McCray Hall welcomes Keith Ward, chair

The McCray Hall Family extends a hearty welcome to Dr. Keith Ward, newly-appointed chair of the PSU Department of Music.

Dr. Ward earned the Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance, with a secondary concentration in German, from West Chester University in Pennsylvania in 1978. His graduate study was at Northwestern University, where he received the Master of Music degree in piano performance/pedagogy in 1979 and the Doctor of Music degree in piano performance in 1986.

His teaching career began at Pennsylvania State University, where, from 1981-86, he taught music theory, applied piano, and related literature courses. Since 1986, he has been a member of the faculty at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. At Denison he has worn many hats, continuing to teach in the applied piano and theory areas while also making contributions in the areas of music literature and various interdisciplinary ventures. His administrative skills were recognized through his appointment as chair of the Department of Music, 1990-92. Since 1992, he has held the title of Director of Academic Support and The Freshman Year. In this capacity, he has overseen and directed Denison's First Year Program and the school's overall academic advising program. This administrative position has offered a vast array of experiences in the areas of staffing, development, assessment, curricular matters, programming, and budget management.

The versatility and breadth of experience that one finds in Dr. Ward's employment background is again echoed in his scholarly pursuits. In addition to an active career as a solo and collaborative pianist, he has been engaged in a broad range of research areas, including the Viennese fin-de-siècle culture, American music (especially Charles Ives and late 19th-century American composers of keyboard music), and artistic responses to the AIDS crisis. A sampling of recent scholarly achievements follows:

- An essay, "Ives, Schönberg, and the Musical Ideal," was recently published by Yale University Press in a collection titled Charles Ives and the Classical Tradition.
- A paper on the artistic world's response to the AIDS crisis was presented at the 1996 national convention of the Sonneck Society in Washington, D.C.

Clearly, this musician/scholar/administrator brings a most distinguished record of achievement and leadership to this position.

Future issues of PSU Music Notes will continue this introduction to Dr. Ward and his family and will offer some of his thoughts about this new association with Pittsburgh State University.

Music Department goes on-line

Since the fall of 1995, the PSU Department of Music has been on-line with a home page incorporated into that of the university's. To view this information, use the following addresses:

PSU: http://www.pittstate.edu
music: http://www.pittstate.edu/music

The music page currently offers much of the information contained in departmental fact sheets and other publications as well as a listing of individual e-mail addresses for music faculty. Future plans call for the expansion of these offerings, including PSU Music Notes, a complete calendar of events, festival information, and faculty home pages.

Professor Robert Kehle is overseeing this project. Persons who would like to offer ideas and suggestions are invited to communicate directly with Prof. Kehle at: rkehle@pittstate.edu

PSU International Organ Festival

The final installment in the inaugural year festivities of the C.B. Fisk Opus 106 organ at Pittsburg State was held on March 11-13, 1996, when a cast of internationally-acclaimed organists and participants from 14 states descended upon Pittsburg for several days of presentations, master classes, and performances.

Featured artists included Yuko Hayashi of the New England Conservatory of Music, Douglas Reed of the University of Evansville, and Louis Robilliard of the Conservatoire National de Région de Lyon, France. These artists each played solo recitals and participated in a full schedule of master classes, students for which were drawn from Pittsburg State, the University of Kansas, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Bethany College, Oberlin Conservatory, and New England Conservatory. The conference also included a performance of music for choir and organ, directed by Susan Marchant with Marie Rubis-Bauer at the organ, a technical/historical presentation about the organ by members of the Fisk shop, and a viewing of Stephen Mallonek's new video, Charles Brackett Fisk: A Retrospective.
Faculty Focus: Karen Dannessa

Karen Dannessa, associate professor of woodwinds, joined the PSU faculty in 1989. A native of Youngstown, Ohio, she earned the Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Youngstown State University in 1985. She next looked to Michigan State University for clarinet study under Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr and exposure to that institution's Woodwind Specialist program. In 1987, she received the Master of Music degree in clarinet performance, with woodwind expertise in saxophone, flute, and bassoon. Her doctoral studies in clarinet were undertaken at Florida State University. She was in residence there from 1987-89, after which she accepted the woodwinds position at Pittsburgh State. Over the next few years, she experienced the joy of handling a full-time teaching load while completing work on a massive dissertation project. Her document, "An Annotated Bibliography of Published and Unpublished Trios for Clarinet, One String Instrument, and Piano Composed Between 1978 and 1990 by Composers Active in the United States," did reach fruition, and the Doctor of Music was awarded in the spring of 1994.

