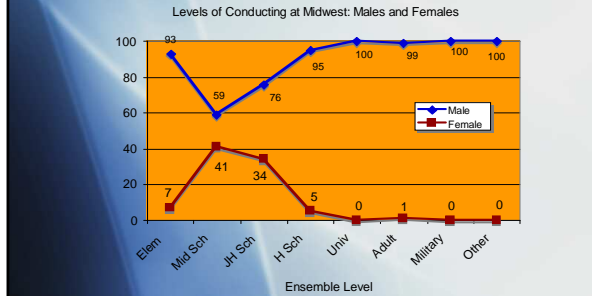
### Breakdown of Female Conductors at Midwest



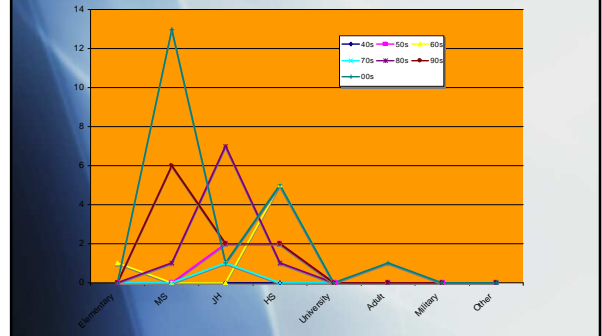
### Gender and Level at Midwest



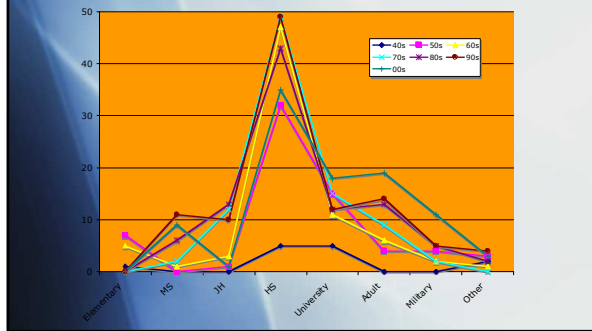
Distribution of Conducting Level at Midwest by Gender



Distribution of Females' Conducting Levels at Midwest - 1940s-2000s



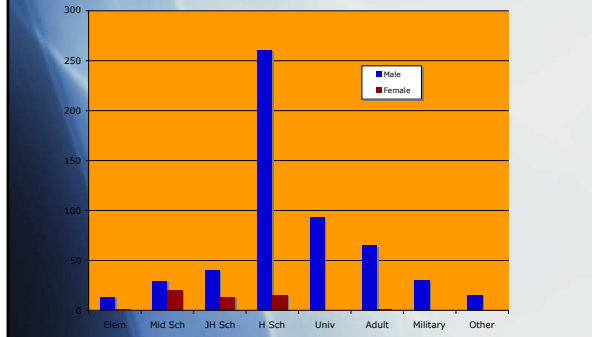
Distribution of Males' Conducting Levels at Midwest - 1940s-2000s



