Keith Ward departs Pittsburg for the Northwest

Keith Ward, chairperson of the PSU Department of Music for the past two academic years, has resigned from this position to accept a post as Director of the School of Music at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. The Department sends its best wishes for continued success in this next chapter of his career. As he departs, Dr. Ward addresses PSU music alums and friends with the following message:

“As my family and I move to the Northwest, we leave PSU with sincere wishes for the continuing vitality of its music program. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to have met and worked with many people who receive this Newsletter. Whether through letters, personal visits, the phonauton, email correspondence, or meetings at conventions and in-service workshops, I feel fortunate to have become acquainted with so many people who are joined by one common thread: a pride in this music department and all that it undertakes.

I encourage you to continue supporting this department, to remain a part of its constituency. Pittsburg State is an institution that has made such an important difference in so many people’s lives. It stands ready to continue that tradition. Send qualified students to work with its nurturing music faculty. Support its music scholarships, concert series, and other endowed funds. Participate in its workshops. Attend performances by PSU ensembles, wherever they may perform. With your involvement, this department can continue preparing generations of young, aspiring musicians for successful careers in music, whether they wish to be a tenor performing at the Opera House in Bayreuth, Germany (Robert Smith ’80) or a mentoring teacher in Carthage, Missouri (Jennifer Sager, ’97). With your support, this department also will continue to make a meaningful contribution to cultural life in the four-state region. Help it maintain a standard of excellence.

My best wishes to all of you.”
- Keith Ward

New Faculty Appointments

As of press time, two new musicians had been appointed to the faculty of the Department of Music for duty commencing this fall. A search for an interim instructor in the area of choral music education was still underway. Here is a brief introduction to our new colleagues.

Craig Fuchs has been named Director of Bands following the resignation of Dr. Warren Olfort. A candidate for the DMA degree in wind conducting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Prof. Fuchs holds degrees in music education from Missouri Western State College and the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is well known to band directors in this region for his teaching positions at area high schools, principally as Director of Bands at Shawnee Mission West High School from 1990-1997.

Maureen Hurd, clarinetist, will serve as woodwind instructor for the 1998-99 academic year during the leave of absence of Dr. Karen Dannessa. Prof. Hurd holds the BM degree from Iowa State University and the MM and MMA degrees from the Yale School of Music, where she expects to complete the DMA degree within the next several years. Her most recent teaching experience has been at her undergraduate alma mater during the spring of 1998. She brings a wealth of performance experience to this position which will include applied teaching of clarinet, flute, and saxophone.

Gene Vollen to lead Department in ‘98-’99

Dr. Gene Vollen, emeritus professor of music and chairperson of the Department of Music for many years, has graciously agreed to serve as interim chair during the 1998-99 academic year, following the resignation of Dr. Keith Ward from the position. It is anticipated that a national search for a successor will be mounted during this period.

Chanticleer Performance Centerpiece of 1998-99 SCM Series

A special concert by the world-renowned male vocal ensemble Chanticleer will be one of the highlights in what promises to be an exciting season of performances brought to Pittsburg by the Solo & Chamber Music Series. Co-sponsored by the PSU Performing Arts & Lecture Series, this concert is set for Sunday evening, November 1. (Special note: it is expected that this concert will attract a capacity audience for the 500-seat McCray Recital Hall. Interested persons are urged to secure tickets well ahead of time).

Rounding out this all-star season will be performances by the following artists:

Oct. 13: Anthony Molinaro, piano, Naumburg Competition Winner
Nov. 17: Gary Karr, double bass
Jan. 29: Eighth Blackbird
Feb. 19: Amherst Sax Quartet
Mar. 9: New Mexico Brass Quintet
Choirs Perform in Washington, D.C.

Following a home concert on March 15, the PSU choirs departed for a major Spring Break tour. The centerpiece of this trip was a performance at the Washington National Cathedral, where the ensemble presented the choral prelude to the service of Evensong on Sunday, March 22. Among those in attendance for the performance in our nation’s capital were Bob and Elizabeth Dole. Students had an opportunity to chat with these most distinguished representatives of our home state. There were other PSU friends and alumni present at the Washington concert and at every stop along the way.

