An Exciting Year for PSU Bands

This has been an exciting year for the bands at Pittsburg State. The Pride of the Plains Marching Band sported new uniforms this fall (as shown in the photo at the right), and football fans were treated to fine performances both on and off the field—the latter taking place in the very popular Gorilla Village pre-game festivities, new this year, at the University Lake.

Craig Fuchs, in his first year as PSU Director of Bands, has brought other exciting initiatives to the program as well. Among these is a Spring Break trip, planned by Prof. Fuchs and Kehle, for the university bands and jazz ensemble. The instrumentalists will travel south to San Antonio, TX, performing at high schools along the way and at Six Flags over Texas at Fiesta, TX.

For further information about performance venues along the way, contact Prof. Craig Fuchs at 316/235-4070 (or e-mail: cfuchs@pittstate.edu).

Computers Enhance Theory/Comp Area

Thanks to a financial boost from the University in the area of equipment funding, the Department’s computer capabilities have been significantly enhanced this fall. New computers, with more sophisticated software than was available on the older machines, are now housed in the listening lab and are being put to very good use by students in the theory and composition areas. This enhancement is in keeping with a university-wide effort to improve our student-to-computer ratio beyond what is already a very impressive standing in comparison with national averages.

Other recent acquisitions in McCray Hall include new instruments in the band area and new sound systems for classrooms. Next on the list will be a sound booth for the Recital Hall, scheduled for construction during the summer of 1999.

Students Excel at NATS Competition

Once again, PSU vocal students have represented their school very well at the annual NATS Regional Competition, held this year in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Of the twelve PSU students who competed, seven placed as finalists and two as semifinalists in their divisions. Special congratulations are extended to Charity Dozier, soprano, who took first place in her division, and Rebecca Barringer, soprano, who placed third in her division. Both performed in master classes at the event as well, which were conducted by Kelly Ellwood and Dale Moore. Charity and Rebecca are students of Dr. Loraine Simms at PSU.

Other students who sang in the competition were Kari Burgess, Jason Hubbard, Eric Haag, Laurie Bell-Adams, David Chamberlain, Josh Simpson, Sara Albertson, Sam Eubank, Jennifer Klein, and Tina Wright.

New Faculty Appointment

At press time for the Fall '98 issue of PSU Music Notes, a search for an interim instructor in the area of choral music education was still underway. We are pleased to report that the search resulted in the appointment of Rodney Bell to this position. Prof. Bell is currently completing a DMA degree in choral conducting at the UMKC Conservatory of Music. He also holds degrees from Harding University and Auburn University. No stranger to the Kansas musical establishment, he had served on the music faculty of Seward County Community College for eight years prior to beginning his work on the doctorate. Concurrent with his duties in Pittsburg, he has also maintained the position of Worship Leader/Music Ministry Director for the Overland Park Church of Christ.

String Scholarship Opportunities Expanded

Thanks to significant growth in the area of specific endowments over the past several years, opportunities for string scholarships at Pittsburg State have been substantially increased. Awards up to full tuition are possible for string students majoring in music, and excellent scholarship assistance is also available for music minors and non-major participants who qualify.

To be considered for a string scholarship at PSU, students must audition on campus or via tape. For more information, or to schedule an audition, interested persons should contact the Department of Music at 316/235-4466 (or e-mail: music@pittstate.edu). We also welcome suggestions from PSU alumni and friends. Do you know of a student with whom you think we should be in contact? If so, please let us know!
Debut Recording of the Fisk Opus 106 Organ Now Available

The debut recording of Pittsburg State University’s Fisk Opus 106 pipe organ has just been released on the Pro Organo Label. Recorded in August, 1998 by Susan Marchant, PSU professor of organ, the disc offers an eclectic mix of organ literature by important composers: Sweelinck, Buxtehude, Bach, Guilain, Mendelssohn, Franck, and Vierne.

This project was accomplished with the sponsorship of the Fisk Opus 106 Organ Society, an organization that supports concerts and other activities related to this magnificent instrument. Proceeds from the sale of this CD will be dedicated to the work of the Society.