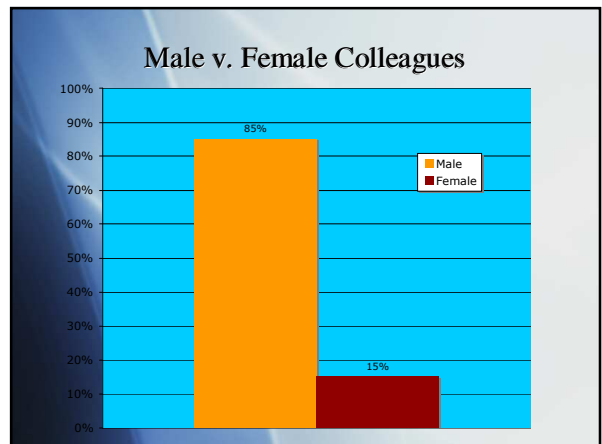
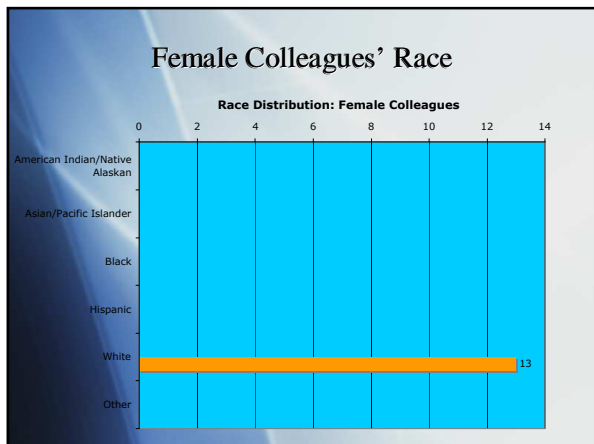
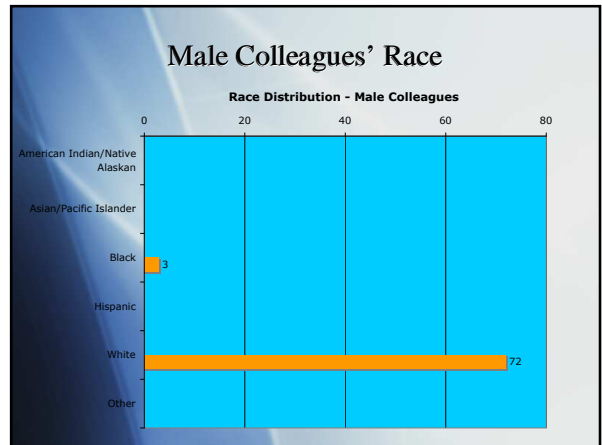
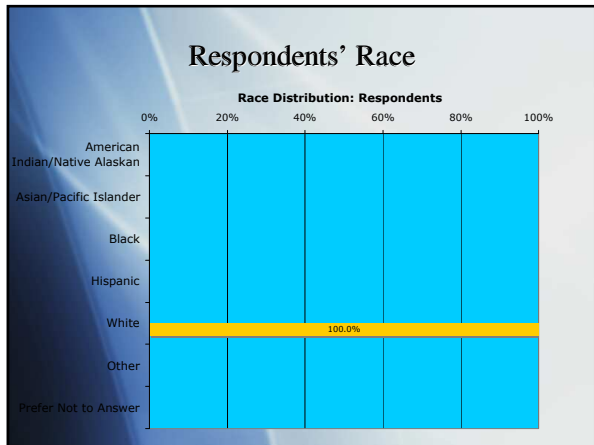
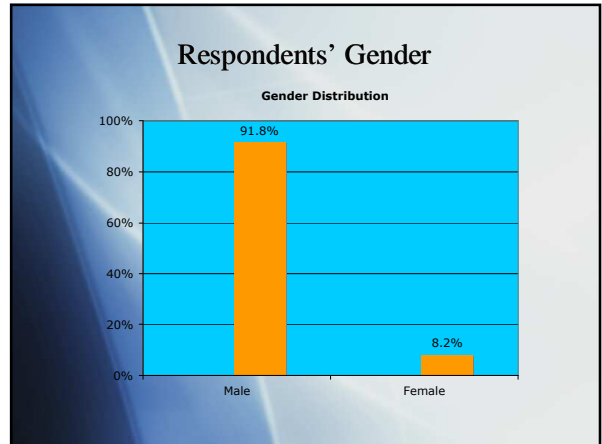
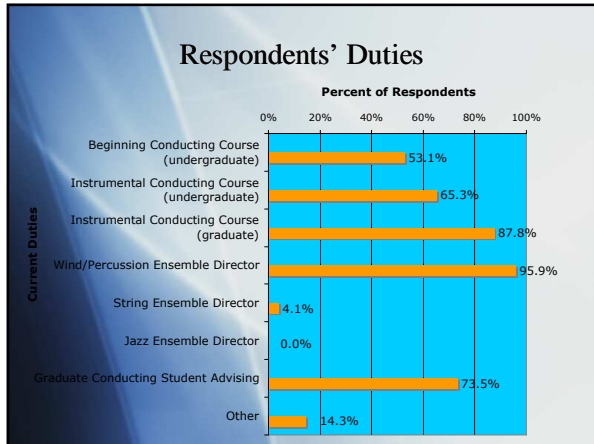
Instances of Females Conducting x Level

