

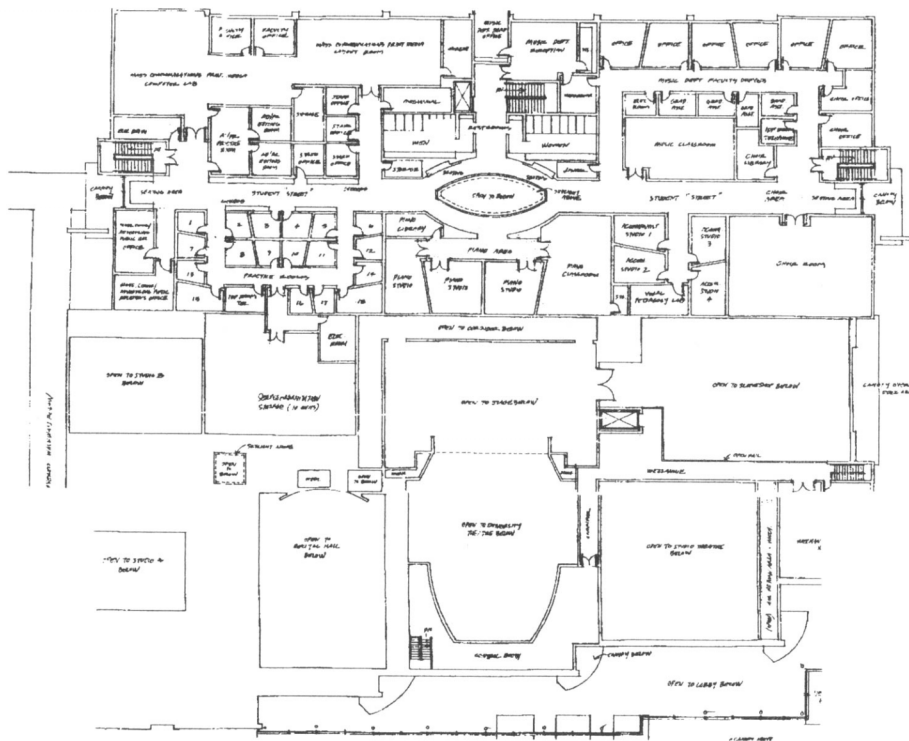
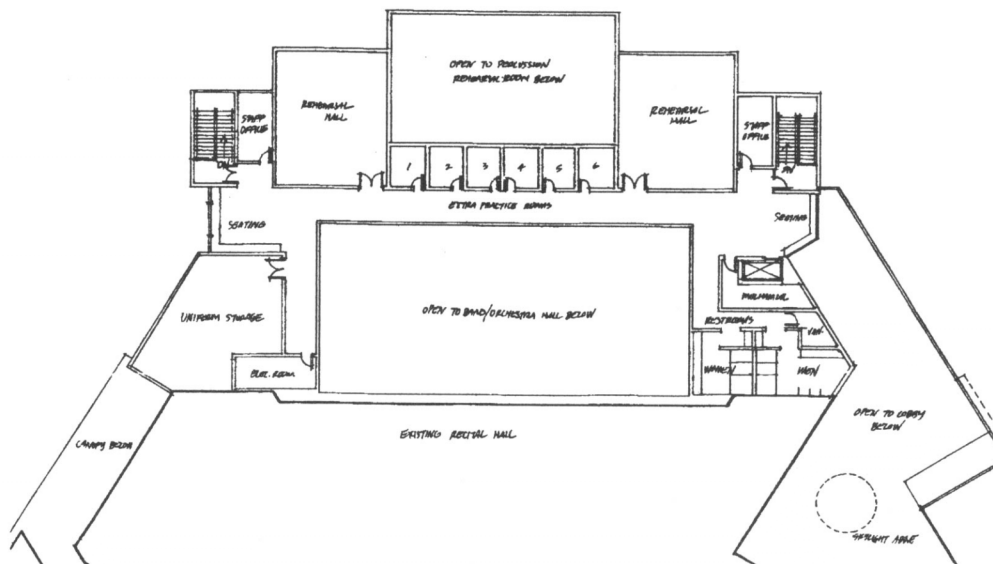
are preliminary). There may be modifications along the way as we begin to look in detail at each room and location.

The instrumental rehearsal room will be adjacent to the recital hall. (Yes, there will be a sound barrier between the two.) We've asked for one and a half times the size of the band room with a double-high ceiling. (Do you remember Monday-night flag rehearsals?) There will be easy access to the recital hall stage through a hallway. Instrument storage will probably be accessed by an electronic key system so that only students authorized who have a need to be in that room can get in. (That's a novel concept compared to what we have now!) A percussion suite/complex will be on the extreme west side. Rooms that line the instrumental rehearsal room will be designated for specific percussion instruments for individual practice.

On the second floor will be two, open rehearsal rooms. We'll put chairs, stands, and a piano in the rooms and leave them open. One of the challenges that we've had is protecting rooms from vandalism, but at the same time trying to provide a space for student ensembles to rehearse. Here is the solution.

The new building will be on the east side of Northen. The top of this drawing is the part next to Northen; on the left is the classroom center; to the right is Northen parking lot, and at the bottom is Wisdom Road, across from Buffalo Courts (that stone building). Music will be on the second floor. We'll consolidate the piano area. Most of the faculty living in the FAB will have offices in the new building. A choir room will be here, and we'll also add storage for service organizations. One of the exciting things about our new area will be the

(cont. on page 4)



ALUMNI NOTES

Wes Rousser ('63 BME) recently retired from teaching and is singing with the Camerata of Los Angeles.

Judy Wilson Hubbard ('65 BME) has retired after teaching music for 23 years and is living in Earth, TX, where her husband is pastor of the Methodist church and she is music coordinator. She is also teaching music enrichment at Springlake-Earth ISD. She and her husband have three grandchildren.

Tom Woody ('76 BME) writes that he has finished his 26th year of teaching band, the last 13 as director of bands at Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas. He also celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary with wife **Donna (Moser)** (BS ed) last December with a Panama canal cruise.

Alan Asher ('83 BM) taught at the University of Nebraska-Kearny before going to Eastern New Mexico as the strings teacher and orchestra director in 1997. He left ENMU in 2000 and went to library school at Texas Woman's University (and taught strings), earned a master of library science degree in December 2001, and is now assistant professor in the Sam Houston State University university library as the music librarian.

Carolee Jochens Dean ('86 BMTh) received her Master of Science degree in Communicative Disorders in 1996 from the University of New Mexico. She currently works as a contract speech-language pathologist with the University of New Mexico Early Childhood Evaluation Program. She lives in Albuquerque, NM, with her husband and three children. In her "spare" time she writes young adult novels. Her first novel, *Comfort* (ISBN 0-618-13846-3, Houghton Mifflin Children's Book Department), tells the story of a youth whose participation in the Texas University Scholastic League competitions teaches him the power of words and how they change lives. The story takes place in Comfort, Texas, set against a backdrop of poetry slams, country-and-western music, and family dysfunction. Carolee Dean may be

contacted at P.O. Box 93503, Albuquerque, NM 87199-3503.

Susie duBois ('86 BME) writes: "my family and I are living back in my hometown of San Angelo. I taught band for ten years and now am teaching K-6 music. The young kids are lots of fun and the older ones get the benefit of that breath impulse method on recorder – ha! My husband, Chris, and I have three kids: Kristen is a freshman and made area choir this year, Brook is a 5th grader and is just beginning to learn to play the flute (of course), and Jerrod is a 1st grader and beginning to learn to play piano."

Emily Pulley ('89 BM) will be in singing Mimi in Covent Garden's performances of *La Boheme* at the Royal Opera in London in June 2002. She'll also sing the same role in Budapest, Hungary.

Diane Syrcle ('89 BM) is director of Outreach for Portland Opera in Portland, Oregon. She had 84 young artists in the training company which took to the road January-February 2002.

Theresa (Wilhelm) Mullen ('90 BME) will be spending a year and a half in Japan while husband Michael serves on the USS Cowpens (CG-63). They will be going in February 2002 and hope to take in many sights and sounds while there. They have two children, Veronica (six) and James (four), who will probably master the language faster than their parents. Theresa's email is TheresaRose90@aol.com.

Amy Beebe ('91 BM, '93 MM) wrote in: Hello all! I will be performing with Troupers Light Opera Company (in Connecticut) again this spring. They are doing a double-bill of *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore*. I'll be playing the leading lady in *Pinafore*, Josephine. Show dates are: March 22, 23, 29, & 30 at 8PM
March 24 matinee at 2:30 Tickets are: Adult \$25, Senior \$20, Student \$15. Please order your tickets from me, or call 203-637-5845 and mention my name when you order tickets. (They like for each cast member to bring in a

certain number of people.) Hope you can come, it's a fun show and a fun group!

Amy Beebe

P.S. -- Please write and let me know how you've been.

Carrie (Rippe) Glass ('91 BME) has been teaching at McCormick Elementary School in Farmington for ten years now, after following her husband there to a new job at the Ford dealership. Their pride and joy, Caitlyn, is seven now and sings up a storm, if not on key at least with exuberance. Robert and Carrie are both active in their church choir and she now directs the kids choir, too. With three horses, two dogs, and a busy child, it's never dull!

Sarah (Preston) Merrill ('97 BM) married Greg Merrill in May 2001. They are currently living in Irving while she is working on her master's degree in library science at UNT. She will graduate in August 2002.

Adrian Letz ('97 BA, '98 BM) will graduate with his M.D. degree from UT Southwestern Medical School at Dallas in June 2002. He'll also be promoted to captain in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps and begin a three-year residency in internal medicine at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center at Lackland AFB in San Antonio. Wife Deborah is applying to area law schools. We're looking forward to being in San Antonio to see our old friends at TMEA sometime!

Mary Ruth McCulley ('56-'89 music faculty) writes: "Elsa and I hope to celebrate July 4, 2002, in Philadelphia. We'll be there for the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. We'll hear the famed Wannamaker (or is it Wanamaker) organ, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and on and on.

BAND

We've had two highly successful band clinics this spring, the first on March 2 for second bands. The visiting groups were from Canyon High School, Candi Erwin, director; Randall High School, Eric Rath,

director; Amarillo High School, Kelly Mowry, director; and Tascosa High School, Rumaldo Solis, director. All are WT grads and are doing outstanding jobs.

The large school clinic took place on March 23. We had four outstanding bands from Pampa, Bruce Collins, director; Midland Lee, Randy Storie, director; Amarillo, Roger Edwards, director; and Klein Forest (yep, all the way from Houston), Paul Worosello, director.

This was the year of the band tour that wasn't. We made it through only one day of our tour through the Panhandle when yours truly was felled by pneumonia (now fully recovered, thanks) and we had to cancel the last two days.

The final concert for the Symphonic Band will take place on Sunday, April 28 in the Amarillo Civic Center at 7:00 p.m. Famed jazz clarinetist Eddie Daniels will be the guest soloist. He also performed with the band at Carnegie Hall in 1987 and the following year at TMEA.

ORCHESTRA

The Orchestra started the semester off with the annual Concerto Concert and five bravura performances from soloists Amy Browning-Clark, flute; Yasmin Flores, clarinet; Daniel Loudenback, saxophone; Katie Richards, violin; and Eldar Hudiev, violin.

On April 7, the orchestra will play a special concert for the rededication of the organ featuring organ soloist James Gardner playing the Samuel Barber *Toccata Festiva*. The Spring Concert will be April 30.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Spring found the Music and Theater Department collaborating to present the Branding Iron Theatre Spring Musical *She Loves Me* by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick (composers of *Fiddler on the Roof*). We auditioned and cast early in the fall semester so we could perform February 13 through 17. Jose Ochoa choreographed, Perry Crafton directed, and Joe Ella Cansler was music

director. *She Loves Me* was much the same as Tom Hanks' movie *You've Got Mail* with music. It was derived from the same play by Miklos Lazlo, *Parfumarie*. It was a warm romantic comedy with an endearing innocence and a touch of Old World elegance and nostalgia, yet as universal and relevant as ever in this age of Internet romances.

NEW BUILDING PROJECT (from page 1)

construction of a 150-seat recital hall. We plan to make this space available for student recitals. (I didn't have more than 10 people in the auditorium when I did my recital, and many of them fled early in the program.) We'll have a piano, harpsichord (which will have its own room adjacent to this small recital hall), and recording/lights backstage. You'll notice that the BIT and a new black-box theatre will share an entrance space, and the three are located next to Wisdom Road for easy passenger access.

Once the new facilities are available, the second phase will be some renovation to Northen Hall, and the third will demolition of the FAB and its conversion to a parking lot. (Before you ask, I don't know anything about souvenir bricks, etc. Plans at this point are for the transfer of equipment in the FAB to corresponding spaces in the new building. If we get a chance to get rid of the A-frame chairs in the band room, we'll let you know. We should get Dr. Garner to make a video tape—no, a DVD, even though that will probably be obsolete with the next generation—of how to properly stack A-frame chairs in case you are the lucky recipient of three such items. You'll want to do it right! I've also heard about doors that alumni would like to salvage. Give us some time before you head on over here.)

At any rate, this appears to be an exciting project for us. Gone will be the days of forging raging rivers following a brief thunderstorm as travelers tried to get to rehearsal in the FAB after a class in Northen! We'll keep you posted on the building's progress.