The CD may be ordered directly from the PSU Department of Music by using the order form below. Local readers may also purchase the discs at the PSU Bookstore or at Ernie Williamson Music House, Pittsburg.

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Order Form

Name __________________________ Phone __________________________
Address __________________________

Please send me _______ copy/copies of the Traditions CD on the Pro Organo Label, at the rate of $15.00 per disc.

☐ I have enclosed a check (made payable to the “Fisk Op. 106 Organ Society”) in the amount of __________________________

☐ Please charge my credit card for the amount of __________________________
   Mastercard   Visa   Discover
   Account Number __________________________ Exp. Date ____________

Name (if different from above) __________________________
Return form to: Fisk CD, Dept. of Music, Pittsburg State University
1701 S. Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762-7511

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Faculty Briefs...


Congratulations are extended to Craig Fuchs, assistant professor, and his wife Kelly on the birth of a daughter, Kelsey Ann, on November 10.

Lynne Garrett, assistant professor, completed work on the DMA degree in piano performance at the Eastman School of Music during the summer of 1998.

David Hurley, assistant professor, has received word that his book, Handel’s Muse, will be published by Oxford University Press this year.

Kathryn Parke, lecturer, sang as soprano soloist in the Bach motet Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied at the state convention of the Kansas Choral Directors Association. The concert, under the direction of Charles Bruffy, took place at Wichita State University on July 16.

Wei-Kang Zhou, assistant professor, served as clinician/director for the KMEA Southeast District’s Honor Orchestra. The ensemble performed at the District Mini-Convention on December 5 at the Bowkus Fine Arts Center in Iola, KS.

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IN MEMORIAM
Richard Smith

News was received this fall of the death of Richard (“Dick”) Smith, September 19, in Greenville, South Carolina. Prof. Smith had served as Director of Choirs at Pittsburg State University for twenty years, 1955-1975.

Prior to his coming to Pittsburg, he had served in the U.S. Marines during World War II and had taken his musical training at the famed Westminster Choir College, earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees from that institution. Among his many successes in Pittsburg was his work with the elite ensemble known as The Collegiates, a group that traveled the world on U.S.O. tours. Their travel included trips to Europe, the Pacific, the Caribbean, and the 1965 World’s Fair. At the United Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg he directed the Parrott Choir, an ensemble that provided music scholarships to many PSU students over a number of years.

Following his years in Pittsburg, he returned to school to earn a degree in computer science. He worked as a systems analyst until May, 1998. His sister, “Mickey” Stewart (BME ’70), writes that many of his former students kept in touch with their beloved mentor and his wife, Suzanne, over the years. Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society, Abbeville Unit, South Carolina.

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Gary Green
Recognized at Homecoming

Gary Green (BME ’74) received one of several Outstanding Young Alumni Awards at this fall’s Homecoming festivities. Gary was recognized for his considerable career accomplishments, including his national tour with the 1996 Tony Award-winning play, Master Class. Among his more recent activities was an excellent summer’s work with the theater program at PSU, where he was involved in two shows, When the Cookie Crumbles and A Little Night Music.
Calendar of Events

January
11-12 Enrollment
12 Retirement Recital, Kathleen Coffee, soprano, 7:00 pm
13 Classes begin
24 Faculty Recital, Lynne Garrett, piano, 7:30 pm
26 Faculty Recital, Kathryn Parke, soprano, 7:30 pm
29 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: eighth blackbird, 7:30 pm

February
2 Senior Recital, Pei-Hua Kan, piano, 7:30 pm
5 Junior Recital, Eric Haag, baritone, 7:30 pm
16 Faculty Recital, Loraine Sims, soprano, Timmons Chapel, 7:30 pm
19 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: Amherst Saxophone Quartet, 7:30 pm
23 University Bands, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm
28 Faculty Recital, Lynne Garrett, piano, with Greg Barrett, clarinet, 7:30 pm

