Greetings from the chairperson

This is one of those times when change is clearly evident in the Music Department at PSU. First, Dr. Craig Fuchs, who has been the chairperson of the Music Department for the past eight years, has accepted the position as director of the Honors College at PSU. He will continue as a half-time faculty member in the department, teaching wind ensemble, conducting, and courses in the graduate program in wind conducting. From my perspective, Dr. Fuchs has been a very effective, efficient leader and friend. His accomplishments include important curricular changes in the undergraduate music education program. We have had a collaborative relationship in providing instrumental laboratory teaching experiences and will continue to do so. We believe that these kinds of experiences are quite helpful in preparing students for the field of teaching.

The performance of the Wind Ensemble at the Four State Band Festival was one of the best musical performances by a PSU band since I have been here. Among Craig’s other highlights have been two outstanding performances at the Kansas Music Educators In-Service Workshop in Wichita and

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PSU choirs tour in Ireland

Members of the PSU choirs toured Ireland March 13-21, 2010. The choirs had the honor of singing a special St. Patrick’s Day Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Kilkenny.

This year’s choir tour to Ireland an experience of a lifetime.

“I will never forget this trip,” said Josh Donaldson, a junior from Girard, Kan. “especially since it was completely focused on what I love to do most, sing.”

Members of the PSU choirs toured Ireland March 13-21, 2010. It was the latest in a series of biennial tours, both domestic and international, that have become a central part of the PSU choral program. The ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Susan Marchant, sang on six occasions throughout the week, with major performances at the National University of Ireland-Galway, St. Kieran’s College in Kilkenny, and Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin.

Additionally, the choirs had the honor of singing a special St. Patrick’s Day Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Kilkenny, as well as a Mass and brief concert in Dublin’s Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary. Perhaps the most unusual venue of the week was the Rock of Cashel, where the choirs gave an impromptu performance within the walls that remain from structures erected in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Misty Ristau, a senior from Carl Junction, Mo., said the trip fulfilled a dream of hers.

“I have always wanted to travel outside of the country,” Ristau said. “Ireland is a great place to go on your first trip overseas. The people are friendly and helpful.”

The choirs sang a variety of repertoire appropriate to the various venues. They were especially

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E-mail and website communication initiative

We are in the process of developing a supplemental e-mail newsletter. It will not replace the printed newsletter, but will provide departmental updates. The goal is to allow you to click on any items that you may be interested in. These items will include specific areas such as chorus, opera, band, wind ensemble, jazz, concerts and faculty updates.

If you already have an e-mail address with the PSU Foundation, you should receive the update automatically. If you would like to add an e-mail address, please send your name and mailing address to Bill Hoyt. The e-mail address is millrtips@pittstate.edu. (That stands for Millennium Reports.) You are invited to visit the department website at any time. The website address is www.pittstate.edu/department/music.

Vocal/Choral Endowment Fund established

One new initiative is the development of a Vocal/Choral Endowment Fund. The goal for that fund is $100,000. It has been started with a $5,000 contribution and will continue as a long-term project for the department. We hope at some point to find additional substantial donors. We will also need a greater number of individual donors of smaller amounts. If you are interested in keeping up with choral and vocal activities, please check the department web site from time to time.

If you wish to contribute to the establishment of this endowment, the check should be made to the PSU Foundation. The information line should indicate the Vocal/Choral Endowment Fund.

Contributions can be mailed to the PSU Foundation, 401 E. Ford, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

Student musicians from across Kansas make up Shrine Bowl Band

More than 200 high school and junior high school students from across Kansas converged on Pittsburg State University this past summer to form the All-Star Masonic Band under the direction of Doug Whitten, director of PSU Athletic Bands. The students performed before and at halftime of the Kansas Shrine Bowl, which was held in PSU’s Carnie Smith Stadium.

In the days leading up to the Shrine Bowl, the young musicians spent many hours learning the pre-game and halftime shows and practicing their parade marching.

