Band plans major trip to The Netherlands

The Pittsburg State University Band has accepted an invitation to participate in the next Easter-in-Maastricht Festival, an annual event that draws together bands from North America and Europe for a month-long spring celebration. The PSU trip will take place during the period of March 17-24, 2001.

While in the city of Maastricht, the PSU students will perform a public concert at the bandstand, or "Vrijthof," in the center of town. They will also engage in an exchange rehearsal and concert with a Dutch band. The location of the festival (in the southern part of the country) also allows for several short excursions to other European cities, including Amsterdam; Bruges and Brussels, Belgium; and Aachen, Germany. While in Germany, the students will visit the Margraten Cemetery, where more than 8,000 U.S. soldiers are buried.

Tour participants will have a busy year of fundraising ahead in order to meet the expenses of the trip. For further information about the project, contact Dr. Craig Fuchs, director of bands, at 316/235-4070, or via e-mail at cfuchs@pittstate.edu.

Lem Sheppard represents Kansas at the Kennedy Center

It was a proud day indeed for Pittsburg State University and the state of Kansas when Lemuel Sheppard (BM '82, MM '83) appeared on the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC last summer to present a program of traditional folk and bluegrass songs. The July '99 event was designated as "Kansas State Day," part of a year-long celebration to mark the millennium. Each state had been invited to send one artist to perform on this series, and the Kansas Congressional delegation chose Lem to be its artistic ambassador.

The Millennium Stage Concerts, offered free of charge to the public, were launched in 1997 as part of the "Performing Arts for Everyone Initiative." In the three years of this program, more than 700,000 people have experienced such performances. Fortunately, the Millennium Stage Concerts have been videotaped for archival purposes and may be accessed on the Kennedy Center website. To share in the experience of Lem on stage, use the address http://kennedy-center.org and follow the directions to access the Millennium Stage archives.

Closer to home, Lem remains active as a singer/guitarist and teacher. This fall, a new chapter in his career will open as he begins a full-time faculty appointment at Labette Community College, where a new program is being established in the area of commercial music.

Visit the PSU Department of Music Home Page for Up-to-Date Information concerning Concerts, Workshops, Auditions, and Faculty Biographies at http://www.pittstate.edu/music
New Faculty Appointments

Reena Berger has been appointed to the PSU music faculty as a lecturer for the 2000-2001 academic year, during which time Lynne Garrett, assistant professor, is on a leave of absence from the university.

Dr. Berger is a native of Montreal, Canada. She earned a pre-college diploma from McGill University in 1983 and then studied abroad at Tel Aviv University, completing the Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance in 1989. She returned to this side of the Atlantic for her graduate performance programs, earning a master’s degree from the New England Conservatory in 1992 and a doctorate from the Université de Montréal in 1999. Her primary teachers have included Marc Durand, Patricia Zander, and Viktor Dervianko. The study of piano pedagogy has also been a strong interest throughout her course of study.

Dr. Berger brings to this position a wealth of experience as solo artist, collaborative musician, and teacher. Her most recent appointment has been as a lecturer in piano performance at the Université de Montréal. She has also served as staff accompanist for both that institution and McGill University.

James Romig will join the PSU music faculty as a lecturer for the 2000-2001 academic year, following the resignation of Evan Hause, assistant professor in the areas of theory/composition and percussion.

For Dr. Romig, this appointment will be a return to the region of the country in which he was raised. His roots are in Iowa, where he received his early musical training as well as bachelor’s and master’s degrees in percussion performance from the University of Iowa (1993 and 1996, respectively). His interest in theory and composition was sparked during these years of study as a percussionist, and he made a decision to head toward the East Coast to investigate these corners of the discipline. His school of choice for this work was Rutgers University, where his principal mentors were Charles Wuorinen and Milton Babbitt. His recently-completed thesis deals with twelve-tone rhythm structure and its application to form.

Dr. Romig has been the recipient of a number of awards and honors for his compositions, and his list of commissions includes an impressive and broad spectrum of performance media, including dance and theater. In 1996, he founded The Society for Chromatic Art, a contemporary-music ensemble based in New York. He continues to serve as music director and conductor for this ensemble, and he also remains active as a percussionist in performances of old and new music alike.

Paul Carlson, emeritus professor of violin at Pittsburg State, will return to his former post this year, following the resignation of Weikang Zhou, assistant professor, during the summer.

