University Enrollment Continues to Rise

For the sixth consecutive semester, enrollment at Pittsburg State University has increased. According to PSU Registrar, Lee Christensen, the headcount for the spring semester is officially 5,329, an increase of 2.7 percent over the same period last year. The Full Time Equivalency (FTE) count is up 5.8 percent. The university has witnessed a dramatic rise in enrollment since 1985, with the current figure representing the highest spring enrollment at this university in 16 years.

Dr. Donald W. Wilson, PSU President, said the rising enrollment was the result of the university's efforts in the recruitment and retention of the traditional student, the expansion of services and programs for the non-traditional student, and the maintenance of strong academic programs.

"We have worked very hard to recruit the best students, and to make sure that they complete their courses of study once they reach the university," President Wilson said. "It would be a mistake, however, to credit all of that growth to recruitment and retention. Those efforts are important, but without innovative and respected programs and proper facilities, recruitment and retention cannot succeed. The enrollment figures we are seeing at PSU are a testament to the fact that Pittsburg State University has what it takes to compete and grow in this competitive educational environment."

Enrollment in the Department of Music has remained stable, in the face of what appears to be a shrinking pool of high school music majors across the state. The strength of our program continues to attract a significant number of out-of-state students, who are willing to face the higher tuition costs as non-residents. Our international student population has grown steadily in recent years, as a result of specific efforts aimed at strengthening relations with several Asian nations.

The challenges facing the Department of Music in the areas of recruitment are clear: we must continue our search for students who show real potential for growth as musicians, and we must provide for significantly increased scholarship aid to facilitate their study at PSU. Alumni and friends of the Department can offer invaluable assistance in both areas, by referring prospective students to our program, and by contributing to the recently-established Music Scholarship Endowment. A goal of one million dollars has been set for the endowment, and it forms the keystone of the University Music Campaign which has been underway since November. Supporters are urged to seriously consider the extent to which they will be able to assist in this effort, which will extend over the next three-year period.

Mrs. Tremain and piano

PLAYER PIANO DELIGHTS VISITORS

For the past two years, visitors to McCray Hall have been charmed by demonstrations of one of our more unusual instruments: a Franklin grand player piano, circa 1920. The gift of Mrs. Lucy Tremain of Bolivar, MO, this piano had been a prized family possession since 1929. Mrs. Tremain's decision to donate the piano to PSU stems from the fact that several members of her family have earned degrees at this institution.

A collection of approximately 100 piano rolls rounded out the donation. These rolls cover a wide variety of musical styles, from light classics to popular songs of the World War II era.

The Tremain piano has made an especially big impression on the elementary school children who tour McCray Hall each spring. More than just a historical curiosity, this instrument—with its jumping dampers and keys—entertains the eye as well as the ear.
Faculty Focus
Richard Cook

A member of the PSU music faculty since 1966, Richard Cook teaches upper-level theory, composition, brass instruments, counterpoint, and guitar. He is also director of the PSU Electronic Music Studio.

Cook was educated in the Fort Worth, Texas public schools, and in 1953 graduated from Texas Christian University with double degrees in composition and education. He received a master of music degree in composition from Texas Christian University in 1955.

Serving in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957, Cook wrote music arrangements for the All Army Talent Contest and appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show as a trumpet player with the 69th Division Band. He also played in the 7th Army Symphony Orchestra in Europe.

Cook taught music and social studies in the Fort Worth public schools from 1957 to 1961. He also played trumpet and did copying and arranging for the Casa Manana summer musicals in Fort Worth from 1958 to 1966. During this time he also continued dance band, opera, ballet, and symphony playing.

From 1961 to 1963, Cook taught music at the University of Texas, Arlington. He did extensive work toward a doctorate in composition at North Texas State University under Samuel Adler, who now heads the composition department at the Eastman School of Music.

Cook’s work as a composer has led him to write for various kinds of vocal and instrumental forces. In 1965, he received a Rockefeller Foundation grant for a performance of his Concertino for Orchestra by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. A later revision of this work became the second movement of his Symphony in Three Movements. The Symphony, completed during his 1983 sabbatical year, was premiered by the SEK Symphony during its 1984 season.

Many of Cook’s solo and chamber works have been premiered locally by members of the department, as well as by members of the composer’s talented family: his wife, Carolyn, who teaches vocal music in the Girard public schools and is an active force in Pittsburg’s Treble Clef Club; his daughter, Alice, who is currently majoring in violin at the University of Missouri-Kansas City; and his son, Carl, whose interests run toward the theater as well as the viola.