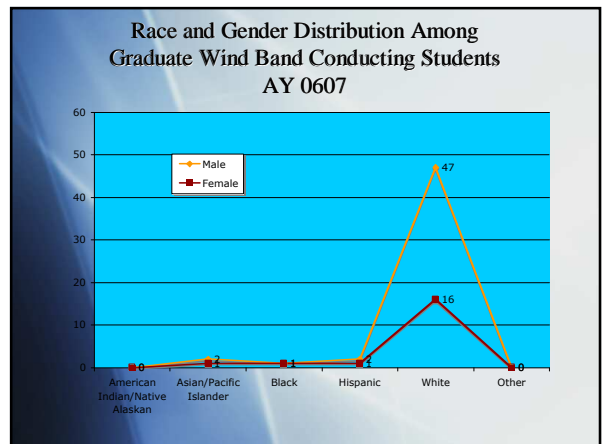
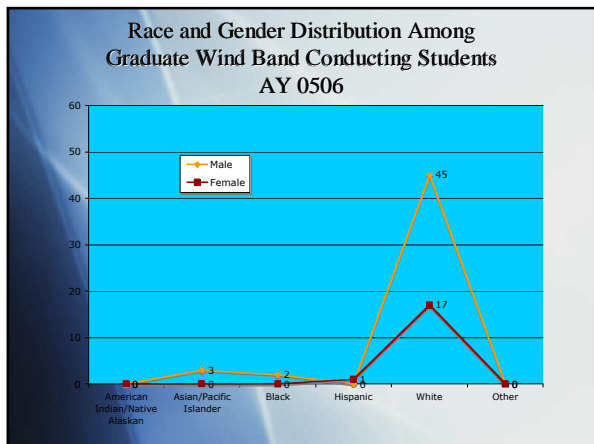
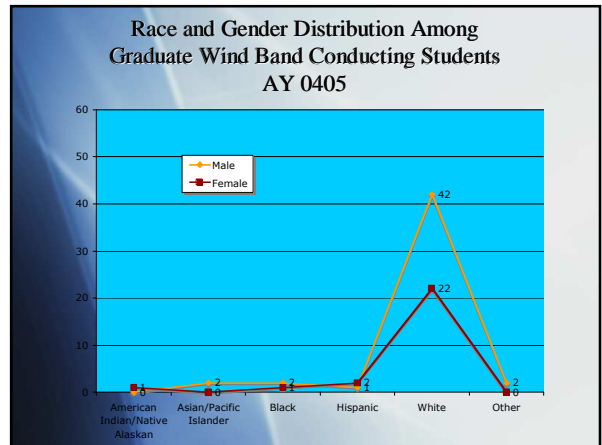
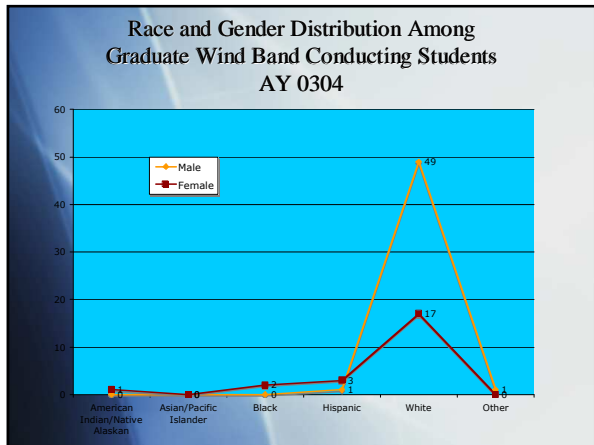
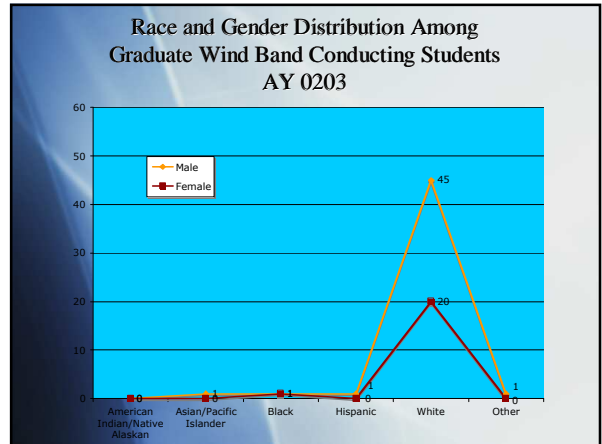
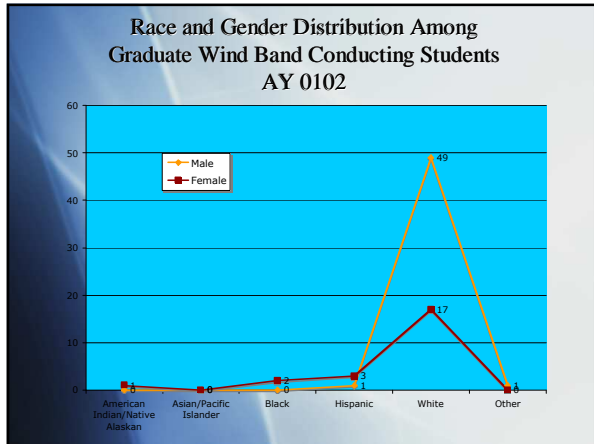


