Gene Vollen retires from Pittsburg State

Gene Vollen, chairman of the Department of Music at Pittsburg State University since 1976, announced his retirement in April of this year. He will be sorely missed by members of the McCray Hall family. Colleagues, friends, students, and alumni gathered in McCray Lobby for a reception honoring Gene and Linda Vollen on July 12, at which time gifts and a collection of letters were presented to them. An announcement was also made at that time concerning the establishment of the Vollen Scholarship Fund. Contributions to this fund are currently being received (see separate notice concerning endowed scholarship funds).

Congratulations and best wishes to a remarkable person -- McCray Hall's own version of the Renaissance Man -- for a wonderful retirement. Very special thanks to you for enriching the lives of so many people in so many ways!

Endowed Scholarships
A great way to say "Thanks"

The PSU Foundation administers an impressive number of scholarship funds that have been established over the years in honor of music faculty who have been central to the life and growth of the Department of Music. Interest from these endowed funds is used each year to support scholarships for music students.

Friends and alumni are encouraged to review the list below. Do you find the name of a person who served as an important musical mentor in your life? A contribution designated for one of these scholarships will go directly to the appropriate fund (and, in cases where the honoree is still living, notification is sent every time a donation is received).

Now, more than ever, scholarship assistance is urgently needed to help with the education of our students -- tomorrow's musical leaders. What a great way to say "thanks" to someone who has made a difference in your life!

Dr. JONES TO SERVE AS INTERIM CHAIR

Dr. Russell Jones, professor, is serving as interim chair of the Department of Music this year, following the retirement of Dr. Gene Vollen. A national search for the next chairperson will be undertaken during the year.

Dr. Jones has been a member of the PSU music faculty since 1971. He serves as head of the instrumental music education area of the program, teaches oboe and bassoon, and is an important liaison with the School of Education, the Graduate School, and the public school network of the region.

DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE JAZZ RECORDINGS

The PSU Department of Music has been named a (MAMA) Musical Archives Foundation repository. As a result of this, the university will receive all MAMA record label releases free of charge. These will be housed in the department's listening lab.

To date, a dozen jazz recordings have been received. The collection was obtained through the efforts of Prof. Robert Kahla, who pursued this via MAMA's Music for Schools program.

PSU MUSIC NOTES
10th Anniversary Issue

PSU Music Faculty Scholarship Funds

Margaret (Peggy) Hillman
Markwood Holmes
Will Humble
Millard Laing
Martha Pate
Robert Schott
Margaret Thuenemann
Gene Vollen
Fisk Opus 106 arrives on campus

On March 20, a huge Bekins moving van backed into the long driveway on the east side of McCray Hall, bearing the thousands of parts that would be carried in and assembled into Fisk Opus 106, the impressive new pipe organ that now occupies center stage in McCray Recital Hall. A crew of 25 volunteers helped to empty the contents of the truck, after which an installation crew of four men from the Fisk shop remained on campus for three weeks to complete the initial assembly. Following the installation, a succession of two-person voicing teams began, each team in residence for periods of three weeks. With the voicers working about 60 hours per week, it was expected that the voicing and final tuning of the organ's thousands of pipes would be completed by September 1.

The organ, in various stages of completion, has already been visited by hundreds of people, from alumni groups to high school students and persons passing through town who had read about the organ in their hometown newspapers. A full year of inaugural activities has been planned for the instrument, and detailed information will soon be distributed to members of the PSU network and the American organ establishment.

Persons desiring additional information may contact Dr. Susan Marchant, professor of organ, through the mail or by calling 316/235-4476.

Faculty Briefs...

Karen Dannessa, associate professor, had a busy spring semester that included a number of on-campus performances as well as regional concerts, clinics, and adjudication. She presented a recital and masterclass at Ithaca College on May 4, then later headed west for the ClarinetFest '95 held on the campus of Arizona State University. Dr. Dannessa performed a work by PSU faculty composer John MacKay as part of this festival. She will also be a featured soloist at the Montana Clarinet Festival, September 8-9, in Missoula. Other guest artists will include the Chicago ProMusica and Larry Combs.

Carol Hoyt, lecturer, continues to juggle a very busy schedule that includes dual appointments to Pittsburg State and the Pittsburg public schools. In February, she was one of several pianists invited to judge the regional piano festival held in Winfield. On April 25, she joined pianist Steven Edmund for a duo recital at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center in Iola.

Katherine Kelton, assistant professor, competed as one of eight national semi-finalists in the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Awards Competition, held at the biennial national convention of the NFMC, April 18, in Wichita, KS. Her research into the vocal music of Amy Beach took her to the Library of Congress in March, and she accepted several invitations to lecture on this topic. Off-campus performances during the spring semester included: Baylor University, East Texas State University, and Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO.

Susan Marchant, professor, was chosen as one of three recipients of the 1995 Outstanding Faculty Awards at Pittsburg State. The annual presentation took place at the PSU Commemoration Day ("Apple Day") ceremony in March. She traveled to Cincinnati for a solo organ recital in May, and she presented a performance of Bach's Clavierübung Part III as one of six featured soloists for the Region VI Convention of the American Guild of Organists on June 19.

