



# Intro: All About the People

By Paul Buyer

**W**elcome to the 2025 Focus issue, "Our Shared Percussion Legacy – We are All Connected."

This special issue of *Percussive Notes* honors and pays tribute to our PAS Past Presidents and Lifetime Achievement in Education award winners – a who's who of the most respected, admired, and accomplished leaders in the 63-year history of the Percussive Arts Society. These individuals have selflessly and humbly served the percussive arts and played a pivotal role in shaping the vision, goals, and trajectory of PAS now and into the future.

Each distinguished leader is interviewed by an esteemed PAS editor and reveals who or what inspired them to be a percussionist, their most memorable PASIC artists, influences on performing and teaching, recommended resources, and former students who are "passing it on."

Denis Goldberg, a political activist who was arrested with Nelson Mandela for protesting apartheid, said, "I've lived my life in the belief that life has meaning through service to others. It's not about oneself but using oneself and one's abilities to benefit others...The purpose [of] life is to make life better for other people...to the extent that one can...The African term Ubuntu says I am who I am only through others. I live in a society." (Jeremy Snape, "From Mandela to Mars: Lessons from Isolation," *Sporting Edge, Inside the Minds of Champions podcast*, April 20, 2020,

[podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/from-mandela-to-mars-lessons-from-isolation/id1498626216?i=1000472185041](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/from-mandela-to-mars-lessons-from-isolation/id1498626216?i=1000472185041)

Goldberg's attitude of selfless service is what PAS is all about. We too are a society, often with "two degrees of separation" instead of six, and in the end, we are all connected. Like a family tree tracing our lineage across generations, PAS is a community woven together from the shared legacy of those featured in these pages.

If you are an educator, we hope you will take this opportunity to trace your family percussion tree and share what you discover with your students, so the next generation understands how they are tied to those we honor and so many more who are not named.

While the editors successfully conducted an impressive 39 interviews, we would be remiss not to recognize those we could not secure: Gary Chaffee, Zhao Ji, Erwin Mueller, Gregg Rinehart, J.C. Combs, Dong-Wook Park, and Robert Schietroma, as well as those who are no longer with us, though their spirit and wisdom live on: Past Presidents Donald Canedy, Sandy Feldstein, Gordon Peters, and Larry Vanlandingham, and Lifetime Achievement in Education award winners Christopher Deane, Dick DiCenso, Siegfried Fink, Ralph Humphrey, Marty Hurly, James Moore, G. Allan O'Connor, William Schinstine, Alan Shinn, and Dean Witten.

We hope this issue does justice to all who are featured and thank them for their profound impact on our profession.



A huge shout out to my Co-Editorial Director Julie Hill, Senior Editor Rick Mattingly, Publications Production Manager Hillary Jorgensen, and the PAS editor team for making this issue come to life. As my first teacher and PAS Hall of Famer Michael Balter always told me, "PAS is all about the people." **PN**