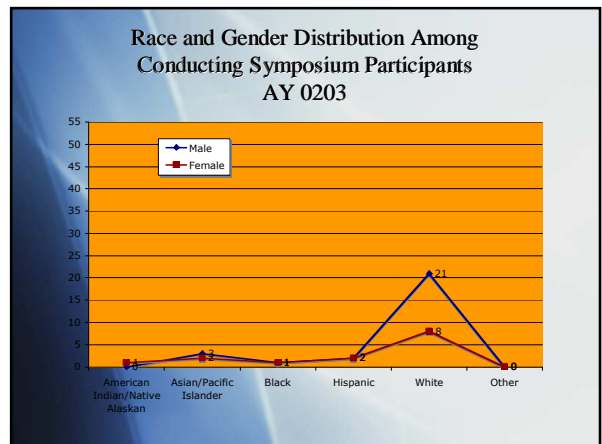
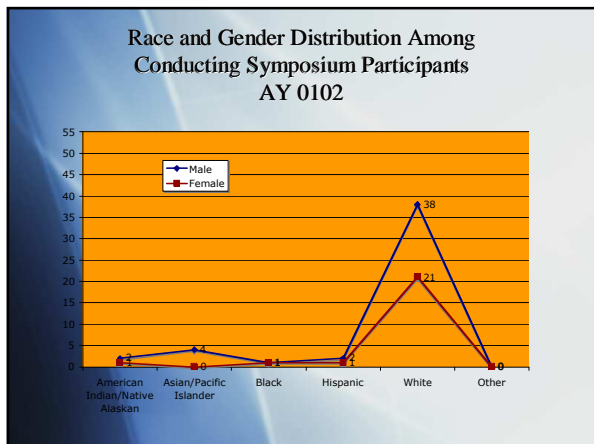
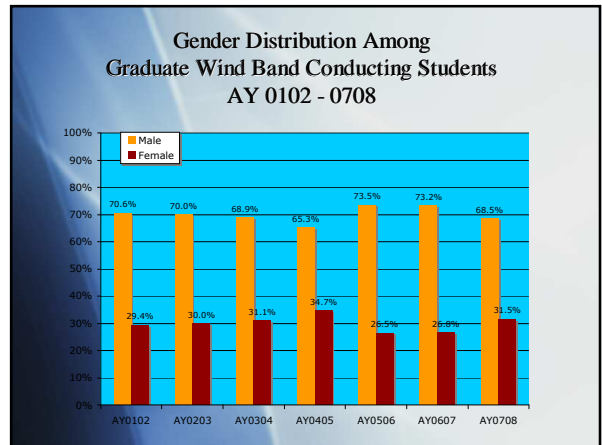
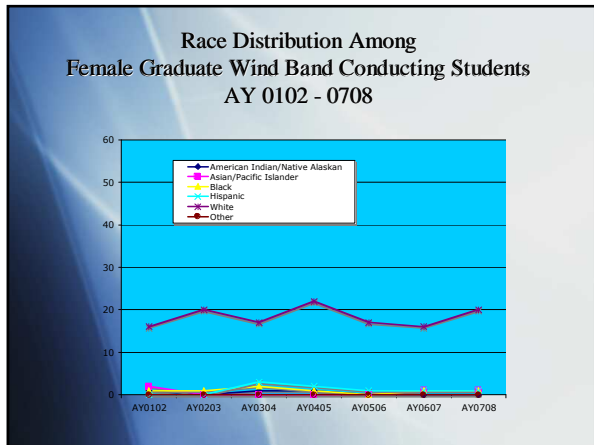
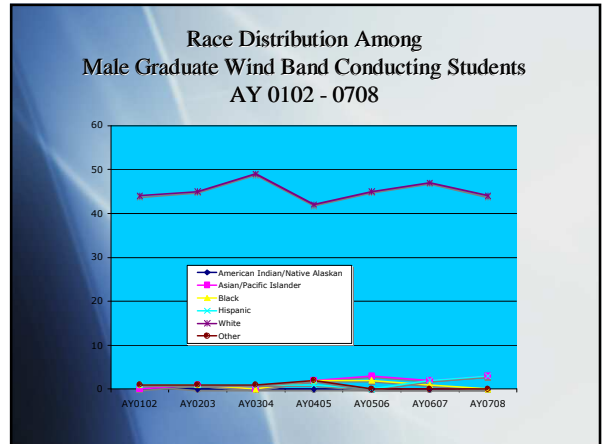
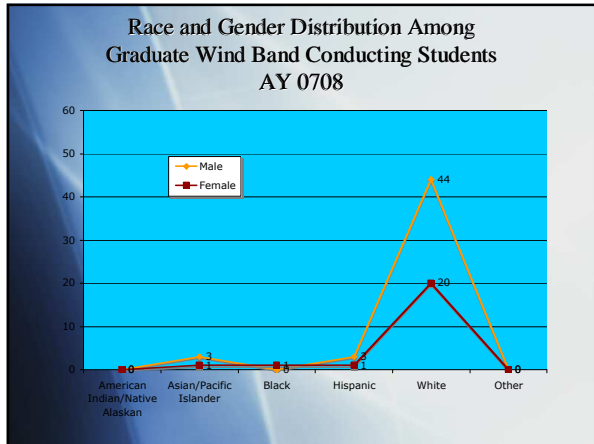
Distribution of Midwest Conducting Level Across Genders - 1940-2007

