

## This one time, at band camp

**Angelina Morgan**

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Scott Gorman of Fort Lupton is going to a camp in Greeley this week. There are no sail boats, tennis courts, arts and crafts or s'mores. There are lectures instead of swim lessons, tests instead of relay races, and wake-up calls are at 7:30 a.m.

But Gorman couldn't be happier to be there — at band camp.

Gorman and 45 other high school drum majors from around the west stood as rigid as soldiers Tuesday morning on the hot pavement in the parking lot outside Wilson Hall at the University of Northern Colorado as they took critiques from their peers and from drum-major expert and Drum Corps Hall of Fame inductee George Parks.

The national Drum Major Association is running drum-major camp Sunday through Thursday on the UNC campus for sophomores through seniors in high school.

In the fall Gorman has to lead the Fort Lupton High School Band through numerous home football games, parades and band days at surrounding universities as well as regional and state competitions.

Gorman couldn't think of a better way to prepare himself for these responsibilities than to join the drum major academy for conducting, marching and leadership lessons with Parks, a man whose name flows as freely in the marching band world as b flats do from the brass instruments in music rooms across America.

Parks, currently in his 25th year at the University of Massachusetts, where he is a professor of music, conductor of the University Concert Band and director of the popular 320-member Minuteman Marching Band, said he wants his students to march better and lead their bands with more confidence when they leave his camp. But teaching his students to be people is his No. 1 lesson, he said.

Complaining less, not overlooking the shy one in the group and focusing less on yourself are three lessons Parks teaches that apply to his students' lives outside of the band as well as within.

Associate conductor of the Utah Symphony Scott O'Neil is one of Parks' four assistants this summer.

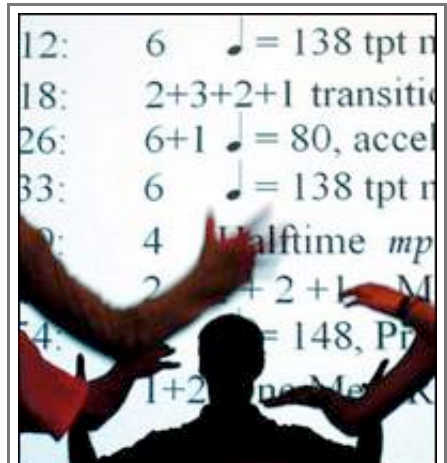
"There are a lot of places you can go to get ideas but not a lot of challenge to act on them," said O'Neil, who attended Parks' Camps in 1985 through 1988.

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George Parks of the University of Massachusetts teaches students how to instruct a marching band by knowing and memorizing the music during his drum major academy at the University of Northern Colorado. Parks used the piece "The Russian Sailor's Dance" as an example and taught the high school students how to break the score down to better conduct a band.

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Marching under the hot Colorado sun with teenagers is quite the contrast to conducting a highly-acclaimed symphony. But the summer position is one that O'Neil requested and is grateful to have.

"This does a lot to rejuvenate me, recharge me, charge my batteries," O'Neil said.

It's hard for Gorman to look at himself conducting on videos recorded during practice and even more difficult to take the criticism that comes with watching his mistakes. Gorman said he can feel the sun burning his neck during drills, and the long days are trying.

But it's worth all the sacrifice.

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