Department intensifies its recruitment efforts

It is generally acknowledged that we have entered an age where competition for students interested in the arts has become extraordinarily intense. To help meet this challenge, the PSU Department of Music established, in the fall of 1990, a Recruitment Task Force comprised of eight faculty members and several student representatives from within the department.

The keystone of this effort is a telemarketing program operated from McCray Hall. Prospective students who have expressed any level of interest in music are contacted by our student callers at periodic intervals, and the information gathered is then entered into the university’s main database. This contact is followed up by letters and, where appropriate, telephone calls from faculty members who are responsible for the areas in which the prospective students have indicated an interest.

As the telemarketers maintain contact with these students through the regular cycle of calling, a certain level of rapport is developed. When subsequent campus visits and/or auditions take place, the prospective students are often met by these persons with whom they may have already had several conversations, which tends to put them at ease in what might otherwise be an anxious experience. To help streamline the process, three music audition days have been established, although students are also given the opportunity to visit at their convenience.

The results thus far have been most encouraging. During its first year of operation, the music telemarketing project reached over 1,000 students, resulting in a significant increase in new music students: the largest freshman class in almost 20 years, and a major increase in the number of community college transfers. A great many more of those contacted have come to PSU not as music majors, but as minors or non-major participants in one or more of the university ensembles. In this way, the department’s efforts are benefiting the larger university community as well.

Finally, lest we create the false impression that the emphasis in this endeavor is purely on numbers, it should be noted that a primary objective of the project is to locate and vigorously recruit the very best students available to us. As the statistics on this year’s new music students (majors and non-majors) are examined, we find evidence of stronger academic records, higher ACT scores, and greater participation in activities such as district and state honors ensembles during the high school years. Clearly, this kind of effort will be essential to the future growth of the department.

Alumni and friends may make an important contribution to the recruitment process by passing along the names of prospective music students with whom they’ve had any contact. To do so, simply call the music office (316/235-4466) or use the attached report form...and while you’re at it, send us an update on yourself!

CHOIR TO PERFORM AT KMEA

The University Choir has been invited to perform at this year’s gathering of the Kansas Music Educators Association in Wichita. The 70-member ensemble will present a half-hour program at 9:40 a.m. on Friday, February 28. Repertoire for the concert will include: Magnificat, Halsey Stevens; Ave Maria, Jean Mouton; The Evening Primrose, Benjamin Britten; Dashing away with the smoothing iron, arr. John Rutter; and three movements from the Five Mystical Songs of Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Featured as soloists in this concert will be Prof. James Tapia, trumpet; Prof. Paul Huybrechts, baritone; and Ms. Susan Laushman, graduate assistant, piano. Dr. Susan Marchant, director of choral activities at PSU, will conduct.

PSU OPERA NEWS

Opera will once again be heard in McCray Hall this semester when the Department of Music presents The Tender Land, by American composer Aaron Copland. Set in the midwest during the Depression Era, the story centers around a young girl about to graduate from high school. She dreams of a future that will take her from the poor farm where she was raised by her mother and grandfather. When faced with the opportunity to see the world, she must choose, once and for all, between the fate of her mother and the life she truly desires.

There will be two performances, both in McCray Hall: Friday, Feb. 21 at 8 pm, and Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3 pm. The opera will be under the direction of Prof. Paul Huybrechts, with assistance from Prof. Carol Hoyt of the Department of Music and Profs. Barry Bengston and John Green of the Department of Communication. Tickets will be available in advance or at the door prior to the performances. For further information, contact Prof. Huybrechts at 316/235-4472.
Faculty Focus
Susan Marchant

by Prof. Paul Huybrechts

Accomplished organists, it can be said, often inherit a legacy of hard work, dedication, and faith along with artistry, which is perhaps inevitable, given the traditional role of the organist in the church and the majestic nature of the instrument itself. Susan Marchant brought all these characteristics and more when she arrived in Pittsburg twelve years ago, and has continued to demonstrate her versatility and talent not only at PSU but in the community as well.