“We use camps like this to develop our student leaders, who are getting great experience,” Whitten said. “Everyone worked their tails off. We are very pleased to have this here, because it gives us a chance to show off our university to these young people,” he said. “The fact that they’re raising money for charity is wonderful, because community service an important part of what we do.”
FOCUS

Deats

Closing in through the historic McCray Hall, Carol Deats' presence at the podium is like a ray of sun class through a lesson. Teachers will one day pass on to young children, visions, and tone all portray the sort of energy and need in order to hold the attention of elementary school children. 

Deats, a person who clearly loves what she does, has respect for elementary and music teachers, Musicians for what they do," said Deats, who is PSU. "I can't imagine someone becoming an accomplished art being a stick in the mud, so I help them get positive." 

The importance of exposing children to art, especially in their developmental years, Deats is also behind the community music program for kids. Designed by the program includes singing, playing musical instruments, and music appreciation. Her work is too. Deats is a professional symphonic conductor and has performed in the group Kansas, and plays extensively in the orchestra. She's found a place to work on both ends of the world, and I just love my students with such a supportive and musical community. This is a stimulating place for someone who is up to the program."

PSU choirs in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland.

PSU choirs tour in Ireland (continued)

pleased to have shared with their new Irish friends several musical arrangements by Kansas composers: "Deep River," by Hubert Bird; "Over the Rainbow," by Frank James; and a new setting of "Danny Boy" for 5-part women's voices, by Kathryn Parke. PSU organist Hannah Brewer had the opportunity to play several interesting instruments for the choir's performances in Kilkenny and Dublin.

The trip also afforded a healthy amount of time for sightseeing and tours. This included a trip to the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher on Ireland's west coast, a tour of Burren Castle, an opportunity to view the extraordinary Book of Kells Exhibit in Trinity College, and free time in which to shop and/or visit other sites of interest in Dublin. The group spent St. Patrick's Day in the town of Kilkenny, where they had an opportunity to experience an authentic St. Patrick's Day parade replete with local color.

The experience, according to Pittsburg sophomore David Polak, was life changing.

Marchant said the students work very hard to make these trips possible. Beyond the rigorous musical preparation, they engage in an impressive and continuous schedule of fundraising projects in order to help fund the project.

Former faculty at home in New York

Evan Hause and Maureen Hurd have been married since 2003. They just had their second child, Nora, in July 2010. Their first daughter, Elena, was born in 2005. Maureen (PSU Faculty '98-99) is a tenured professor of clarinet at Rutgers University and Evan (PSU Faculty '96-99) is publications director for the music publisher Edward B. Marks Music Company. They live in Brooklyn, N.Y. In 2009, Maureen released her first CD of clarinet chamber music, "Spektrum: Premieres for Clarinet." The CD included first-ever recordings of music by Evan, William Bolcom, Alan Shulman, Morton Gould, and Robert Starer. It is on the MSR label and available wherever CDs are sold. In October 2010, Evan had a world premiere of a new work for symphonic band, "Tango Variations," by the University of Michigan Symphony Band. In March 2011, pianist Robert Satterlee will premiere a new work of his for solo piano.
Midwest Trumpet Festival returns for second year

The Midwest Trumpet Festival returned for a second great year on October 10-11. The festival’s mission is to “gather leading performers, educators, students, and community for an intensive time of large and small continuing education sessions, master classes, recitals, and concerts. The event serves to bring together the community of professional trumpet pedagogues and performers from the Midwest region.”

The festival, under the direction of Dr. Todd J. Hastings, professor of trumpet at PSU, was a tremendous success and attracted students from high schools and college campuses around the four-state region. More than 85 students and professionals participated in the festival.

Featured guest artists for the festival were Billy Hunter, Jr., co-principal trumpet for the Metropolitan House Opera Orchestra in New York; jazz artist John Sneider, from New York; and Joel Treybig, associate professor of music in the Belmont University School of Music.