Dr. Carlson has been engaged in a number of projects since his retirement in 1997, including some major international travel to various destinations in Asia and South America for solo recitals, concerto performances, and master classes. He continues to be a cornerstone of the Four State region’s musical community as well.

Winter Drum Line a big success

Under the able leadership of graduate assistant Eric Sheffler, the Department established a Winter Drum Line during the 1999-2000 academic year. There were 47 participants in all, 28 of whom were involved in performances. The membership included college percussionists as well as other music majors who wanted to learn more about how to organize and direct a marching percussion section.

The ensemble was also open to interested high school students who were looking for opportunities to learn and perform literature that might challenge them beyond their other experiences at the high school level. High school participants from Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma took advantage of this opportunity.

During its initial season, the Winter Drum Line performed at both half-times of a basketball double-header at PSU. The ensemble has set as goals for the next season to have 35 performing participants and at least 7-10 performance dates, both on campus and at area high schools. Winter drum lines have become popular around the country, and the establishment of such an ensemble at PSU constitutes another very important component in the outreach mission of the institution.

Faculty Briefs...

Stephen Bogardner, assistant professor, organized a two-day event on campus that featured Will Graham of the National Opera Company. Mr. Graham’s visit included master classes and auditions for the company.

Anne Patterson, chair and associate professor, has been re-elected to national office in the College Music Society. She will continue as Treasurer of the organization until 2003. She has also been selected to serve as moderator for a session on external assessment and accountability at the annual meeting of the National Association of Schools of Music; to be held in San Diego this November. Prior to the meeting, she will participate in a training session for visiting evaluators. Dr. Patterson is recognized nationally for her work in the area of mentoring. Five of her documents are included in the CMS Mentoring Web site. To view them, visit the College Music Society Web site at http://www.music.org/, then click on “Mentoring” under the column headed “About Outreach.”
### Calendar of Events

#### August
- 16-20 Band Camp
- 21 Enrollment
- 22 Classes begin

#### September
- 26 "Solo & Chamber Music Series: The Aulos Ensemble, 7:30 pm"

#### October
- 1 "Southeast Kansas Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 3 pm"
- 13 Jazz Ensemble and Choir, Overman Student Center, 7:30 pm
- 24 "Solo & Chamber Music Series: Stephen Salters, baritone, 7:30 pm"

#### November
- 3 University Choirs, 7:30 pm
- 8 Graduate Recital, John Cook, organ, 7:30 pm
- 10 "Solo & Chamber Music Series: The Berlin Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 pm"
- 16 University Bands, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 19 "Southeast Kansas Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 3 pm"
- 28 Faculty Recital, Loraine Sims, voice, 7:30 pm
- 29 "University Choirs, Holiday Luncheon Concert, Overman Student Center, noon"
- 30 Jazz Ensemble, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm

#### December
- 6 Annual Timmons Chapel Concert, 7:30 pm

#### January
- 9 Enrollment
- 10 Classes begin
- 21 Faculty Recital, Susan Marchant, organ, 3 pm

*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.

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## 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 left his position in Great Bend, KS, in order to accept a position as assistant band director at Morris Middle School in McAllen, Texas. This is a very large school system with multiple ensembles, and he looks forward to being part of a strong team of music educators. Dallas is excited about the news that the K-State Band will read and record his Genesis Fanfare this coming year. Other news in the Bayless family is the arrival of a new baby, Dalton Tommie, on December 2.

Toni (Tucker) Croxton (BME ’85) sends word that she has recently remarried and has moved to Bennington, KS, where she will teach K-12 vocal music.

DeMaris Gaines (MM ’70) retired from her position at NEO College in Miami after 30 years of teaching. She continues on the music staff of Pilgrim Presbyterian Church in Vinita, and she maintains a private studio in Miami. DeMaris is a consultant for the Indian Study Program at NEO, of which she was the founder and director.

Brian Giacomo (BME ’93) has sent word of his marriage. in November ’99, to a high school sweetheart. He and his wife Melissa live in Muskogee, OK, where Brian continues as director of bands at Hilldale Public Schools. Other news of the year includes Brian’s election as vice-president of the Eastern Oklahoma Band Directors Association.

Don Good (BME ’63) writes that, after 36 years of aviation, including six years in the U.S. Air Force Flying Fighters, he has retired from United Air Lines. He now lives in a golf/marina community in North Carolina and spends most of his time aboard his 36-foot sailboat. Don still plays an occasional concert with a symphony orchestra in the Chicago area and with brass ensembles in Chicago and North Carolina. His e-mail address is GoodCap@aol.com. Don would love to hear from old friends and inmates of McCray Hall circa 1959-63!