Kathryn Parke, lecturer, was a featured artist in the annual Bachathon celebration, May 7, sponsored by the greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She performed Bach's Cantata 51, Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, with members of the Early Music Consort and the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra.

Paul Mazzacano, former faculty member, has been elected president of the Minnesota chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators. He has also been selected as a music education consultant/clinician for the Minnesota Music Educators Association.

KUDOS TO DR. TAYLOR!

Dr. Stephen Taylor was awarded a major commission by the American Composers Orchestra to compose an orchestral work for next season at Carnegie Hall. The piece, Unapproachable Light, will be premiered May 19, with Ingo Metzmacher conducting. Dr. Taylor's Cascadilla Falls was one of six scores chosen (from more than 100 submissions) to be read by the ACO during May, under the baton of Dennis Russell Davies, and it was this experience that brought about the commission.

A major focus of his on-campus activity last spring was the generation of music for the inaugural production of the PSU International Theater Company, The Conference of the Birds, an adaptation of a 12th-century mystic Sufi poem. The company gave four performances in Pittsburg and also presented excerpts at the Mid-America Theater Festival in Kansas City.

During Spring Break, Dr. Taylor participated in a Korean tour with other PSU faculty (see separate article), where his brass trio, Sparking and Slipping, was premiered. In April, he traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia, to present a lecture, "Chopin, Pygmies, and Tempo Fugue: Ligeti's Autumn in Warsaw," at the Northwest Conference of Theory and Analysis.
Music Faculty visit South Korea

Four members of the PSU music faculty traveled to Seoul, South Korea during March: Paul Carlson, violin; Stephen Taylor, horn; James Tapia, trumpet; and Robert Kehle, trombone. The PSU musicians visited Myung Ji and Kyung Hee Universities, two institutions with which Pittsburg State has exchange programs, where they presented concerts and masterclasses. Included among the works presented by the brass trio in the concerts were two by PSU composers: Sparking and Slipping, by Steve Taylor; and Introduction and Dance, by John MacKay.

The trip also provided time for the Americans to observe the workings of the South Korean institutions and to attend a concert of Korean folk music given by the Seoul Art Orchestra. Free time was given over to shopping and dining experiences, which yielded one of the most memorable moments...the group's introduction to a new delicacy: raw octopus!

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!

Mark Beck (BM '95) will begin graduate study in tuba at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music this fall.

Michael Brandel (BME '95) announces his marriage, August 12, to Jayne Huddleston. Michael will begin an elementary music assignment in the public schools of Easton, KS.

Denise Burns (BM '95) has accepted a position with the J.C. Penney Company and will initially be assigned to the Pittsburg store.

Ling Chao Chen (BM '85, MM '88) is in the final stages of completing her doctoral degree in composition at Louisiana State University.

Chris Cruz (BME '74) was recently promoted to store manager for Humo Music, Inc., Topeka, KS. Chris continues to perform as a member of the Capital Brass Quintet and Marshall's Civic Band. He has also established and directs a brass quintet and trumpet quartet at Christ the King Church. Cindy (McClanahan) Cruz (BME '74) continues to teach music at Pauline South Intermediate School in the Washburn Rural School District. For the past several years, she has been directing the Children's Choir at Christ the King Church. Their daughter, Courtney, age 8, has been taking piano lessons for the past three years and has already surpassed her father's piano skills!

Robert Diskin (BME '80) writes from Wisconsin that he continues in an exciting career with the largest electronic manufacturing company in the world. His job sends him all across the country, and he communicates via a newsletter with more than 4,000 of the top electronic video and audio sales people and engineers in the United States.

Bruce Dunfee (BME '81) writes from New Mexico that he continues to teach high school instrumental music. He and his wife Brenda live in Hatch, New Mexico. Their son, Brad, is a trombonist in the Marine Corps, while daughters Brandy and BreAnna will develop their musicianship at home for a while yet.

David Evitts (BME '65) returned to Independence, MO for a program with the Independence Symphony on March 25. One of the most popular soloists to participate in the well-known Messiah performances there, David was invited this time to present a program drawn from musical theater and light opera.

Joni Flummerfelt (BS '95) was joined in marriage to Shaun Hill (MS '95) on July 1 in

Calendar of Events

August

22 Enrollment
23 Classes begin

September

29 * Solo & Chamber Music Series:
Gloria Cheng, piano, 7:30 pm

October

8 * Southeast Kansas Symphony, 3 pm
12 Wind Ensemble, 7:30 pm
13 Jazz Ensemble, Overman Student Center, University Club, 7:30 pm
17 * Solo & Chamber Music Series:
London Baroque, 7:30 pm
24 Concert of music by John MacKay, 7:30 pm
29 Faculty Recital, Susan Marchant, organ, 3 pm

November

7 * Solo & Chamber Music Series:
Hopkinson Smith, lute and baroque guitar, 7:30 pm
9 Lecture, Gene Vollen, Timmons Chapel, 7:30 pm
12 * Southeast Kansas Symphony, 3 pm

December

6 Timmons Chapel Christmas Concert, Timmons Chapel, 7:30 pm
8 Timmons Chapel Christmas Concert, Timmons Chapel, 7:30 pm
13 Final Exams begin

January

16 Enrollment
17 Enrollment
18 Classes begin
23 * Solo & Chamber Music Series:
Darlene Wiley, soprano; Nancy Garrett, fortepiano, 7:30 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.
Joni served as student director of the PSU music recruitment telemarketing team for the past three years. The couple will reside in Fort Worth, TX.

