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News Release

April 14, 2009

For immediate release

### **Annual Jazz Band Festival at SCC**

The fourth annual Southeastern Community College All-County Jazz Band Festival sponsored by the Richard F. Burkhardt Fine and Performing Arts Series will be held Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25. Rehearsals will be Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The concert will be Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the college's auditorium and will include a special performance by the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Band.



Gunnery Sergeant Mitchell O. Martin, the Enlisted Conductor for the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Band, will be this year's guest clinician.

Martin enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in March 1987. Upon completion of Recruit Training, Private First Class Martin was assigned to the Armed Forces School of Music. Lance Corporal Martin finished at the top of his class, graduating from the Basic Course of Instruction in October 1987.

The Quantico Marine Band was Lance Corporal Martin's first assignment. He served in the Brass Quintet, Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Combo and as Trumpet soloist in the Concert Band. Other duties included Band Music Librarian and Noncommissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) of Audio/Visual.

He then received advanced training in Conducting, Drum Majoring, Arranging, and Applied Trumpet and was assigned to the First Marine Division Band where he served as trumpet soloist and NCOIC of the Brass Quintet and Jazz Combo. He studied conducting with Master Sergeant Christopher Debow. Additional duties included Fire Team Leader, Squad Leader, and Platoon Sergeant as the group deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Sergeant Martin then served as Trumpet Instructor for the Armed Forces School of Music. He also performed with the Faculty Brass Quintet, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Combo, when he was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

In July 2001, Staff Sergeant Martin was selected to serve as a Musician Technical Assistant (MTA), who is responsible for auditioning applicants for placement into the Marine Corps Music Program and to create awareness about the Marine Corps Music Program. He was actively involved with the music programs in the high schools and colleges, conducting bands and giving master classes.

In March 2003, Staff Sergeant Martin was selected to become an Enlisted Conductor for the United States Marine Corps Music Program. He was promoted to his current rank in July 2004 and assumed his current position as the Enlisted Conductor, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Band in October of that year.

In February 2006, Gunnery Sergeant Martin returned from his second six-month deployment to the Middle East, serving as the Security Chief for the Second Marine Aircraft Wing Tactical Air Command Center during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We are excited to have this annual event for the area high school bands and to offer such prestigious clinians,” said Dr. Sharyn Edwards, coordinator of this event and SCC music instructor.

Tickets for the Saturday evening performance are \$5 each. For ticket information, contact Dr. Sharyn Edwards at 642-7141, ext. 235 or at [sedwards@sccnc.edu](mailto:sedwards@sccnc.edu). Proceeds go toward the support of the annual fine and performing arts series.