

David “Da” S. Knowlton, Ed.D. – Pageantry Arts Designer, Educator, & Adjudicator



Dr. Da Knowlton has his roots in Tennessee pageantry arts. In high school, he was a member of the Briarcrest Band (Memphis, TN), under the direction of Terry L. McNatt and Ron S. Turner. At Memphis State University, he was a member of The Bengal Lancers Winter Guard (directed by Ken Giese, John Langham, and Minta Vandiver Rhodes), the University's indoor drumline (directed by Bart Dixon and Michael McCray), and the "Mighty Sound of the South" (directed by Dr. Sidney J. McKay and Dr. James "Marty" Courtney).

Over the past thirty-five years, Dr. Knowlton has worked in eight states as a clinician, consultant, instructor, choreographer, creative director, artist-in-residence, designer, and composer for middle schools, high schools, universities, dance companies, and drum and bugle corps. Favorite highlights include the following:

- Program Director, Horn Lake High (Mississippi), 1992-1994
- Percussion arranger/instructor, Waterloo High (Illinois), 2005-2010
- Program Director, Briarcrest Christian (Tennessee), 2016-2020

Dr. Knowlton has judged over one-hundred pageantry arts contests in eighteen states. He has completed many judge's trainings, including ones sponsored by USBands, Central States Judge's Association, Gulf Coast Judge's Association, and Winter Guard International (WGI). Dr. Knowlton is a WGI Circuit-Certified Judge in general effect for color guard.

Captions judged:

- *Marching Band*: all six main captions (i.e., field, ensemble, and effect for *both* music and visual), percussion, and color guard (also served as non-judging feedback-only clinician)
- *Winter Guard*: General Effect and Design Analysis
- *Indoor Percussion*: all captions for both marching and concert classes
- *Indoor Winds*: all captions

Associations and Circuits served:

- Atlantic Indoor Association (Sanford, North Carolina)
- Connecting Individuals through Performing Arts (Johnson City, Tennessee)
- East Tennessee Performing Arts Association (Knoxville, Tennessee)
- Gulf Coast Color Guard and Percussion Circuit (Pensacola, Florida)
- Heartland Winter Arts (Omaha, Nebraska)
- Indiana Percussion Association (Indianapolis, Indiana)
- Kentucky Music Educators Association (Richmond, Kentucky)
- Louisiana Mississippi Color Guard and Percussion Circuit (Lake Charles, Louisiana)
- Mid-Continent Color Guard Association (Kansas City, Missouri)
- Mid-States Band Association (Dayton, Ohio)s
- Mississippi Indoor Association (Ellisville, Mississippi)
- Southeastern Color Guard Circuit (Bowling Green, Kentucky)
- USBands (Allentown, Pennsylvania)

Dr. Knowlton hosts and produces the Learning Vibes Podcast (www.learningvibespodcast.weebly.com), a podcast that explores creativity, the arts, and lifelong learning as drivers of the human experience. In his full-time role as a professor of education at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Dr. Knowlton researches and teaches in areas related to Educational Psychology, including Instructional Design, Design Thinking, Visual Thinking, Creativity Theory, assessment of achievement, and evaluation of learning interventions.