Her musical interest was spurred by her father's deep appreciation for music and particular love for the organ. One could assume that the long, cold winters of her hometown of Buffalo, NY, were also an incentive to practice the long hours needed to become an accomplished musician. Be that as it may, she began her study of both piano and organ at an early age, deciding that the organ would be her main concentration during her study at Oberlin College Conservatory, where she completed the Bachelor of Music degree as a student of Fenner Douglass. It was at Oberlin, also, that she became intrigued with the harpsichord, which became her second but equal love.

Because of these dual interests, Yale was her choice for graduate school, and so Yale it was for both Master of Music and Master of Musical Arts degrees. Besides her studies, Susan was fortunate enough to hold several interesting jobs: one in the Yale Music Library as archival assistant, and another as assistant to Vivian Perlis in the Yale Oral History Project. While in New Haven, she served as director of music for First United Methodist Church. She held this job until graduation, upon which she accepted a position as organist at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Columbia, MO.

The following year, Susan took her first teaching position as visiting instructor of piano and organ at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN. The long, cold winters of Minnesota might have again been something of an inspiration, if only to move on! A year later, in 1979, Susan joined the faculty here at PSU. Initially, she was brought to PSU as part-time instructor of piano, organ, and piano class. Her job gradually became more involved, and at this point, "full-time" seems a little less than adequate description of her position. Now, with the rank of associate professor, and although she is no longer involved with the class piano program, her load has expanded to include harpsichord, theory/ear training, and all the peripheral courses related to a degree in organ. She also serves as director of the PSU Solo and Chamber Music Series, which brings internationally recognized musicians to the campus. Amidst all this activity, she completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from Yale in 1982. She has headed up various committees, most recently the Recruitment Task Force (see cover story). During Dr. Vollen's leave of absence, her colleagues expressed their faith in her by voting her acting chair. She has served as dean of both the Ozark and the Southeast Kansas chapters of the American Guild of Organists.

It did not take long for Susan to become involved in the community as well. A year after her arrival, she became director of music at First United Methodist Church. The church's adult choir has sung before the annual gathering of the Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church, and it recently took a two-week tour of England, presenting concerts in Norwich Cathedral, Wesley's Chapel, London's Westminster Central Hall, and its sister congregation in Portsmouth, as well as presenting an Evensong service in Gloucester Cathedral. The choir was honored this fall by an invitation to be one of ten choirs selected nationally to perform at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, meeting this May in Louisville, KY.

Since 1986, her choral conducting experience at Oberlin as a student of Daniel Moe has stood her in good stead as director of choral activities at PSU. She also leads the community's Centennial Choir. The combined choirs, with the participation of the Southeast Kansas Symphony, have performed such diverse works as Mozart's Requiem, Holst's Festival Te Deum, and Mendelssohn's Elijah, while this year's offering will be Bruckner's Mass in E minor. The University Choir has grown considerably in the last few years, and in February she will take the group to Wichita to perform at the state convention of the Kansas Music Educators Association.

It seems almost inconceivable that Susan would have time left for individual performance, but she has maintained an active schedule in this area as well. As an organist, she has performed at the national convention of the Organ Historical Society and has given guest recitals at Harvard, Yale, Boston's Old West Church, as well as Southwark Cathedral and St. Botolph's Church in London. Harpsichord performances have included appearances at two national conferences on Women in Music and as co-director of the Early Music Consort of Kansas City. As a collaborative artist, she has toured nationally with oboist Susan Hicks Brashear and has been sponsored by the Kansas Touring Artists program. Under the auspices of the PSU Solo and Chamber Music Series, she has performed with Max van Egmond, Anner Bylsma, and a number of other distinguished artists.

It is probably unnecessary to mention, at least to those still living in this area, Susan's weekly radio show on KRPS, Back to Bach. For two years, this popular program has highlighted the works of Bach and his contemporaries, along with providing interesting historical perspectives and insights. In addition, her interest in expanding the repertoire for organ and other instruments has led to the publication of several of her transcriptions by Concordia.