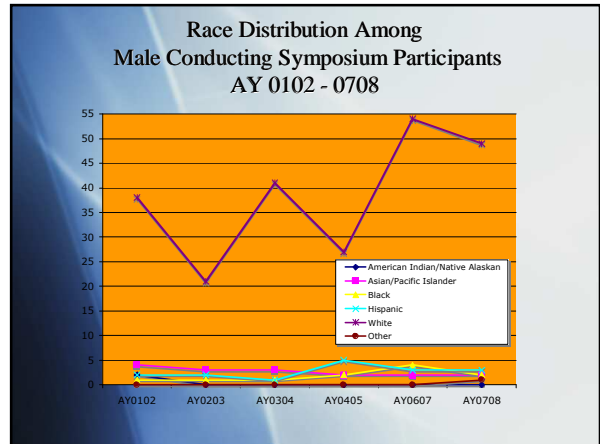
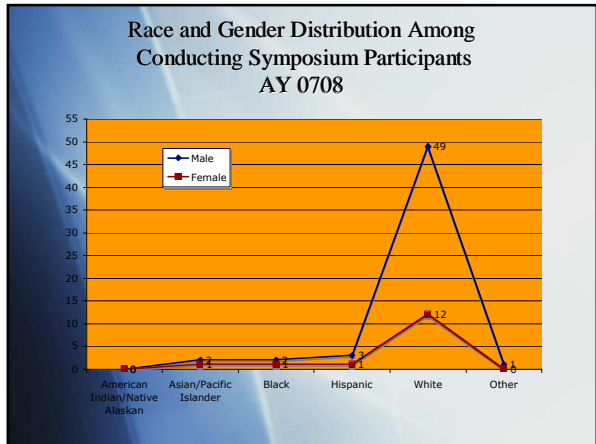
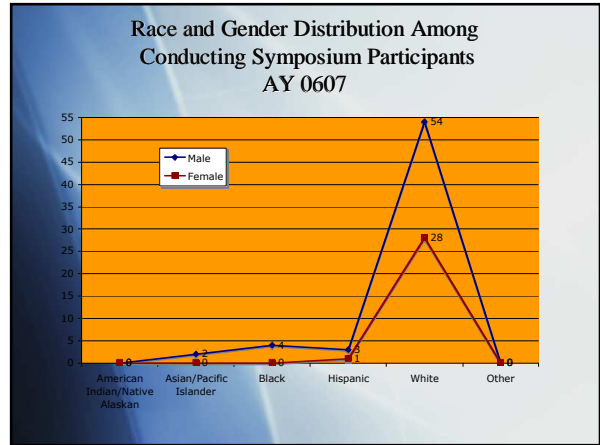
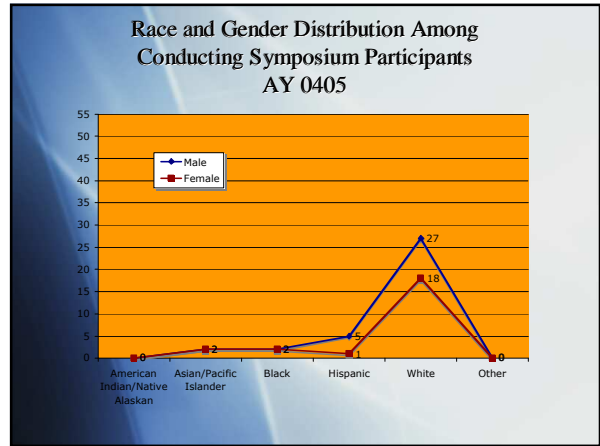
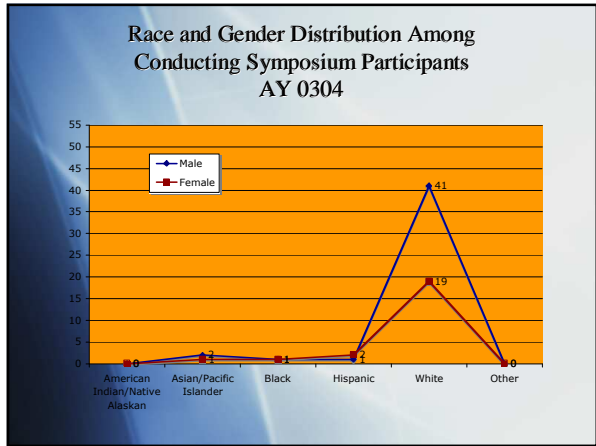


