

Musicians Association of Saint Louis

Local 2-197 American Federation of Musicians

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Jerry Bolen

Percussionist Jerry Bolen is the former Chairman of the Visual and Performing Arts Division at Southwestern Illinois College, formally known as Belleville Area College, Belleville, Illinois. He holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Performance and Music Education, a Master of Music Education, and a Master of Science in Education from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Mr. Bolen is Principal Percussionist with both the St. Louis Municipal Opera Orchestra and Fox Theatre Orchestra where he has played for such headliners as Liberace, Tony Bennett, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Sammy Davis, Jr., Aretha Franklin, The Moody Blues, and Count Basie. He has performed with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra, the Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chicago Civic Orchestra.

As an educator, Mr. Bolen has taught music at all grade levels from grade school to graduate school, and is in demand as an adjudicator, percussion soloist, clinician, festival coordinator and private percussion instructor. He serves as a member on the Music Articulation Panel of the Illinois Articulation Initiative and is Past President of the Association of Illinois Music School (AIMS). His article on utilization and organization of the festival percussion section was published in *Percussive Notes*, the official publication of the Percussive Arts Society. He is the author of *In The Groove*, an instruction book for beginning drum set students. In addition, he was selected as the Belleville Area College 1997 "Faculty Member of the Year" and was one of 35 faculty members honored by the Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA) at their June 1997 meeting in Chicago. He is a 1997 recipient of the Emerson Electric's *Excellence in Teaching Award* and has been nominated to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* for 1998.

Mr. Bolen retired from Southwestern Illinois College in July of 2004. He is an active member of the Percussive Arts Society, where is currently a member of the Education and College Pedagogy Committees, and the International Association of Jazz Educators. He is a life member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a national professional music fraternity.