Guest artist faculty for the festival included Tito Carillo, assistant professor of jazz studies at the University of Illinois; Bill Richardson, associate professor of trumpet at Northwest Missouri State University; Alan Hood, associate professor of trumpet at the University of Denver; Dr. Iskander Ahkmadullin, associate professor of trumpet at the University of Missouri; and Steve Leisring, associate professor of trumpet at the University of Kansas.

The festival included concerts by the Crowder Jazz Orchestra with Sneider, Hood and Carillo; and by Billy Hunter.

For more information about the festival or to learn how to contribute to the festival, please contact Hastings at 620-235-4485; thasting@pittstate.edu.

Next year’s festival is scheduled for October 8-9, 2011.

Faculty BRIEFS

DR. SELIM GIRAY’S CD titled “Turkish Music for the Violin and Piano” was published this year and is available around the world through major distributors. His interview of Elliot Chapo, former concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, and Giray’s former violin professor, appeared in the July issue of in The Strad. He has also shared the news that his presentation, “Utilize Your Technical String Knowledge to Improve Your Conducting,” has been accepted for the 2011 American String Teachers Association national conference in Kansas City. Highlights among a number of student honors include Gloria B. Scollar’s participation in the 2010 Youth Orchestra of the Americas and alumnus Eren Tuncer’s continued success as a graduate student in the Yale School of Music. Giray and several of his students spent another summer performing with the orchestra of the Ohio Light Opera.

ROBERT KEHLE, university professor of music and trombone instructor, attended the International Trombone Festival held July 6-10 at the University of Texas, Austin. Along with Bob were four PSU students, Christine Lovell, Josh Tidd, Greg Scheetz, and Beth Rout tree. The clinics and concerts were of the highest caliber and allowed all to meet and hear some of the greatest trombonists in the world, including principals in the Vienna Philharmonic and Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, Jazz artists from New York, and the trombone professor at the Paris Conservatory. The final concert featured the Canadian Brass. All of the students performed as members of various participant trombone choirs.

DR. JAMES CLANTON, percussion instructor, traveled extensively this summer, performing and teaching on three continents. Clanton was the principal percussionist of the Mahler Festival Orchestra in Boulder, Colo. He then traveled to Paraguay to perform as a vibraphone soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra. While there, he organized and presented (continued on pg. 5)
MATTHEW CARTER (BME '08) has accepted a position in Seneca, Mo., where he will teach high school band and chorus.

SCOTT ALLISON (MM '07) has accepted a music position at Labette County High School. Scott has spent the past three years at the University of Iowa, where he is now ABD in the doctoral degree program in choral conducting.

MATTHEW COX (BBA '01) and Joetta (Wigger) Cox (MBA '01) had their first child on August 16th, 2009. His name is Hunter and he is doing great. Matt Cox was a cornerstone of the tenor section in virtually every PSU choir. He was also Linda Hoffman's student worker for four years.

STEVE LYONS (BM '70, MM '73) recently retired from teaching. Steve performed a recital at PSU on May 9 in honor of Bob Schott. He was accompanied by Debra Snodgrass. Mr. Lyons has recently retired from his career in music education after 31 years of service. His career includes public school instruction in Kansas and Missouri. He also attended the University of Utah where he studied with Dr. Edward P. Asmus, a world leader in music education. During his clarinet studies at the U of U, he studied clarinet with the premier clarinetist of the Utah Symphony, Christie Lundquist, and the principal clarinetist of Ballet West, Kathy Pope. Mr. Lyons later became the director of music education at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa. He also served as the woodwind instructor for the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Performing Arts for seven years. After leaving Mercyhurst College, he returned to his home state of Missouri and finished his teaching career at Cassville High School.

DEBRA SNODGRASS (BM '70, MM '07), an assistant professor at MSSU with more than 35 years of piano teaching experience. Her performances include concerts with the PSU orchestra and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with the Carthage Symphonic Band. Debra became Miss America in 1968 while attending PSU. This led her to perform in 41 states and 3 foreign countries, network television, and numerous cable stations. She still maintains an active performance schedule. Debra is the recent winner of the Wadill Chamber Music Competition held at PSU in 2007. As winner of that competition, she performed Chopin's Concerto No. 2 in f minor with the Southeast Kansas Symphony in 2008. She performed a full solo recital at MSSU in April of 2010.

