

Jerry E. Lewis

Jerry E. Lewis was Professor of Music and Chairman of the Music and Fine Arts Department at Joliet Junior College for 33 years. He was born and raised in Huntington, Indiana, and was a member of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra from 1960-1962. Jerry studied trumpet with Renold Schilke and William Adam. He attended Indiana University from 1962-1966 and received a Bachelor of Music Education in 1966 and his Masters degree in Trumpet in 1971. He was Director of Bands at Central Junior High School in Bloomington, Indiana from 1966-1971. At that time he was selected for the bands and brass position at Joliet Junior College. His teaching duties at Joliet Junior College included applied brass, jazz history, and conducting. Jerry chaired the Music Department from 1977-1981, and then became chair of the Fine Arts Department until his retirement in 2004. He founded and conducted the 90-member JJC Community Band for 26 years and also directed the JJC Jazz Band for 25 years, 1972-1997.

Jerry drafted the self-study of the JJC music program for accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music in 2002, with accreditation approved in November, 2002. JJC became one of the few Junior Colleges in the nation to be accredited by NASM. Jerry chaired or co-chaired the JJC Professional and Personal Development Committee for over 20 years and was very active in state and national staff development.

Jerry has served as adjudicator and clinician throughout the Midwest, including the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Jazz Festival, the Eastern Illinois University Summer Jazz Camp, the Joliet Bicentennial Park Summer Jazz Band, IMEA Jazz Festivals, and numerous junior and senior high school music festivals. He remains active as a clinician, guest conductor, and performer, but also finds time to thoroughly enjoy retirement.

Jerry was President of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Board for 10 years and is a member of the International Trumpet Guild, International Association of Jazz Educators, Music Educators National Conference, College Band Directors National Association, Phi Mu Alpha, and Kappa Kappa Psi. In November, 2009, Jerry was awarded Life Membership by the American Federation of Musicians, Local No. 37. On November 9, 2009, Arthur Schultz, Mayor of Joliet, on behalf of the Joliet City Council, recognized Jerry for his many years of dedication to the Joliet Junior

College community, to music and the performing arts, as well as his numerous accomplishments and honors. Jerry was recipient of the JJC Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award in June, 2010, which is presented to one who has served JJC in an exceptional way, is active in professional and community organizations, and is a dedicated, caring, compassionate and accomplished professional.

Jerry is currently President of the Joliet Junior College Annuitants Association, an organization which works for the improvement of pension and retirement health benefits for retirees, survivors, and current JJC employees. Jerry has been married to wife, Jane, for 45 years. They have a son, Chris, a daughter-in-law, Lindsay, and two beautiful grandchildren, Hunter and Haley.