Cook’s expertise and interest in areas such as jazz, dance bands, recording techniques, and popular music have provided him with a special ability to work with the ever-increasing number of non-major students, many of them members of bands, who look to McCray Hall for help in what they do. Whether in the area of synthesizers, studio recording, or any other aspect of today’s high-tech music, Cook knows the language. A significant number of these students, energized by their association with Cook, evolve into musicians who take their art form seriously, and who are hungry for ways in which to improve it.

Richard Cook is not apt to “toot his own horn” about his many and varied activities. He much prefers to spend time in the studio, carrying out his responsibilities in an unassuming manner. Rest assured, there is a great deal more than the generation of electronic “bleeps” going on in Room 202.

MID-AMERICA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Final preparations are being made for the Second Annual Mid-America Music Festival, to be held on the PSU campus on Saturday, May 2. This highly successful event will afford an opportunity for hundreds of elementary and junior high school students to perform as soloists and/or as members of small and large ensembles. Participants will receive ratings of I, II, or III, along with constructive written comments, medals, and certificates. The main objective of the festival will be to provide a positive experience which will encourage the further development of these young musicians.

Prof. Robert Schott, festival director, has organized this event in a most interesting and imaginative way, calling on the total resources of the university to provide a broad, cross-disciplinary experience for participants who spend part of their day on campus. Students will be treated to guided tours and presentations such as the Planetarium, with special activities being planned by the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Art, Biology, Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, Nursing, and Industrial Arts and Technology. Schott encourages parents and directors to come early and stay late, so as to take advantage of these unique educational opportunities.

FOUR-STATE BAND

Dr. Gary Corcoran reports that this year’s Four-State Festival Band will meet on May 7. Guest conductors for the event will be John Edmondson, of Phoenix, Arizona, and David Shaffer, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Under this program, qualified high school students from the four-state area are nominated for membership by their directors. Interest in the festival has grown so dramatically since its inception in 1983, that the decision was made to create two bands of 75 members each. Students accepted into the bands will spend a full day in rehearsal and then, following a dinner held in their honor, will share with the University Band in the presentation of an evening concert.
MARTIN RECORDS
NEW WORKS

Dr. Carolann Martin, director of the SEK Symphony, spent part of last summer in England, where she was involved in a project to record orchestral works by six contemporary women composers.

For this project, Martin was privileged to conduct the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, one of Great Britain's leading chamber orchestras. For some of the compositions, the orchestra was supplemented by players from the Glyndebourne Opera, and in some of the selections, the composers performed in their own works. The recording took place in a two-day session; roughly eleven hours engaged in recording with the orchestra and ten hours spent in editing the tape, which will be published by Leonarda Records.

"Actually, this won't come out in the form of a record," Martin said. "It will be released first on cassette, and then later on compact disc."

One of the works on this record, Perihelion, was actually one of two versions of this piece which Martin has recorded. The other version, which includes a part for synthesizer, was recorded in early January, with Martin conducting the Arioso Strings. Jane Brockmann was commissioned to write the piece for the Hart School of Music for the Arioso Strings, which is a group of twelve of the principal string players in the Hartford Symphony. It will be released on the Opus One label.

March
22 Faculty Recital, Carol Hoyt, organ, First Presbyterian Church, 3:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by the SEK Chapter, American Guild of Organists.
23 Performing Arts & Lecture Series: Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Memorial Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
29 SEK Symphony, 3:00 p.m.
30 Master Class, Penelope Jensen, 10:00 a.m.
31 Solo & Chamber Music Series: Penelope Jensen, soprano, 8:00 p.m.

April
2 SAI April Fool's concert, 8:00 p.m.
5 Recital, Kathryn Parke, soprano, 3:00 p.m.
6 Graduate Recital, Beth Sorensen, violin, 8:00 p.m.
7 State Music Festival, all day
14 Waddill Competition Honors Concert, 8:00 p.m.
17 Junior Recital, Cecily Noel, violin, 8:00 p.m.

May
2 Mid-America Music Festival, all day
3 SEK Symphony, 3:00 p.m.
10 Mid-America Youth Orchestra, 7:00 p.m.

June
(See article below for dates of June workshops)

*Tickets required. For further information, contact the PSU Department of Music (316/231-7000, Ext. 4466)

All events take place in McCray Hall unless noted otherwise. Please contact local news media for any changes in the above information.

1987 SUMMER WORKSHOPS AT PSU

The Department of Music will offer a broad variety of workshops for musicians of all ages this summer. For further information about any of these programs, contact Dr. Gene Volien, Chairman of the Department (316/231-7000, Ext. 4466).