OPERA WORKSHOP

This semester, opera workshop has prepared *Così fan tutte* by Mozart for a concert performance in March. We will be taking scenes from the opera to area high schools in May. Opera workshop students will also have the chance to participate in Texas Collegiate Opera Network's summer "OPERAtunities" week-long festival held in Denton at the Murchison Performing Arts Center. Dr. Cloyce Stradley will be one of the directors at the festival.



William Takacs

NEW TRUMPET TEACHER

William Takacs joined the faculty of West Texas A&M University as instructor of trumpet in the spring of 2002. Prior to his appointment at WTAMU, Mr. Takacs was instructor of trumpet at the University of West Georgia. He also served as Artist-in-Residence as a member of the Skyline Brass at Iowa State University, Drake University, Grinnell College, Simpson College, and Des Moines Area Community College. Mr. Takacs also taught at Florida State University and Bowling Green University.

Performance credits of Mr. Takacs include guest appearances with the Toledo (OH), Pensacola, and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestras and as principal trumpet for the New

Sigmund Romberg Orchestra's 1999 performance tour of Taiwan and with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Trujillo (Peru). He has also given performances and/or masterclasses at many institutions including Western Michigan University, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Valdosta State University, Stetson University, University of Central Florida, and the Conservatorio Regional de Música de Trujillo (Peru). Mr. Takacs has performed across the United States, Europe, South America, Asia, and Australia. He has won numerous performance competitions, including the 1999 National Trumpet Competition at George Mason University in Washington, D.C., and was one of five semifinalists selected worldwide to participate in the 2000 Ellsworth Smith International Trumpet Competition held in Bad Säckingen, Germany, sponsored by the National Trumpet Guild.

Mr. Takacs has also been involved in the creation of new additions to the trumpet repertoire. As a member of the Skyline Brass, he commissioned a set of four works for brass quartet by the Composers Consortium of Yale University: *Culture Crook* by Dennis DeSantis, *Theme and Variations* by Roshanne Etezady, *Sloe Gin Kills Fish!* by Adam Silverman, and *Senexis Orichalcum* by Ken Ueno. Mr. Takacs also premiered a 1997 work for trumpet and piano, *In Memoriam*, by Mark Petering, who also dedicated the work to Mr. Takacs.

Mr. Takacs received his bachelor of music degree from West Chester University of Pennsylvania, his master of music degree from Bowling Green State University, and is currently a doctoral candidate at Florida State University.

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, Assistant Professor of Voice and Musical Theatre Director, presented "Interactive Performance Enhancement for the American Music Teacher, Student, and Performer of All Ages" at this year's February TMEA Convention in San Antonio. She will also present a lecture demonstration at SETC

Conference in Mobile, Alabama, in March and the Music Therapy Conference in Lubbock in April. She is busy working with the creative team of *TEXAS* rewriting and preparing for the newer version in June.

Dr. Edward P. Kahler presented a paper on February 21, 2002 at the Texas Music Educators Association's Annual Conference in San Antonio. The paper was titled "A Music Course in Cyberspace? How did that happen?" The presentation discussed the mechanics and tools used to place the course on the WTONLINE system and how student outcomes and expectations were achieved.

MUSIC THERAPY

Wow!!! I cannot believe it is time to write another article for the *Ritornello*. How time does fly. As I write this, we are busy preparing for the Showcase of Music program on April 5, 2002. We are very excited. We are performing a patriotic medley this year including several unfamiliar verses of *America* and the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Immediately after Showcase we head down to Lubbock for the regional conference. Although busy for some, we are thrilled to have the conference back in our neck of the woods. It looks like it is going to be a fun and educational time. The students are working hard preparing for senior recitals, internships, and graduation. We have had several students just complete internships and are actively seeking employment. It will come. Hang in there! Hope everyone can make it to Lubbock. If not, have a great and relaxing summer (Huh).

CHORAL ACTIVITIES

The WT Chorale has returned from a tour March 4-7 of seven high schools in Albuquerque, New Mexico (Albuquerque High, St. Pius High, La Cueva High, Del Norte High, Eldorado High, Manzano High, and Sandia High), followed by a post-tour concert at Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall. It was both challenging and exhausting, but also fun. Joining the

Chorale on tour were voice faculty Dr. Robert Hansen and Dr. Cloyce Beard-Stradley. Noel-Paul Laur accompanied the Chorale in admirable fashion as he has tirelessly for several years and it is indeed a pleasure to work with him.