An unusual performance opportunity presented itself in a “cathedral” of a different type in the Luray Caverns of northern Virginia. Named for its spaciousness and grandeur of its formations, the main room of this famous cave was the site of a brief performance by the choirs as they completed a walking tour of the well-known natural attraction.

Completing the tour were stops at the St. Louis Cathedral, the Church of the Redeemer in Cincinnati, and two venues in Louisville: Beuchel Presbyterian Church and the beautiful Presbyterian Center, where the students sang in both the chapel and the spacious acoustics of the open lobby area. Approximately 55 of the choral students chose to participate in this biennial event. They were joined by faculty members Loraine Sims and Kathryn Parke, who served as soloists with the choirs, and Susan Marchant, who directed the ensembles.

David Hurley named president of the American Handel Society

Dr. David Hurley, assistant professor of oboe and music history at Pittsburg State, has begun serving a term as president of the American Handel Society. Dr. Hurley maintains an extraordinary schedule pertaining to his work as a Handel scholar. He has just completed an entry on Handel for the Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia, and he is reviewing literature on Handel’s oratorios for the Reader’s Guide to Music History, Theory, and Criticism. He provided the lead article for the April issue of the AHS Newsletter, and he was the recipient of a grant from the Handel Institute in England to support research in England this past summer on Handel’s oratorio singers. He will present a paper on Ovid’s Heroes and two English libretti at the University of Maryland this fall.

Calendar of Events

August

24  Enrollment
25  Classes begin

September

20  Faculty Recital, Susan Marchant, organ, 3:00 pm

October

13  *Solo & Chamber Music Series: Anthony Molinaro, piano, 7:30 pm
16  Jazz at the Overman Student Center, 7:30 pm
20  University Band, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm
22  Suzuki Strings Concert, 7:00 pm

November

1  *Solo & Chamber Music Series: Chanticleer, 7:30 pm
3  Opera Scenes, 7:30 pm
13  University Choirs, 7:30 pm
17  *Solo & Chamber Music Series: Gary Karr, double bass, 7:30 pm
19  *Southeast Kansas Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm, with guest soloist Gary Karr

December

2  University Choirs, Annual Holiday Concert, Banquet, Overman Student Center, 12:00 noon
3  Band, Jazz Ensemble, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm
6  *Southeast Kansas Symphony, 3:00 pm
9  Timmons Chapel Christmas Program, 7:30 pm
11  Timmons Chapel Christmas Program, 7:30 pm
18  Commencement

All events take place in McCray Recital Hall unless noted otherwise.
*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.
Faculty Briefs...

Karen Danness, associate professor, will be on leave from PSU during the 1998-99 academic year. During this time, she plans to work on several recordings, both with the Keystone Trio and with pianist John MacKay. Summer activities included teaching at West Chester University in Pennsylvania and performances at the “Concerts by Candlelight” series in Cape May, New Jersey, and the International Double Reed Society Convention in Phoenix, where she was involved in the premiere of Prof. MacKay’s Romance for clarinet, oboe, and piano.

Richard Davis, assistant professor, sang the role of the Marquis in La Traviata with the New Orleans Opera in March. Other spring activities included his direction of H.M.S. Pinafore and Goldilocks for the PSU opera program. He attended the national convention of the National Association of Teachers of Singing in Toronto during July.

Todd Hastings, assistant professor, was awarded the DMA degree from the University of Texas during May. His busy year of performances included work as lead trumpet for the Tony Award-winning production of Chicago in Buffalo, NY, and several concerts with the Kansas City Symphony. Summer activities included playing for the Victoria Bach Festival in Texas and the Strings in the Mountains Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Evan Hause, assistant professor, was a guest composer/performer at the Wichita State University Contemporary Music Festival, March 12-14. Earlier in the semester, his new choral work Loons was given its Wichita premiere by the University Choir at the annual KMEA In-Service Workshop.

Russell Jones, professor, was selected to serve as an external consultant in an internal review process at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma. His work, which included written reviews and on-site visitation, was in the areas of music and music education.

Robert Kehle, professor, reports that his book, A Brief Annotated Guide to the Literature for the Alto Trombone, has been accepted for publication by Warwick Music of Warwick, England. Its projected publication date is January, 1999. In May, Prof. Kehle attended the 27th Annual International Trombone Festival at the University of Colorado.

Susan Marchant, professor, has been appointed to the Kansas State Board of the American Choral Directors Association as chair of the church music area.

Scott Nelson, instructor/artistic director of the Suzuki String Program at PSU, reports that the program is thriving. In May, these students presented their eighth public program in McCray Recital Hall. Mr. Nelson maintains an active studio of high school students as well, four of whom qualified for the Kansas State Music Festival this spring. He is also known to southeast Kansas audiences as a singer, most recently having served as soloist for the Labette Community College performance of Handel’s Messiah.

Kathryn Parke, lecturer, was commissioned by Nimbus Records of London to write the liner notes for their most recent CD recording of the Kansas City Chorale under the direction of Charles Bruffy. The disk, Alleluia: An American Hymnbook, is scheduled for international distribution.

Lorraine Sims, assistant professor, was the soprano soloist for a performance of the Mozart Requiem at the Southern Regional ACDA Convention in Charleston, SC in February. She was also selected as a national semi-finalist for the 1998 Concert Artist Guild Competition. She sang in the competition in New York City in February.

Keith Ward, associate professor, presented a paper, “The Object and the Void: Schönberg, Schiele, and the Dissolution of Ornament,” in the Faculty Seminar series at PSU in March. On a personal note, he and his wife, Barbara Roidl, celebrated the arrival of their second child, Martha Marlene Roidl-Ward, on April 30.

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!

Dallas Bayless (MM '98) has accepted a position as band director with the Great Bend, KS public schools.

Mark Beck (BM '95) and his wife Krista announce the birth of a son, Adam Sean, June 11 in Pittsburg.

Harlan Bryan (MM '96) has accepted a teaching position in the high school of Minneola, KS.

Libba (Israel) Chappell (BME '84) writes that she is in her 14th year of teaching in the Springfield, MO school system, where she oversees 6th-8th grade band and 8th grade choir at the Jarrett Middle School. In her “spare” time she helps her husband in his recording studio by singing jingles for radio and television.

Glen Clugston (BM '52) continues his busy career in New York City as a conductor. Most recent among his accomplishments were his performances of Vivaldi operatic works with vocalists and Baroque orchestra and productions of Evita with Paige O'Hara and Camelot with Noel Harrison. He continues as a vocal coach in New York studios. Glen has concertized in 22 countries around the world, including a recent tour of Germany and the Netherlands with My Fair Lady. Among the other highlights of his career is his work as music director for the Hallmark Hall of Fame production of The Fantasticks starring Bert Lahr, Stanley Holloway, and John Davidson.

Eric Copening (BME '70) taught in Kansas schools for seven years after graduating. He was a co-founder of “Airborne,” a fusion group that was successful for about three years. He moved to Arkansas in 1977 and eventually became a founding member of the Bella Vista Big Band, which in 1992 and 1996 opened the Arkansas Inaugural Ball in Washington, D.C. for President Clinton. For eleven years, Eric served as pianist for the Nina Clock Quartet. Currently, he is keyboardist for the “Tyrones,” an excellent blues and old-time rock & roll band. He also operates a piano studio in Rogers with 35 students.

Kimberly (Correll) Ford (BME '98) has accepted a position with the Labette County school system. She will be teaching K-8 vocal and instrumental music in Edna and Mound Valley.
Tammy (Williams) Frevele (BM ‘98) has moved back to the eastern Virginia area with her family following completion of her degree in piano performance at PSU this spring.