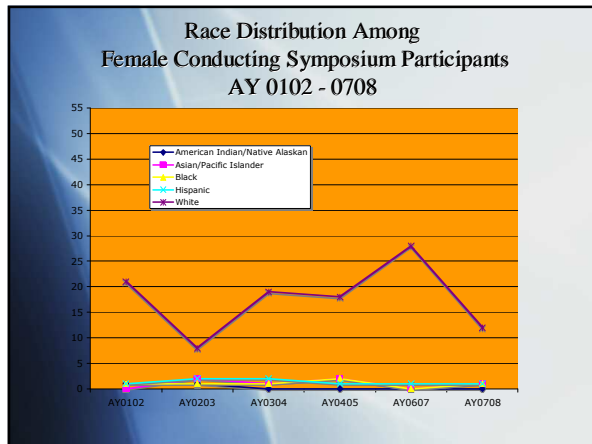
Current Research











### College Band Directors' Opinions - 1990s

- Significant differences in perception:
  - Women band directors are NOT discriminated against in higher education hiring practices:
    - Agree:
      - 20% Female
      - 60% Male
      - 20% Unsure
    - Women are encouraged to pursue a career in the field of band directing at the college level:
      - Agree:
        - 16% Female
        - 68% Male
        - 16% Unsure

### Betty Atterbury (*MEJ*, 1992)

- "Many people believe that females should not conduct bands. Females who wish to pursue careers as band directors not only have this perception to overcome, but they have, at the secondary or college level, few female role models to emulate." (p. 27)

### Current Organizations' Boards & Past Presidents

- ASBDA: 10 men, 1 woman
- CBDNA: 7 men
- CBDNA past presidents: 34 men
- NBA: 9 men, 2 women
- NBA past presidents: 20 men, 2 women
- WASBE: 15 men, 2 women
- WASBE past presidents: 13 men

### What has influenced this disparity?

- Military bands/tradition
- Instrument stereotypes
- Athletic band connection
- Large class sizes
- Lack of role models/mentorship
- Public perception

### Julia Eklund Koza (*JRME*, 1993 & 1994)

- A probable influence for gender-bias in school music programs could stem from gender-related references in music education journals. In an analysis focusing on gender references in the *Music Supervisor Journals* from 1914 through 1924, Koza found the *MSJ* frequently described career opportunities in music for males, the role of music education for boys, and boys' musical likes and dislikes.
- Similar findings in 1988 music-related middle school textbooks: females underrepresented, and stereotypes common.



## Progress

Beginning August 2008:  
College Band Directors National Association  
now asks its members to provide their  
gender and ethnicity (optional)

## Discussion Points

- What can we do to recruit women and minorities to the field of teaching instrumental music?
- How do dynamics in college/university settings affect career decisions of women and minority students?
- What is at the root of the continued white male domination in the field of band conducting?
- Should the traditional responsibilities of the high school band director change to accommodate more women?
- Do women & minority band directors need to demonstrate higher competency in order to attain more prominent positions?

## Future

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, we hope that *all* talented and capable students and veteran teachers will be welcomed and encouraged to participate and grow in a career that can be extremely rewarding.