March
5 PSU Jazz Festival, Memorial Auditorium, all day.
5 Jazz Festival Concert, 7:30 pm
6 Masterclass, Pittsburg Piano Teachers, 2:00 pm
7 *Southeast Kansas Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 pm
9 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: New Mexico Brass Quintet, 7:30 pm
13 KFMC Junior Festival, all day
14 University Choirs, 3:00 pm
16 Senior Recital, David Chamberlain, bass-baritone, 7:30 pm
20 Mid-America Piano Festival, all day

April
5 SEK String Orchestra, 7:30 pm
6 Guest Recital, Anthony DiSanza, percussion, 7:30 pm
9 Opera Scenes, 7:30 pm
10 Regional Solo/Ensemble Festival, all day
13 University Bands, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm
15 State Large Ensemble Festival, all day
17 Mid-America Music Festival, all day
18 Southeast Kansas Symphony, *3:00 pm
22 Jazz Ensemble, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm

May
2 Spring Choral Festival: Glorias by Vivaldi and *Poulenc, University Choirs and the SEK Symphony, First United Methodist Church, 3:00 pm
6 Four-State Band Festival, Memorial Auditorium, all day
14, 15 Commencement

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

Please consult local news media for changes and/or updates to the above information and for additional calendar events.

ALUMNI NEWS

Have we heard from you lately? If not, please take a moment to complete the response form and return it to us! This is the best way to keep our files updated and to share news of your recent activities with other members of the PSU Music Alumni network. Thanks!

Brian Beeson (BME '96) is currently serving as director of bands for the Madison, KS school district.

Barbara (Dunkin) Caldwell (BME '92) and her husband Jim joyfully announce the birth of a second son, Jonah Cole Caldwell, on July 14.

Chris Cruz (BME '74) has been writing a column entitled "Dealing With Your Dealer" in the national publication Band & Orchestra Product News. Additional articles on railroad band history and artifacts have also been published in The Railroadiana Express and The Katy Flyer. Chris serves as manager for Humz Music in Topeka, KS.

Cindy (McClanahan) Cruz (BME '74) is in her 15th year as a music educator at Pauline South Intermediate School in the Auburn-Washburn School District.

Jean Farris Fuller (BME '70) toured Germany in July '98 as soloist and accompanist with The Adult Choirs of St. David's Episcopal Church, Austin, TX, where she is organist. Performances included concerts in Hildesheim, Luneburg, and Kottenhagen.

Brian Giacomo (BME '93) would like to share news of his new web site, Giacomo's Internet Opus. It may be viewed at: http://www.azalea.net/~okwebdesigns

Brian is active as a web site designer and welcomes inquiries from individuals or businesses seeking this type of service.

Christine (Meyer) Giannini (BME '94) announces her marriage to Bradley Giannini on July 25. The couple resides in Dallas, TX, where Christine is a private flute instructor for the Plano School District and Brad is the network administrator for Bain & Company, a management consultant firm.

Louise Glen (BGS '98) has moved to California, where she is working as a customer service representative for Safeco Insurance Companies. She has also become very active in the musical life of her church, where her activities have included work with the children's program.

Kathy (Collins) Hall (BM '91) writes of several significant changes in her life in recent years. She now lives in Farlington, KS on an 80-acre farm, complete with cows, chickens, and a horse. She works as a gifted education teacher (K-12) for the Pleasanton and Mound City Schools, while husband Mark continues as a custom home builder and son Lucas attends Haderlein Elementary as a fifth grader. Kathy performs with the Pittsburg Posauen Ensemble and, on occasion, with the Southeast Kansas Symphony. She reports that she really loves her job, and that the kids with whom she works are quite simply amazing.

Gail Hamilton (MM '78) is exploring ways in which to blend her training in the areas of music and therapy, hoping to expand her practice to include people who experience performance anxiety or other related difficulties. She also continues to teach voice and piano, and she is planning a voice recital for April. In her free time, she is an
avid fan of her hometown football team, the Denver Broncos.

Pat Harry (BME '71) is beginning a two-year term as president of the Southeast District of the Kansas Music Educators Association. She succeeds James Kindall (MM '79), who has just completed his term.

Denise Heising (BM '76) would like to share her e-mail address with other members of the PSU music alumni network: HEISING@BELL.SOUTHWEST.NET

Denni, a handbell enthusiast, would love to hear from old (and not so old) friends.

Joni (Flummerfelt) Hill (BS '95) continues to thrive in Fort Worth, TX, where she and her mother both work for Mary Kay cosmetics. Husband Shaun (BA '93, MS '95) is a student at Southwestern Theological Seminary; graduation will be in either December '99 or May '00.

André Duane Lash (BME '69) presented a paper entitled "The 17th-Century Registro bajo and the Early Basse de Trompette: A French Connection?" at the Reunion '98 meetings of the Southeastern and Midwestern Historical Keyboard Societies, May 28-30, at Texas Christian University.

John Lehsh (BME '73) writes that, following a career in agricultural seed sales management as both regional and divisional manager, he opened an executive search firm in 1994. In this role, he recruits executives for the major Ag chemical and agronomic seed companies. The company has been very successful, specializing in plant biotechnology, plant breeders, and technical agronomy. John reports that he has remained active in education, working with his local school board on special projects. He also maintains strong musical ties as his church’s only tenor and via jam sessions with his son.

Patty Lewis (BME '74, MM '80) sends word that she moved her dad to a retirement community in Manhattan, KS, following the death of her mother last year in Pittsburg. She is able to spend a good deal of time with him now...that is, when she’s not teaching, tuning pianos, or working her booth in one of the local antique malls. Patty also played trombone in the Manhattan Municipal Band this past summer.

Janice (Sellers) Malan (BME '73, MM '91) is in her first year of teaching at Pittsburg High School, where she directs the choral program and serves as Activities Coordinator.

David Osborne (MM '84), currently a Steinway artist, is now in his third year as a featured performer at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas. Sales of his recordings on the North Star label continue to soar, now having topped a half million. David recently returned to his native Miami, OK for another concert at the Coleman Theatre.

Dana Jane Saliba (MS '66), former head of the music department at Labette Community College in Parsons and originator of the Southeast Kansas Messiah tradition, now teaches part-time for LCC, directs the Parsons String Ensemble, and teaches 30 private string, voice, and piano students. Dana is also kept busy with civic and church projects as well as other musical activities, such as adjudicating throughout the state.

Annie Sisk (BME '98) is teaching in the Onaga School District, where she directs a high school band and two elementary/junior high bands, grades 5-8.

Angela (Shoup) Stansberry (BM '96) writes that she has joined the faculty at Missouri Southern State College, Joplin, as a part-time voice instructor. She will also complete her certification in teacher ed. at MSSC in the fall of 1999.

Jo Anne (Young) Taylor (BME '77) and her husband Bruce have moved north to the Twin Cities in Minnesota. Jo Anne is teaching middle school choirs at Edgewood Middle School, and Bruce has begun a position as executive director of the Dale Warland Singers. Among their other recent professional activities, they presented a recital at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, in August, and Jo Anne sang with Robert Shaw in June, an experience that yielded several solo opportunities, including "the mouse" in Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb.

Ron (BM '95, MM '98) and Joann (BM '95) Warford announce with pride the birth of their first child, Jessica Dawn, on July 17.

Steve (MM '89) and Andrea (Baker) Wilkerson (MM '91) were featured artists on a cruise to the Hawaiian Islands and Acapulco during December with the Dennis Noday Orchestra. Steve's new video, The Art of Jazz Saxophone, is now available through Hal Leonard Publications. He is an artist/clinician for Selmer and is presenting a number of concerts with Andrea for various universities and schools across the nation.

Obituary

David Harrington (BME '57) died on October 6 in Columbus, KS. He had been active until the time of his death as a piano technician throughout the region. David had a rich career that included instrumental music teaching and performance and, following his retirement from teaching, work for the U.S. Postal Service. His wife Donna (BM '72) continues her musical service to the community as a prominent piano teacher.