Janice Gordon (BME '74, MM '78) writes that she is beginning her fourth year with the Chanute Christian Academy, a church-sponsored school of about 100 students, K-12. Janice teaches music and Bible classes at the school.

Vicki (Glades) Hoffman (BME '74) has accepted a position with the Oswego, KS public schools, where she will teach K-8 music classes.

Mary Gwendolyn (Robb) Hotchkiss (BME '55) is an associate professor and chair of the music education department at Loyola University in New Orleans. Gwen is also the author of eight books and videos and an international clinician (she has, in fact, just returned from China).

Steve Lyons (BM '70, MM '73) has been pursuing doctoral studies at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, where he's worked with Dr. Edward P. Asmus, a nationally recognized leader in the field of music education. Clarinet study has been with Christie Lundquist, principal clarinetist of the Utah Symphony. Steve has just completed work on a CD with the university's percussion ensemble of Philip Parker's Five Pieces for Clarinet and Percussion Orchestra. He will begin an affiliation this fall with Mercyhurst College and the D'Angelo School of Music in Erie, PA, where he will teach clarinet and chair the music education department.

Tom (att. late '80s) and Cecily (Noel) Mahan (BM '88) proudly announce the birth of a daughter, Alexandria Nicole, on February 1, 1995.

Janice Malan (BME '73, MM '91) is teaching vocal and instrumental music, both junior high and high school levels, in the Oswego, KS public schools.

Marilyn McCarter (BME '73) joins the faculty of Pittsburg Middle School, where she will teach the musical arts course and direct the chorus.

Shalla Reynolds (att. late '80s) begins an appointment with the Pittsburg public schools this fall, one that will include teaching at both Nettels and Lincoln Schools. She leaves the post of vocal music director for the Columbus, KS schools.

Paul Shoemaker (BME '93) has begun a K-12 vocal and instrumental teaching position with the public schools of Hume, MO.

Michael Straw (MM '81) continues as director of musical activities for Columbia College in Columbia, MO. He was recently invited by the University of Brasilia to speak at an international choral workshop in Brasilia, Brazil. His presentation, which dealt with vocal technique and warm-ups for chorus, was attended by directors from across South America. Closer to home, Mike augments his busy school schedule with a large private vocal studio and a position as music director for Broadway Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. He is also completing work on a PhD in music education at the University of Missouri.

Patrick Sweeten (MM '89) performed as a member of the U.S. Navy Band, San Francisco, Low Brass Quartet at the International Trombone Association Workshop in June.

David (BME '84) and Polly (McGuill) Wallace (BME '85) joyfully announce the birth of a son, Oliver Kent Wallace, on July 10, 1995.

Paul Walrod (BME '93) joins the faculty of the Fort Scott, KS public schools as instrumental director. He succeeds Jennifer (Holman) Warren (BME '93).

Jennifer (Holman) Warren (BME '93) announces her marriage to Sheridan Warren (BSE '94) on June 10 in Pittsburg's South Baptist Church. Jen leaves her position as instrumental director for the Fort Scott public schools and will explore new professional opportunities in the metro Kansas City area.

Sherwood Elliott "Woody" Watson (BA '84, MM '86) sends word that he is pursuing a degree in mathematics with secondary certification, and K-12 certification in music. He plays guitar frequently and is involved in the music program of his local Presbyterian church.

Steve Wilkerson (MM '89) has produced a critically acclaimed 60-minute video, The Art of Jazz Saxophone. The instructional film takes up matters of breathing, technique, tone, and jazz styles and also features actual jazz concert segments. The video ($29.95) may be ordered by calling Rovner Products at 410/252-7750.

Vinita (Hampton) Wright (BME '82), having spent several years teaching music and English in Jordan, and then several more teaching music in the schools of El Dorado Springs, MO, went back to school and earned a master's degree in communication from Wheaton College. This prepared her for editorial positions at Harold Shaw Publishers and Tyndale House Publishers. In recent years, Vinita has published newspaper and magazine articles, a short story, and several books and compilations for Shaw Publishers. A collection of worship dramas is pending. In June of 1991, she married Jim Wright, a photographer. She now has two stepsons and one granddaughter. Vinita is active in the music program of LaSalle Street Church in downtown Chicago.

**Obituary**

Sammy Lou Roper (BME '45) died on July 8 in Pittsburg. She had been in failing health for the past six months. A long-time participant in the musical life of Pittsburg, she is especially remembered as someone who taught music at Colgan High School and gave piano lessons in her home. The Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church, of which she had been a member for many years, provided music at her funeral service.

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**Pittsburg State University**

Department of Music

1701 S. Broadway • Pittsburg, KS 66762-7511

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED