

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University

Volume 30, Number 2

Spring 2007

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

What a whirlwind semester!
(Translation: Sorry I've taken so long getting my part of *Ritornello* finished and that's why you're receiving this issue so late.)

Mr. Lefevre was told that the symphonic band has been invited to perform at TMEA in 2008. The exact date and time will be determined later. TMEA next year will be February 13-16, so please make tentative plans to come to the concert if you are in the San Antonio area at that time.

Now for some sad news. We have several faculty changes for next fall.

Sally Turk, associate professor of flute, is taking a leave of absence next year. She will be teaching class piano and choir at a boarding school in Switzerland.

Joanna Mendoza, violist with the Harrington String Quartet for the last ten years, has accepted a faculty position at the University of Oklahoma as associate professor of viola.

Composer Dr. Robert Denham, who joined the faculty last fall, has accepted a similar position at his alma mater, Biola University, in Southern California.

We wish them all well in their new pursuits.

And the good news is that although Mr. Evans retired May 31, an offer has been made to his replacement but has not yet been formally accepted.

The year-long search for a first violinist for the Harrington String Quartet is nearing an end. A candidate has been offered the position and there

are some details that will need to be worked out before an official announcement can be made. We're close.

We'll conduct searches during the summer to fill the other vacancies and we'll report back in the next issue of *Ritornello* with bios of the new additions.

There will be other changes to report as well. Dr. Sue Park retired as dean on January 15. Mr. Royal Brantley, department head of art, communication, and theatre, served as interim dean during the spring semester. Since then the university has announced that Dr. James A. Rennie, music department head at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, will assume the duties of dean on July 1.

In September, there are supposed to be organizational changes as well. The department of music and dance will become the department of music. Dance will move to art, theatre, and dance. The communication part of what has been ACT will become its own department that will combine speech, mass communications, and radio and television. Finally, the department of history and geography will move to the college. Everyone will physically stay where they are, but the college will have a new configuration.

ALUMNI NOTES

William Beryl West (BS '53) brings us a rich family history of WT graduates. Sister Myrna West-Jones, and brother S. R. "Bub" West are both WT graduates. Beryl is a Baptist minister with his MDiv. '56, and his

ThM '59 all from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was a professor (MDd and EdD, '69) at the University of North Texas and the RBT Campbelle Distinguished Professor and Professor Emeritus of Middle Tennessee State University, 1969-present. His son Gregory West has three children and lives in Midland, TX. Another son, Winfred Mark West, lives in Murfreesboro, TN and is currently professor of psychology at MBU and pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist church.

William and Brenda (Brown) McNeiland (students '58-60) write: "Bill retires in August 2007 after 37 years as orchestra director and teacher of conducting, string bass and tuba at Jacksonville University (FL). At various times he also served the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra as principal bass, assistant conductor and associate conductor. Brenda continues as organist/director at All Saints Episcopal Church and as manager of the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus, although the attraction of three much cherished grandchildren in Tennessee may change her work status before too long!" Bill and Brenda both performed in the Amarillo Symphony under Clyde Roller and Thomas Hochstadt.

Wes Rousser (BME '63) retired from teaching music and humanities. He is currently singing with the Raincross Chorale of Riverside, California. He has also performed in Carnegie Hall with Camerata of LA and Windsong Chorale.

Louellen Meyer ('89 BME, '90 MA) recently wrote to us. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Evans (who will retire at the end of this semester). He was her piano teacher. She still lives in San Angelo. She and her husband Robert, a physician, have two teenagers. She continues to serve as a church organist and director of music and is the accompanist for the Angelo State University choirs. She says that she "loves music more than ever."

Adrian Letz (BM '98) is excited to be returning to San Antonio this summer to begin his fellowship in allergy/immunology. Wife Deborah is already practicing law in San Antonio. They are looking forward to seeing everyone at the next alumni reunion at TMEA in February!

IN MEMORIAM



Joe Fristoe, 64, (BME '67) of Amarillo died Sunday, April 22, 2007.

Mr. Fristoe was born March 16, 1943, in Amarillo, was raised here and was a member of the first graduating class of Palo Duro High School. He graduated from West Texas State University with a degree in music education. He served in the U.S. Army. He married Alicia Boone in 1976 in Amarillo. He worked as a switchman for the Rock Island Railroad. Joe had a passion for music and was an accomplished jazz musician. He played the piano, drums, saxophone and flute as well as the bass.

He was preceded in death by his father, Arthur Clayton Fristoe.

Survivors include his wife, Alicia; a daughter, Winnie Fristoe and husband Andrew of Houston; three sons, Art Fristoe of Houston, Hugh



PERCUSSION REUNION PARTICIPANTS: from left to right: Johnathan Smith, Nick Scales, Cynthia Barlow, Joe Woolsey, Nick Mears, Mike Sheffield (crouching), Geoffrey Elsner, John Carroll, Ray Dillard, Dr. George Eason, Brandon Haynes, James Beckham, Dr. Susan Martin Tariq, David Sorgi, Dr. Christina Wilkes-Walton, Alan Miller, Eric Rath

Fristoe and wife Karla of Amarillo and Joseph Fristoe and wife Savannah of White Face; a stepdaughter, Natasha Hubbard of Amarillo; his mother, Joyce Fristoe of Amarillo; a sister, Lana Crane of Amarillo; four brothers, Gene Fristoe, Phillip Fristoe and David Fristoe, all of Amarillo, and Shelly Fristoe of Austin; and two grandchildren, Mabry Claire and Logan Elijah.

PERCUSSION ALUMNI REUNION

Dr. Susan Martin Tariq hosted 17 performers for an alumni percussion ensemble concert on January 28th. The group met on Saturday, January 27th for a day of rehearsals, followed by a fun evening at Scales' Strings and Things for dinner and a jam session-with no shortage of drummers! Concert players included Tariq, current bass instructor Nick Scales (on bass AND percussion), faculty emeritus, George Eason on piano; former students/instructors Ray Dillard and David Sorgi; former instructor James Beckham, and alums Cynthia Barlow, John Carroll, Geoffrey Elsner, Brandon Haynes, Chris Johnson, Nick Mears, Alan Miller, Eric Rath, Mike Sheffield, Johnathan Smith, Christina Wilkes-Walton and Joe Woolsey. The Eason/Dillard Duo reunited for a wonderful piano/percussion improvisation. Dillard, currently residing in Toronto, arrived early to

share much insightful information with current WTAMU percussion students. His clinic was sponsored, in part, by MOUNTAINRYTHYM. (Yes, that is the "correct" spelling!) If you missed this time around, make sure to send Tariq your current address and email information so you can be included in future alumni messages. stariq@mail.wtamu.edu

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Robert Hansen, professor of voice, is one of 34 opera educators and professionals nationwide selected to serve on Opera America's Singer Training Forum. The forum assembles opera educators, producers, and performers at all levels of the industry to study the issues of effectively training American opera singers to meet the needs and expectations of professional opera companies in the US and abroad. The forum meets twice a year, and in addition, its members are called upon to provide outreach and consultation to organizations and institutions whose missions impact the issue.

William Takacs, assistant professor of trumpet, was featured as trumpet soloist on Arban's *Variations on "The Carnival of Venice"* during the symphonic band tour in February. They performed at eight high schools in Midland, Odessa, Crane, Big Spring, Plainview, and Lubbock.

Showcase of Music

April 13, 2007

Sponsored by the Amarillo Globe-News

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Nita Wooten

Nancy Wright, with matching grant from IBM



Department of Music and Dance

2007 Honors Awards

Paula Hill Memorial Scholarship

Yesenia Campos, Jake Chau,
Lyndsay Eiben, Shelley Smith

David Ritter Trumpet Scholarship

David Lough

Martha Estes Music Therapy Scholarship

Kyu-Rim Kang (continuing)
Jacey Foster (continuing)

Elsa Porter Voice Scholarship

Robert Cardwell, Shayla Fezette,
Brandy Jenkins, Rachel Johnson

Royal L. Brantley Voice Scholarship

Amanda Weemes

Asalie Key Price Voice Scholarship

Rhanda Luna

Marion and Kenneth Porter Voice/Piano Scholarship

Lyndi Fisher, Brianna Bailey, Ryne Williams

Hugh Sanders Vocal Music Education Scholarship

Bart Bull

Houston Bright Choral Scholarship

Phillip Nix

Mary Jane Johnson Voice Scholarship

Sharon Grasha, Armando Pinales, Lacey Whitfield

**Ruth and George Eason Piano/Double Reeds/
Music Therapy Scholarship**

Andra Vaughan, Kyn Kang, Jessi Switzer,
Kerry Hughes, Andy Pena

McCulley-Porter Mu Phi Epsilon Scholarship

Samantha Puckett

Amarillo Music Teachers Association Scholarship

Jesse Switzer

Dee Anne Trotter Music Education Scholarship

Elyse Kahler (continuing)

Dee Anne Trotter Voice Scholarship

Kelsey Hale (continuing)

