

New director brings enthusiasm to Singing Cadets

The Singing Cadets' new director plans to follow in the footsteps of Bob Boone, who is retiring after 35 years.

By Sean Chaffin
THE BATTALION

For the first time in 35 years, the Texas A&M Singing Cadets will have a new director. David Kipp will begin directing the group that promotes A&M through music on Sept. 1. Kipp will replace Bob Boone, who is retiring. Kipp previously spent six years as the minister of music at the First Baptist Church in College Station. During that time he directed more than 20 choirs and instrumental groups.

In addition to directing the Singing Cadets, Kipp will serve as coordinator of A&M's Vocal Music Program which includes the Century Singers, the Reveliers and the Women's Chorus.

Kipp said A&M's spirit and tradition are contagious, and he is looking forward to directing the group.

"The only reason I didn't go to Texas A&M was that I wanted to be a music major," he said. "I'm excited about the rich foundation the [Singing] Cadets have built and hope to build upon that foundation."

Shawn Grody, a senior accounting major and business manager for the Singing Cadets, said Kipp's experience and personality will be assets to the group.

"He brings a lot of musical talent and knowledge," Grody said. Kipp managed music at

churches in Dallas, Waco and Temple before coming to College Station and is a member of the Guild of Organists, Chorister's Guild and the Southern Baptist Music Conference. He holds a bachelor's degree in music from Baylor University and a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Boone said Kipp was an excel-

"I hope to carry on the rich tradition he (Boone) began."

— David Kipp
Director of the Singing Cadets

lent fit for the Singing Cadets. "He's a terrific musician, a great human being and a compassionate person," Boone said in a press release. "He will be a good role model for the Singing Cadets. They're going to like him immediately."

Condry Carter, a member of Kipp's church and the musical accompanist of the Singing Cadets, raved about Kipp.

"I can't say enough good things about Mr. Kipp," she said. "He's a wonderful and talented musician. He's the perfect man for the job."

Adam Delange, a senior political science major and fourth-year member of the Singing Cadets, said the new director will have a big challenge, but that the change should go very smoothly for most of the group.

Kipp said he hoped to continue Boone's work and does not expect the Cadets to experience any major changes.

"If it's not broke, don't fix it," he said. "I hope to keep the Singing Cadets going and get through this transition period. Bob did a wonderful job over his 35 years. I hope to carry on the rich tradition he began."

Task force plans campaign to battle child abuse

The program will create a campaign outlining the public's responsibility to report abuse.

AUSTIN (AP) — Every three days in Texas a child is killed by a parent or guardian. Every year the state confirms 60,000 child abuse cases.

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales announced a program Tuesday to combat those statistics.

"The challenge is clear. We must improve our prevention and intervention efforts," Morales said.

In a combined effort with the Texas

Medical Association and Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates, a group that protects children in court cases, Morales' office has created the Texas Child Abuse Prevention Task Force.

The task force, comprising medical professionals, educators, social service providers and law enforcers, will create an informational campaign outlining the public's responsibility to recognize and report child abuse.

"The ability of our prosecutors to win convictions against abusers often depends upon the ability of doctors, nurses, teachers, counselors and others to recognize the signs," Morales said, adding that child abuse cases are among the most difficult to prosecute.

Texas law requires any person who be-

lieves a child is being abused or neglected to report those concerns to local law enforcement officers or the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

The task force is devising uniform definitions and guidelines for recognizing and reporting abuse. The effort is especially timely, Morales said, in light of the DPRS' recent announcement that it will cut about 450 positions.


Such reductions make other efforts to combat abuse more important, Morales said.

Lt. Bill Walsh, an officer in the Dallas Police Department's child abuse unit and a task force member, said some who suspect a child is being abused remain silent for fear of being sued.

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