The list of Susan's activities and accomplishments could continue for pages, and would not convey the total commitment that she has to her artistry, students, colleagues, and of course, to PSU. The faith she has in the department and its students is constant. She has been, and will be, an inspiration and example for the musicians and teachers who move on from Pittsburg State.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February
6  Senior Recital, Travis Laver, trumpet, 8 pm
8  *Guest Recital, The Early Music Consort, 8 pm
11 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: The Dallas String Quartet, 8 pm
13 Joint Faculty Recital, Karen Dannessa, clarinet; Robert Kehle, trombone, 8 pm
20 Music Scholarship Auditions, all day
21 *Opera, The Tender Land, 8 pm
23 *Opera, The Tender Land, 3 pm
25 University Band, 8 pm

March
2  Chamber Music Recital, students of Paul Carlson, 8 pm
6  PSU Jazz Festival, all day
17 Faculty Recital, Kathryn Parke, soprano, 8 pm
19 Guest Lecture/Recital, Chris Hanning, percussion
24 Senior Recital, Jennifer Holman, flute, 8 pm
26 *Jazz Combo at Fatty Lumpkin's, 9 pm-midnight
27 Music Scholarship Auditions, all day
27 Kansas Federation of Music Clubs Convention
29 *Southeast Kansas Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 3 pm
30 Junior Recital, Joy Khoo, piano, 7 pm
31 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: The Musicians of Swannee Alley, 8 pm

April
2  Senior Recital, Reyna Burris, violin and viola, 8 pm
3  Waddill Chamber Music Competition, 6-10 pm
4  Regional Solo & Ensemble Festival, all day
7  Winners' Concert, Waddill Competition, 8 pm

8  State Large Ensemble Festival, all day
9  PSU Chamber Winds, 8 pm
12 *Bruckner Mass in E minor, PSU Choirs and the Pittsburg Centennial Choir, 3 pm
14 Collegium Musicum, 8 pm
16 Junior Recital, Ron Warford, euphonium, 8 pm
21 Faculty Recital, Paul Huybrechts, baritone, 8 pm
23 PSU Jazz Ensemble and the KMEA District II Jazz Ensemble, 7 pm
25 Mid-America Music Festival, all day
26 Faculty Recital, Carol Hoyt and Steven Edmund, duo-pianists, 3 pm
28 Graduate Recital, Susan Laushman, piano, 8 pm
30 *Jazz Ensemble at Fatty Lumpkin's, 9 pm-midnight

May
1  University Choirs, 8 pm
3  *Southeast Kansas Symphony, 3 pm
7  Four-State Festival Band, all day
7  University Bands, 7 pm
16 Commencement

+Cover charge
*Tickets required. For further information, contact the PSU Department of Music (316/235-4466).

All events take place in McCray Recital Hall unless noted otherwise. Please consult local news media for any changes in the above information and/or for additions to the calendar.

ALUMNI NEWS
Can you help us?

In an attempt to update our records, we are searching for information about alumni with whom we have lost touch. Included in the list below are alumni from the '30s and '40s who fall into this category. If you have any information whatsoever about these persons, would you please take a moment to report back to us on the attached update form? Thank you!

Marjorie (Craig) Balafas, BM '48
David D. Butcher, BM '49
Derrell C. Delapp, BSED '40
Margaret (Baugh) Dixon, BM '45
Florence (Thompson) Kennedy, BME '40
Marian (Osborn) Kliwer, BSED '34
Marilyn (Kuhn) Lawless, BSED '44
Don A. Mericle, BSED '43
Arthur B. Mitchell, BSED '37
Janice (Broome) Rue, BSE '40
Katherine (Knox) Stewart, BSED '34
Bobby J. Webber, BME '48
Eugene V. Worsham, BSED '31

Mark Appier (BME '90) is in his first year of public school teaching, having accepted a K-12 position in Moore, MT. Mark also hopes to develop a Suzuki string program in nearby Lewiston.

Bih-Yuh Chen (MM '90) has returned to Taiwan and begun teaching voice and piano in two schools in Taipei: the Chinese Culture University (her alma mater) and the Hau Kong Arts School.

Mike Fischer (BME '80) is beginning his second year of teaching at the Baylor University School of Music, where he holds the rank of lecturer of tuba and euphonium. In addition to his studio teaching, Mike performs with the faculty brass quintet, directs the tuba/euphonium ensemble, and teaches low brass methods and music theory.

