

NCPP 2017

Breakout Session “Strategies and Challenges for Graduate and Undergraduate Percussion Students”

Facilitators Caleb Evans and James (Jim Bob) Pendell

This year at the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy (NCPP), there were a wide variety of topics and ideas explored in the discussion titled, “Strategies and Challenges for Graduate and Undergraduate Percussion Students.” Discussion points included teaching opportunities in music, specifically high school percussion specialists in the Texas area, as well as college teaching and private lesson instruction. Next attendees talked about the audition process and several attendees shared unique experiences with undergraduate/graduate percussion auditions, orchestral auditions, and military band auditions. Specialization vs. well-rounded study in percussion was discussed. Most attendees agreed that this should be something to keep in mind before auditioning at a particular university. The importance of staying engaged with music technology (Youtube, Finale, Pro-tools, Virtual Drumline, etc.) was a key talking point; and all agreed that young percussionists should have a Youtube page with high-quality videos of themselves. Last, the attendees discussed the importance of future involvement in NCPP. Names of each attendee were noted, and a Facebook page is being developed for the purpose of staying in touch and keeping further discussion going. It was an inspiring session that generated great discussion, which helped stimulate ideas for further session topics. —*Jim Bob Pendell*