In Memory

BOB MARSHALL

Bob Marshall, 64, (BME '70) died on July 28, 2010. Bob was the Peabody-Burns School band instructor for 22 years; director of educational music at Senseney Music; owner of the family business, Marshall Auction, and partner/broker with Marshall-Avery Realtors in Peabody. This note came from Lorie Supine, the president of Senseney Music: "It is with a heavy heart that I tell you of the passing of our good friend and colleague, Bob Marshall. Bob died last evening at his home in Peabody. He was a wonderful man and was totally devoted to music educators." Bob is survived by his wife, Susan, Peabody; his mother, Juanita Ellen Giggs, Omaha, Neb.; daughters Morgan Marler and Lindsey Marshall, Peabody; and sister, Elsie Kay Marshall, of Arkansas City, Kan.

Alumni NOTES

CHRIS SHOCKLEY (BME '10) has accepted a music education position with the Cedar Vale school district.

HANNAH BREWER (MM '10) has been accepted for graduate study in art history at the C buttock Institute of Art in London.

BRANDON WADE (BME '09) has accepted a position as vocal director for the Eureka, Kan., schools.

ASHLEY HIRT (BA '09) is working on a masters degree in music history at the University of Idaho. She will be graduating in 2011.

DR. MARSHALL TURLEY

Long-time colleague and friend, Dr. Marshall Turley, died on July 19, 2010, at Via Christi Hospital, after a prolonged illness. Marshall, who was born on May 17, 1932, began conducting choirs in 1947. During his long career as an educator he taught choirs in a variety of venues including the Men's Glee at Fort Bragg where he trained as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne. He taught in the public

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In Memory (continued)
schools in Ohio, and also at Ohio State University
where he received his bachelor's, master's and
doctoral degrees. He joined the faculty at Pittsburg
State University in 1974 and upon his retirement
in 1998 was named associate professor emeritus.
While in Pittsburg, he conducted several church
choirs in addition to the choral program at PSU.
He also founded the Pittsburg Centennial Choir,
a community based choral ensemble, which he
conducted for 13 years. The family suggests
memorials to St. Peters Episcopal Church. These
may be left at or mailed to the Brenner Mortuary,
114 E. 4th St., Pittsburg, KS 66762. Friends
may also leave condolences online at www.
brennernmortuary.com.

DR. JAMES T. POULOS
Dr. James T. Poulos, a long-
time member of the PSU Music
Department faculty, died on
Sept. 25, 2010 in Stillwater,
Okl. Dr. Poulos, who was born
on Dec. 7, 1931 in Bethlehem,
Pa., joined the PSU Music
Department faculty in 1969
as an assistant professor, teaching violin. He
also conducted, taught music appreciation and
performed in the Faculty String Quartet. Later he
taught music theory and music history and co-
directed graduate studies in music. From 1978,
Dr. Poulos was responsible for the Collegium
Musicum performances, including the Timmons
Chapel Christmas and Advent concerts. Dr. Poulos
was an expert in the construction of early stringed
instruments, many of which he made for the use
of his students. His serious manner and somewhat
strict demeanor hid a mischievous and often
"Puckish" sense of humor. Dr. Poulos enjoyed
puzzles and word games and he was known to
have inserted these into examinations and quizzes
in a way that teased but did not penalize students.
An accomplished artist, he created many of the
symbolic logos still in use by the department. It
has been suggested that memorials be sent to the
PSU Foundation to help support the early music
program.

MERLIN ZOLLARS
PSU graduate Merlin Zollars, although not a music
major, was an active member and alumnus of Phi
Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He played flute and piccolo
in the university band, and was an active player
for many years in community bands in the J.J.
Richards era. Merlin died recently at the age of 85.

Please keep us informed
We welcome news of our alumni and friends at any time.
Please use this form to report changes of address, changes of
employment, or any other news you'd like to share.

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