Her doctoral research has resulted in several published journal articles, one of which (for The Instrumentalist) even addresses trios that would be suitable for performance by high school musicians.

Dr. Dannessa has contributed to the life of the department in many significant ways, including that of classroom instruction in the areas of music theory and music literature. Such versatility notwithstanding, most observers would probably note that performance sits at the very core of her existence. Indeed, she is an absolutely stunning clarinetist whose performances are marked at the same time by tremendous energy, expressivity, and clarity. On more than one occasion, I have observed audience members who, at the completion of a KD performance, turn to their neighbors and simply say, "Wow," as they applaud.

Karen has given solo performances at a number of important festivals, including the Clarinetfest at Arizona State University, the University of Oklahoma's annual Clarinet Symposium, and the Montana/Idaho Clarinet Festival. While she performs a broad range of repertoire, she admits having a special fondness for late Romantic and 20th-Century literature because of the technical challenges this music presents. She has worked closely with PSU faculty member John Mackay, premiering three of his Sonatas for Clarinet and Piano and sharing this music with the wider festival audience.

Karen Dannessa

Such a gift for musical communication has also led Karen to perform with a chamber group, The Tallahassee Reed Trio. Other members of the trio include her husband Henry Grabb, who teaches oboe at West Chester University in Pennsylvania, and bassoonist Sharon Trent of Indiana State University. Together since 1986, the trio mounts annual tours and was most recently featured on the roster of artists at the International Double Reed Society convention at Florida State.

Asked what she enjoys most about teaching, Karen's immediate response was, "Bringing the student along." The most gratifying part of the teaching experience, she explains, is to witness the final results in a student's development, having coached and nurtured that development throughout the student's college career. Karen nurtures other living things, too. When she's not busy practicing, writing, or teaching, she's likely to be caring for her collection of green plants. She's also an avid reader. John Updike is on her "favorite authors" list, along with various writers who delve into metaphysical matters. A conversation with her about recent readings can be just as interesting and enlightening as her communication from the stage!

- Susan Marchant

Special thanks to Dr. Russell Jones, professor, who served as interim chair of the Department of Music during the 1995-1996 academic year.

Faculty Briefs...

Paul Huybrechts, associate professor, will serve as music director for KRPS, Pittsburg State University's public radio station, during a leave of absence from his post as voice teacher and opera director at PSU.

Robert Kehle, professor, attended in 1996 International Trombone Festival in Feldkirch, Austria, July 2-6, 1996. Following the festival, he spent an additional ten days touring the sights of the region, including Munich, Vienna, and Prague.

Susan Marchant, professor, performed at the National MENC convention in Kansas City this spring with the choir of Gonzaga University from Spokane, WA. The concert took place at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Stephen Taylor, assistant professor, traveled to New York for the world premiere of his new orchestral work, Unapproachable Light, at Carnegie Hall on May 19, 1996. The work was performed by the American Composers Orchestra, who had commissioned it, under the direction of German conductor Ingo Metzmacher. Closer to home, his new choral work, Ave Regina Coelorum for women's voices and organ, received its first performance at the PSU 1996 International Organ Festival. The work was also performed in Alabama and Georgia during the choir's spring tour.

Faculty Departures...

Several members of the PSU music faculty will leave Pittsburg to pursue professional opportunities elsewhere:

Mary Katherine Kelton, voice, has accepted a teaching position at Butler University in Indianapolis.

James Tapia, trumpet and director of bands, will return to Austin, TX, where he will be an instructor while completing work on his doctoral dissertation at the University of Texas.

Stephen Taylor, theory and composition, will move to Bloomington/Normal, IL, to begin a faculty appointment at Illinois State University.

The next issue of PSU Music Notes will feature profiles of newly-appointed music faculty, including those persons who will assume the above duties as well as those who will serve in other areas of the department.
Calendar of Events

August

20  Enrollment
21  Classes begin

September

14  Guest Recital, Michael Bauer, organ, 7:30 pm
24  * Solo & Chamber Music Series: American Brass Quintet, 7:30 pm
29  * Southeast Kansas Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 pm

October

1  Faculty Recital, Karen Dannessa, clarinet, 7:30 pm
11  Jazz Ensemble, University Club, 7:30 pm
12  KMTA Auditions, all day
17  Wind Ensemble, 7:30 pm
18  * Solo & Chamber Music Series: Daniel Pollack, piano, 7:30 pm
19  Treble Clef Club Regional Meeting, all day
27  Faculty Recital, Susan Marchant, organ, 3:00 pm

November

15  University Choirs, 7:30 pm
17  * Southeast Kansas Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 pm
18-19  Choir tour
22  Band/Jazz Concert, 7:30 pm
25-26  Jazz tour

December

3  * Solo & Chamber Music Series: Calliope: A Renaissance Christmas, 7:30 pm
4  University Choirs, Christmas Luncheon Concert, Overman Student Center, noon
4  Timmons Chapel Christmas Concert
6  * Tickets required. For further information, contact the PSU Department of Music (316/235-4466).