The Chorale performed Norman Dello Joio's composition, *To Saint Cecilia*, Mozart's *Te Deum*, a Franz Biebl setting of the "Ave Maria," Morten Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium*, and two lighter pieces: *Deer Chase* by Norman Luboff and *What would you do if you married a soldier?*, a rollicking Irish jig arranged by one of my favorite contemporary composers, Mack Wilberg. Schola Cantorum (the chamber choir) also performed a selection on each concert by Dello Joio entitled *Of Crows and Clusters*.

The choirs finish the 2001-2002 school year in a performance of Joseph Haydn's oratorio *The Creation* with the Amarillo Symphony and several civic choruses. Be reminded of our Showcase of Music on April 5 at 8:00 p.m. in the Amarillo Civic Center. Hope you can come and we look forward to hearing from you.

George Biffle, D.M.A.,
Director of Choral Activities
WTAMU

DANCE NEWS

The dance area has had an eventful and artistically enriching year and its hard work promises to be busy until the last day of spring classes. The dance area has worked closely with the Lone Star Ballet and does a good bit of touring. This fall they performed in Memphis, Tulia, Borger, Plainview and Canadian. The dancers from WT also danced with the Lone Star Ballet in the Amarillo Opera's production of *Kismet* in the fall and the *Nutcracker* with the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra which enjoyed a 20% increase in attendance over past seasons.

The entire dance ensemble at WT is preparing for several important appearances this spring. They performed in Memphis for a dedication of the Audie Murphy Memorial in March where Governor Rick Perry was the

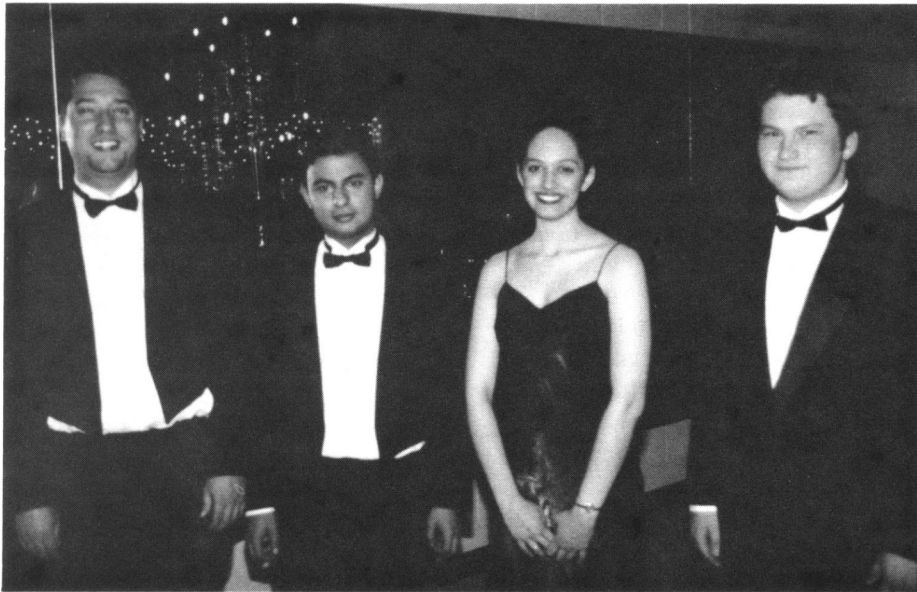
featured speaker. Another major presentation will be in conjunction

with the Lone Star Ballet. This event is called "Sinatra, Classics, Rock and

Roll," and will take place at the Amarillo Civic center at 8:00 pm on April 13.

John David Souther, an internationally known songwriter, will perform with the dancers. Souther has created some new songs for the concert and will perform some of his hits. He is known for songs he has written for the Dixie Chicks, the Eagles, James Taylor, Don Henley, Linda Ronstadt, George Strait, Bonnie Raitt and others. He has also appeared as an actor in movie and television productions.

Several graduates have moved on to new careers: Janice Nash was hired as ballet mistress for Ballet Mississippi this fall where she will teach and direct; Rebecca Herb, a December graduate, was hired by Princess Cruise Lines as a performer on her first audition; and Jessica Meador, an apprentice from the WT academy, was accepted into the professional division of Pacific Northwest Ballet. She will be joining the Pittsburgh Ballet in the fall as a company member.



WT's student quartet, the Amarillo String Quartet, performed for the Amarillo Foundation's Annual meeting Jan 15.

From left: Russell Steadman, cello; Eldar Hudiev, violin; Jill Pruitt, violin, and Matt Chisum, viola.

RITORNELLO

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