David (BM '75, MM '76) and Pam (BM '74, MM '75) Gaston continue their musical careers in Memphis, TN. David teaches in the Sheffield Elementary School and serves as music director for Colonial Park United Methodist Church. Pam teaches at Memphis State University and maintains an active performance schedule, appearing most recently with the Ohio Light Opera Company and as soloist in Handel's Messiah with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

PSU Music Notes is published twice a year by the Department of Music at Pittsburg State University

Gene Vollen  Chairman, Department of Music
Susan Marchant  Newsletter Editor

Please note: PSU Music Notes will, for the time being, move to a semi-annual publication schedule (Fall and Spring).
Kim (Simmons) Gradwohl (BME '90) is pursuing graduate studies in instrumental music education at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. Her husband, Ken, is working with the management team at Wal-Mart in Springfield.

Gary Green (BME '74) took the role of the first soldier in a New York production of Monteverdi's The Coronation of Poppea, presented in November by the Hell's Kitchen Opera.

Denise Helsing sends word from Louisiana that she has written several pieces for her church choir and hopes that one might be performed this spring when the group tours in Italy, a trip that will include a performance in St. Peter's Basilica.

James Jones (BME '74, att. '80-'81) writes that, after having moved to Kansas City in 1985, he taught instrumental music in the Piper Unified School District in Wyandotte County. While he hasn't taught since 1989, he is still involved in music as a member of the choir at All Souls Unitarian Church in midtown Kansas City. Jim is also active in the Quilters Guild of Greater Kansas City.

Carolyn O'Brien (BME '91) is in her first year of public school teaching in San Antonio, TX, where she oversees a string program from the elementary through the high school levels.

Deborah Pierce (BME '79, MM '81) continues in her position as music librarian at the University of Washington. This February, she will present a paper at the MLA convention in Baltimore on the subject of accessing world music materials. Her experience in this area has come as a result of working with the university's large collection of music from East India, China, and Japan. In her free time, Debbie is active as a singer of vocal chamber music, with a particular fondness for early repertoire.

Vicki (Hedger) Russell (MM '86) was married to Kenneth Russell on August 2, 1991. Vicki is teaching at Border Star Elementary School and directing the choir at Red Bridge Christian Church in Kansas City, MO. Ken is a computer systems analyst for PARS, the computer reservation system of TWA and Northwest Airlines.

Lemuel Sheppard (BM '82, MM '83) has developed a strong reputation as an acoustical blues musician. He is one of a handful of artists who comprise the folk/jazz roster of the Mid-America Arts Alliance. His popular, diverse concerts range from early American Negro folk hollers to urban blues.

Bill Thomas (BME '89) is on the band staff of the Dodge City, KS schools. He also teaches brass at St. Mary of the Plains College and plays trombone in the Dodge City Symphony and Community Band. To round out his musical activities, Bill participates in his church choir and has taken a lead role in the Boot Hill Museum Repertory Company's spring musical.

Clyde Byrne Wood (BME '56) visited campus during the summer of 1991. He is residing in Russell, KS and is a registered representative for N.I.S. Financial Services and Ozark National Life Insurance.

Tony Woodward (BME '64) has returned to Nebraska to become pastor of the Fairmont Community Church in Fairmont, NE. This congregation was formed as a result of a 1974 merger between the Grace United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ of Fairmont, and it now serves as the only church for the town.

Obituaries

David Evans (BSED '33), July 24, 1991, in Chanute, KS. David owned and operated the Evans Music Stores in Chanute and Iola, a business endeavor from which he had retired in 1967. He is also remembered for his civic service, as city commissioner and two-term mayor of Chanute.

Margaret Rankin (MS '41), November 16, 1990, in Northridge, CA.

Lucy Tremain, December 11, 1991, in Morrisville, MO. Mrs. Tremain's legacy to the Department of Music lives on through her generous donation, in 1985, of a grand player piano and piano roll collection, highlights of any tour of McCray Hall. The Tremain piano holds a special fascination for visiting children, as most of them have their first "up close" experience with such an unusual and interesting instrument.

Grace Williamson, July 8, 1991, in Pittsburg, KS. A longtime supporter and benefactor of the Department of Music, Grace and her husband, the late Ernie Williamson, opened the Ernie Williamson Music House, Pittsburg, in the year 1935. Stores in Joplin and Fort Scott followed, and at one time they owned stores in Carthage, Neosho, and Miami as well. A woman with a seemingly endless supply of energy and dedication, Grace worked regularly for the business until her 97th birthday.