University Choirs travel south

Pittsburg State’s choral ensembles traveled to points southeast this spring, with concerts in Atlanta as well as Huntsville and Auburn, Alabama. This trip was rich with other opportunities as well, starting with a visit to NASA’s Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, and continuing with sightseeing time in Atlanta and New Orleans. On the return trip, the choir stopped at Rice University to visit the installation of a Fisk pipe organ underway in a newly-built concert hall designed specifically for organ music. While in the rich acoustics of the hall, the choir sang a sampling of its tour music for Rice students and others who had gathered. The final stop of the tour was in Dallas, where the students were met by a member of the Dallas Symphony staff and treated to a special tour of the Meyerson Symphony Center.

Music Advisory Council Update

The PSU Music Advisory Council, guided by the leadership of Roberta McNay, chair, has developed the following mission statement:

"The mission of the Department of Music Advisory Council is to offer advice which will help this department to more effectively meet the needs of our region, to serve in an advocacy role for the department, and to assist in making contacts with those who can help raise funds for needs not provided for in the operating budget of this department."

Among the projects of the Council is the continued building of named endowment funds to benefit the scholarship program of the department. One of the more recently-established funds is the Vollen Endowment, named for retired chairman Gene E. Vollen. A report on the growth of this fund, including a list of donors, will be published in the next issue of PSU Music Notes.

"Pages from the Past"

Winners

In the Spring '96 issue of PSU Music Notes, there appeared a photograph of four distinguished trumpet players from yesteryear at Pittsburg State. This photo, taken by the late Richard G. Cook of the PSU music faculty, was provided through the generosity of Prof. Cook’s wife, Carolyn.

The musicians were, from left to right: Bill Johnson, Steve Harry, Chris Coats, Doug McCarter. Congratulations to the first respondents in the contest: Larry and Elaine Berg, Mitchell and Debra Miles, Elaine Johnson, and Steve and Pat Harry.

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!

Monty (BME '92) and Stephanie Amick have sent word of the birth of a daughter, Kathryn Alee, on February 1, 1996. Monty and Stephanie are residing in Lawrence, KS.

Lori Bolton (BME '96) will join the music staff of the Leavenworth, KS public schools, where she will teach elementary music.

Harlan Bryan (MM '96) has accepted a position at Scott City, KS, where he will teach high school band and jazz band and will assist with the middle school/elementary program.

Judy Cope (BM '82) has recently been added to the roster of Co-Opera-tive in New York City. Upcoming roles will include Leonora in La Forza del Destino and Desdemona in Verdi's Otello. Judy may be seen in the Late Night Choral, an ensemble of eight singers performing on David Letterman's "Late Night" television show. She also sings with Voices of Ascension, a professional choir conducted by Dennis Keene. They may be heard on Delos recordings and Disney soundtracks. Other recent New York musical projects have included a solo performance for a gathering at the office of New York's Mayor Giuliani and participation in a performance of Beethoven's Ninth with the New York Philharmonic for the 50th anniversary celebration of the United Nations.

Kevin Derrick (BM, BME '90) has survived his first year of fatherhood with flying colors. Daughter Emily Catherine was born to Wendy and him on August 16, 1995. Kevin's other full-time job is as vocal music director at Iola High School.

Marietta (Osborne) Gear (BM '68) has completed her first year in the Master of Sacred Music degree program at the Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Her outstanding work was recognized this spring when the school awarded her the Roger
Dreschner Prize in Sacred Music, for academic achievement, musical skills, and progress in the program. Marietta has been serving as interim organist at Church Hill Way Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

Rachel (Hunley) Harraman (att. '92-'93) writes that she is married and now has a beautiful baby girl, Gabriel. She has been working for the Mercantile Bank of Joplin and taking courses at Missouri Southern State College.