Edmond Gallaway II is the owner of Quality Telephone Communication Services, Inc. and Quality Answering Service, businesses he started during the past five years. Ed married Connie (William) Bennett in 1992.

Daphne Gong (MM ‘98) is working in the Washington, DC area, presenting seminars for Yamaha pianos and teaching keyboard at Jordan Kitt’s Music Company, a Steinway dealer.

Jim Harris (BME ‘77, MM ‘81) reports that, after more than 20 years of teaching music, mostly in the Galena, KS public schools, he has accepted a call to be the full-time Children’s Pastor of the Pittsburg Church of the Nazarene. Music will continue to be an important part of his life, both in community circles and as part of his new position, which deals with the spiritual welfare of children through age 12. Jim and his wife Patricia have two children, Elizabeth and Emery, both of whom are studying music through the PSU Music Preparatory Division.

Brad Harrison (BME ‘98) has been awarded a graduate assistantship at the University of Southernwestern Louisiana. Brad has been a trumpet student of Todd Hastings at PSU.

Mike (BSED ‘85) and Ramona (Vassar) Isbell (BA ‘86) reside in Overland Park, KS, where Mike is active as an educator and Ramona is editor of Cellular and Mobile International.

Gina Kruger (BM ‘89) writes that she received an NEH grant to study the connection of Gothic architecture with music of the same period. She was part of a study group based in Paris for six weeks this past summer. Gina begins her third year as adjunct professor of piano and music history at Grace University in Omaha this fall. Last season, she presented recitals in Iowa and Nebraska, featuring works of Messiaen and Debussy. Plans for ‘98-’99 include several collaborative chamber concerts as well as solo performances.

Travis (BME ‘93) and Julie Laver proudly announce the birth of a son, Brenton Thomas, on June 25.

Jerry Nunn (BSED ‘71) works for the State of Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs at the Lloyd E. Rader Children’s Center in Okmulgee. In his 13th year with this institution, he is a certified trainer in the Mandt System: Managing Aggressive and non-aggressive people, a certified child care worker, and an instructor of First Aid and CPR for the Professional Rescuer.

Jim O’Sheils (BME ‘98) has been appointed band director for the Neodesha, KS high school.

Colleen Pearman (BME ‘67, MM ‘82) has completed her first year as a member of the music faculty at Cotney College in Nevada, MO, where she teaches organ and class piano.

Mark Powls (BME ‘84, MM ‘86) announces his marriage to Carmen Hofer. The ceremony took place June 6 in Hillsboro, KS. Mark continues as director of music for the public schools of Gridley, KS.

Roger (BME ‘95) and Lori (Patnaude) Scantlin (BME ‘96) have joined the music staff of the Galena, KS public schools.

Elizabeth (“Mickey”) Ann (Zigmund) Stewart (BME ‘70) writes that she is enjoying a more relaxed lifestyle these days. She serves as secretary for three bowling leagues in Nevada, where she and her husband, an electrician, reside.

Galen Wolf (BME ‘70, MM ‘72) brought his 40-voice choir and pit orchestra from God’s Bible School in Cincinnati to the First Church of the Nazarene in Pittsburg as part of its midwest tour, Sunday, March 31. Garen is chair of the Division of Music at the college.

Justin Writer (BME ‘98) will continue his musical study this fall at Wichita State University, where he will serve as a graduate assistant in the area of music theory. He will pursue a master’s degree in theory/composition.

Obituaries

Viola Cowden (BME ‘60) died on February 11, 1998, in Pittsburg, the city where she had been a lifelong resident. Viola was a music teacher for many years, having served Pittsburg’s Lakeside Elementary School prior to her retirement.

Carol Ann Zagar Dressler (BME ‘74) died on March 24, 1998, in Girard, KS. Following graduation from PSU, she moved to Kansas City, MO. She taught music at Hume, MO and LaCygne. She also worked for 20th Century Travel and, later, for Worldspan, Inc. Carol returned to southeast Kansas in December, 1997.