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Anne Patterson  
Chair, Department of Music  
Susan Marchant  
Newsletter Editor
Melisa Harley (BA '99) and Michael Augustson (MM '98) tied the knot on June 24 in a ceremony that took place at First Christian Church in Girard. The couple has settled in Alma, Georgia, where Michael will return for his third year of high school teaching.

Toni Jenkins (BSE '00) has accepted a teaching position with the public schools in Osawatomie, KS. She will teach special education in the 9th and 10th grades.

Jackie (Paramore) Martin (BME '65, MM '68) retired from her teaching position in the Las Cruces schools in October, 1999, and she plans to spend winters in New Mexico and summers in Minnesota (where her daughter resides). Jackie's teaching career included positions in Kansas City and Maryland prior to her settling in Las Cruces. At first a volunteer elementary music teacher in that community, she became a contracted employee in 1982. During the last two decades, she has held membership on the New Mexico State Textbook Committees and Music Competency Committees, and she has presented workshops at many music conferences. She has also served as organist and choir director for St. James Episcopal Church in Mesilla Park, NM. As the mother of a child who had suffered a traumatic brain injury, she developed an intense interest in this condition, and she has held various positions in the Brain Injury Foundation of New Mexico. Jackie also writes of a very special reunion with Pittsburg classmates last summer. She joined Sherrie Mitchell and Erma Rose (her roommate from 1964-65 whom she hadn't seen since 1965) and the trio had a marvelous time.

Carlene Neihart (BME '50) returned to campus this spring to present a wonderful guest recital on the Fisk Opus 106 organ. The concert, which took place on April 28, was timed to coordinate with the 50th Reunion of her class, making this a very special celebration of her outstanding career as a professional organist.

Jennifer Quinn (BSE '98) was joined in marriage to Ty Kohl in a ceremony that took place on July 1 in Leawood, KS. Jennifer is teaching elementary special education in the Kansas City area. Her husband is a high school teacher and a coach of three sports. The newlyweds now reside in Grandview, MO.

Janus (Broome) Rue (BSE '40) sends word that she has retired after 35 years of teaching elementary school and music in San Diego, CA. She was an Orff Schulwerk specialist, and she had also played violin in the San Diego Symphony. Janus is now residing in Alabama.

Jennifer (BME '97) and Rob (BBA '96) Sager proudly announce the birth of a daughter, Kimberly Rose. Kimberly came into the world at 7 lbs., 5 ozs. at 6:54 a.m. on June 9.

Robert Dean Smith (BME '80) took a brief pause in his European career and returned to Pittsburg last season to present a marvelous concert as part of the 1999-2000 PSU Solo & Chamber Music Series. Later in the year, he was back in Cincinnati for a concert performance of Wagner's Lohengrin. Bob sang the title role under the baton of Jesus Lopez-Cobos, and the reviews of his singing were fabulous, indicating that he made a splendid impression from the moment he stepped onto the raised platform...

Among his other projects this year was a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in Berlin on New Year's Eve.

Judy Tucker (BME '58) is a sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics and a soloist and children's choir director at St. Elisabeths Episcopal Church in Memphis, TN. Judy is a member of the Etude Music Club. Her husband, Gary Tucker (BS '60), retired from the Navy and works for FedEx. They have two children and one granddaughter.

Patsy (Blair) Wade (BME '68, MM '71) travels weekends to various states with her husband Don and other members of the Gospel Ship Quartet in a Southern Gospel music ministry. The quartet sings in churches of all denominations, retirement and nursing homes, prisons, and park festivals. Patsy works full time at a retirement home as an activity director. She still remembers with fondness her experiences as accompanist for The Collegiates, the PSU ensemble that traveled in 1966 and 1968 to the Orient and Carribbean. She and her husband currently reside in Newport News, VA.

Christa Wright (BSE '99) and Tom Brown (att. '95-'98) were married in Timmons Chapel on May 20. The couple planned a most unusual and entertaining event that began with a 30-minute concert by many of their musician friends from PSU. Christa and Tom have settled in Tennessee.

Justin Writer (BME '98) has announced his marriage to Laura Dickens. The ceremony took place on July 29 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Chanute, KS.