*Master Class in Solo Vocal Repertoire and Accompanying
June 8-12, 8:30-3:45
*Master Class in Accompanying
June 8-12, 8:30-3:45
*Motivation and Retention for the School Band
June 8-9, 9:00-4:00
**Marching Band Techniques for the Small Band
June 10-12, 9:00-4:00
*Summer Music Festival Camp
June 15-19 (for pre-college and college students)
*Introduction to Orff
June 15-18, 9:00-1:00
*More Orff
June 22-25, 9:00-1:00

The Organist as Church Musician
June 22-23, 9:00-4:00
An Introduction to the Organ for Pianists
June 24-25, 9:00-4:00
Seminar for Private Piano Teachers
June 29-30, 9:00-4:00

*Enroll through Continuing Education  **Enroll through the Department of Music

1 hour credit—Auditors
2 hours credit—Participants
Graduate and Undergraduate
1 hour Graduate credit—
John Cheary, Instructor
1 hour Graduate credit—
Gary Corcoran, Instructor
1 hour credit available

1 hour credit—
Joyce Medford, Instructor
1 hour credit—
Joyce Medford, Instructor

Instructor: Susan Marchant
Instructor: Carol Hoyt
Instructor: Carol Hoyt
ALUMNI NEWS

We welcome news about our alumni at any time. Each issue of PSU Music Notes will carry as many entries as space will allow.

Maybelle Circle (BME '66, MS '71) is teaching elementary vocal music in USD #364, Marysville, KS. She is serving her second biennium as Phi State (KS) music representative in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, assuming responsibility for all the music at state meetings.

Terry (BME '63, MS '64) and Karen (Epler) Dolan (BME '64, MS '68) are making major contributions to the musical life of Joplin, MO. Terry is a teacher in the Joplin R-8 School District. Karen is self-employed as a private teacher and is choir director at Joplin's First Presbyterian Church. She is serving as a member of the PSU Music Advisory Council.

David Evitts (BME '65) is developing a tremendous career as solo artist and opera singer. He is involved in the preparation of several major roles and is looking forward to the performance of the Janacek Glagolitic Mass with the N.Y. Choral Society in Carnegie Hall. David will appear twice next season with the National Symphony in Washington, D.C.: once as soloist in the Mozart Requiem, under the direction of Christopher Hogwood, and once as soloist in William Schuman's On Freedom's Ground, under the direction of Rostropovich. David will return to the PSU campus for an appearance on our Solo & Chamber Music Series, set for February 9, 1988.

Stan Hegeman reports that he is residing in Newton, KS where he is owner of Henry's Shoe Shop. Stan plays first bassoon with the Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony, and is otherwise kept busy with private teaching and his membership in a rock and roll band.

Dolores "Dee" Kassab (BME '79) is a broker for Pro 100 Realtors, Joplin. Dee has undertaken an important and exciting responsibility as chair of the recently-established PSU Music Advisory Council.

Donald McGlothlin (BME '63, MS '64) has been appointed director of the newly-established School of Fine Arts (art-music-theatre) at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He will also continue in his role as chairman of the Department of Music.

Harl Palmer (BSED '34) is retired, after having served as assistant division manager for the Chicago Division of Skelly Oil. He plays organ and piano several hours a day, and he lists among his many hobbies the building of harpsichords, clocks, and furniture.

Helen (Marchbanks) Peare (BSED '39) is a reports clerk for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Retired from teaching since 1960, she still sings in the choir at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Helen has two grandchildren.

Lois (Hunt) Smith (BSED '37) serves as organist/director for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, PA. She has also been active as a piano instructor and as a member of a piano duo team.

Mary Beth (Messenger) Smith (BME '77) is an elementary music teacher in USD #508, Baxter Springs, KS. She also serves as pianist for Calvary Baptist Church, Joplin. Her husband, Bruce, is a computer analyst for Tamco in Joplin, and they are enjoying life with two sons, Cameron Lee and Preston Lynn.

Dennis Spille (BME '63, MS '66) is in his 24th year of public school teaching, involved in elementary and junior high vocal music in the Carthage R-9 School District. His wife, Shirley, is in her seventh year at College Heights Christian School, where she teaches fifth grade.

Donna Tomsness (BME '84) and her husband, Bob, announce the birth of a son, Drew Robert, on January 25, 1987.

Heather Williams writes with news of two important events in her life: the successful completion of her California Bar Exam, and the birth of a daughter, Jasmine Rose, on August 19, 1986.

Denzil Woody (BME '55) resides in Roswell, GA, where he is employed as assistant division manager for Liberty Mutual Insurance. He has remained active as a drummer, having played for the Shrine Band of Rochester, NY, the Pittsford, NY Fire Department Band, and the Concert Band of Georgia. He is the proud father of twin daughters, who graduated from Georgia Tech with degrees in engineering.

Obituaries

Dixie Isaacson, January 14, in Davenport, IA. Dixie had been the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions during her years at PSU. More recently, she had been active as a singer and church musician in the Davenport area.