Richard Lamer (BME '73, MM '75) has been awarded the professional insurance designation Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU®) by the American Institute for CPCU. This organization confers the designation on persons who complete its ten rigorous courses and national essay examinations and meet its ethics and experience requirements. Richard works as a Casualty Claim Specialist for AIG Claim Services, Inc., a member company of American International Group, Inc. He is active in the First Baptist Church in Olathe and is musical director for the Overland Stage Men's Barbershop Chorus. Richard and his wife Sandy have two children. Daughter Lizzie is entering Pittsburg State this fall as a recipient of a vocal music scholarship, and son Greg will be a junior at Olathe South High School.

Susan Laushman (MM '94) has been named vocal music director at Pittsburg High School. She also continues as a soloist and director of children's music at First United Methodist Church.

Travis (BME '93) and Julie Laver announce the birth of their first child, a healthy 9-pound, 4-ounce girl they've named Brianna Lee.

Susan Lincoln (BME '93) has taught elementary music at the Columbia School, Carthage, MO, for the past two years. This summer, she has begun a new full-time job at Southwest Missouri Music in Joplin. Her duties include piano instruction and other work in the store.

Gina (Kruger) Marsh (BME '89) has joined the faculty of Grace University in Omaha, NE, where she will teach applied piano and music history. She also maintains a private piano studio and performs regularly throughout the region.

Mitchell (BME '69) and Debra Miles (BM '70) have provided the following update on their activities: Mitchell is pastor of Full Faith Church in Carthage. Debra is an instructor in the music department at Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, MO.

Melissa (McKinney) Partlin (BM '71) is presently a member of two Atlanta area orchestras, Orchestra Atlanta and the Cobb Symphony. She has a total of 36 piano and cello students, and she is active as an adjudicator for regional festivals and contests. She is a wife and mother, and she reports that her 14-year-old son competes in tennis and BMX biking.

Katherine Potter (BS '39, MM '66) continues to enjoy singing in the United Methodist Women's Choir and the AARP Choir in Pittsburg.

Roger Scantlin (BME '95) has accepted a teaching position with the public schools of Easton, KS.

Rebecca Shaw (MM '96) will return to the Pittsburg public schools following a year's leave of absence, during which time she undertook graduate study at PSU. Becky will work in the vocal area of the Middle School.

Becky (Swaney) Smith (BME '87) sends word of the birth of a daughter, Ailis Kitlin, on May 2.

Nicholas Smith (BM '70) has accepted an administrative position at Wichita State University, where he has been a member of the music faculty for many years. He succeeds William Mathis as associate dean of the WSU College of Fine Arts. While this is not the first administrative post he's held at the school—he has served as associate chairman of the School of Music and graduate coordinator for the past three years—this shift will result in a move away from his duties as an applied horn instructor. He will also relinquish his 21-year post as principal horn player in the Wichita Symphony Orchestra and his membership in the Lieurance Woodwind Quintet.

Joan Warford (BM '95) has joined the faculty of Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO, where she teaches applied voice.

Steve (MM '89) and Andrea (MM '91) Wilkerson continue to thrive musically and personally in California. They are appearing together with jazz ensembles in California and elsewhere, a few highlights of which include performances with a Stan Kenton Reunion Band and with the Mike Vax Band at the Sacramento Jazz Festival. Steve, now an artist-in-residence for the Selmer Corporation, performed at the 1995 International Clarinet Symposium in Tempe, AZ, and at the annual June festival at the University of Oklahoma. Andrea continues to enjoy her teaching position with the Monrovia Unified Schools, where she covers general music, grades 1-5, and choir, grades 6-8. Their son Chance, now on the brink of fifth grade, is gathering steam as a young pianist.

Obituary

Mary Catherine Cayton, known in Pittsburg during the silent movie era as "The Lady with the Golden Fingers," died at the age of 92 on February 17, 1996, in Pittsburg. The mainstay of several local movie theaters, Mrs. Cayton played organ and piano for silent films for many years. The advent of the "talkies" didn't keep her away, however, as she carried out a lifelong mission to view each and every movie that played in town. She maintained an active musical life as well, serving an organist for the Christian Science Church and working at Emie Williamson Music for 40 years. She was an enthusiastic supporter of concerts as well, and until her last years, one could usually expect to find Mrs. Cayton and her contagious smile and laugh among the listeners gathered in McCrory Recital Hall or other Pittsburg venues.

We received news of the death of Billye Ruth Rodgers Wagner (BM '54) on August 27, 1995, at the age of 64. Mrs. Wagner was a piano student of Will Humble at Pittsburg State. She continued her training at Indiana University, where she studied piano with Menahem Pressler and organ with Oswald Ragatz, and she earned an MM degree in piano performance in 1956. After graduation, she taught briefly in the Dallas public school system. She also served as organist for several Dallas churches during her career.