Gail and Helen Shannon Scholarship

David Lough

Sue Park Leadership Scholarship

Ben Wilson

**Dr. Howard Andrew Chamblin Memorial Music
Scholarship**

Jonathan DeLong

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia**Brantley Scholarship**

Jake Chau

Service Award

Tristan Bernas, Armando Pinales

Non-Sinfonian Award

James Barger

Wind & Percussion Achievement Scholarship

Flute: Lyndsay Eiben, Andrea Noel

Oboe: Jordan Standifer, Ali Anderson

Clarinet: Katie Smith, Stacy McBurney

Saxophone: James Barger, Ben Wilson

Bassoon: Ben Smith

Trumpet: David Lough, Trey Burns

Horn: Caitlin McCready, Julie Barnard

Trombone: Kristin Lane

Euphonium: Barry Blackwell; Tuba: Kyle Baker

Percussion: Alfredo Guzman, Justin Myers

Dudley Moore Scholarship

David Lough, Kerry Hughes,

Lyndsay Eiben, Caitlin McCready

West Texas Student String Quartet

Yesenia Campos, violin; Heather Sechrist, violin;

Sheila Bowles, viola; Kyle Baker, cello

Renaissance Holiday Feast Scholarship

Alice Anderson, Julie Barnard, John Benton,

Robert Cardwell, Alex Costello, Kyle Davis,

Lyndi Fisher, Phillip Nix, Andy Pena, Armando Pinales,

Samantha Puckett, Jordan Standifer, Jeriad Wood

Pi Kappa Lambda Inductees

Sharon Grasha, Brandy Jenkins, Nathanael Holmes,

Abby Ullrich, Brittany Parks, Ben Wilson

Total amount of scholarships awarded is \$42,000. Another
\$110,000 will be added for new and continuing music majors.

CHOIR ACTIVITIES

The choral area has had a productive semester. In March, the WT chorale toured the Panhandle and Dallas/Fort Worth areas with performances at Amarillo, Pampa, Canyon, Flower Mound, Colleyville Heritage, Keller, Denton/Ryan, and Decatur high schools. Response to the performances was very positive.

In February, the Canyon High School chorale women gave a stunning performance at TMEA of Dr. Hall's "In the Sweet By and By." Canyon High School commissioned the arrangement for their TMEA performance and Dr. Hall would like to thank them for their wonderful work. It was an amazing experience!

The combined WT choirs performed for the annual Showcase of Music (Friday, April 13), as well as performances of the Mozart *Requiem* with the Amarillo Symphony and Amarillo Civic Chorus (April 20-21). Other performances included the spring choir concert (Tuesday, April 24).

The 2nd annual all-state choir camp will be June 18-22. Information can be found on the department's website.

MUSICAL THEATRE

The West Texas A&M University theatre program produced the musical comedy "Nunsense" by Dan Goggin February 14-17 and 21-24. It was the first musical production to be offered in the new fine arts complex Branding Iron Theatre with the season theme of "The House Is Open!" This show is an all-time box office favorite. The musical tells of the story of five nuns in a wild variety show. The nuns are trying to bury their dead sisters who died in a tragic cooking accident. The cast included Camille Medina, Sierra Petty, Laura Harrell, Stephanie Bunger, and Anna McVey. It was 100 minutes of pure fun. Royal Brantley, head of ACT, was the director. Joe Ella Cansler, associate professor of music, was the production's music director. Leslie Williams, assistant professor of dance, was the choreographer.

OPERA

The WTAMU opera workshop, directed by Dr. Cloyce Kuhnert, and with the WTAMU symphony, conducted by Dr. Mark Bartley, presented Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. The cast included: Shayla Fezette and Brandy Jenkins as Fiordiligi; Brenda Kennedy and Samantha Puckett as Dorabella; Alex Costello as Ferrando, Robert Cardwell as Guglielmo; Rachel Johnson as Despina; and Brian Kuhnert as Don Alfonso. Our staff accompanist, Jan Walser, dressed as Mozart, played the recitative accompaniment.

This was the first operatic performance given in the new Branding Iron Theatre. Not only was the stage a joy to perform upon, but the acoustics were the best ever experienced in a WT opera. The balance between the orchestra and voices was absolutely top notch. The orchestra played wonderfully and the singers sang beautifully. If you haven't experienced our fine opera productions at WT, please make plans to come see us next year.

MUSIC THERAPY

Well, I just got back from regional conference. It was good seeing many of you this year. I hope you can make next year in El Paso. This year has gone very well, but very fast. The music therapy club has had some guest speakers this semester and has participated in a few fundraisers. After many, many rehearsals, the music therapy club performed "Faith of the Heart" by Diane Warren at this year's Showcase of Music.

This year's freshmen really seem to be catching onto things. There is much discussion during class. They are asking very intelligent questions. It is fun to pick up with their excitement. They are anxious about starting practica. Speaking of practica, it is time for me to start setting up some visits. I really appreciate those of you who help with practicum and internship placements. I know many times your work goes unrecognized, but it is really needed for the success of our program. There are many of you doing great things that I wish you were closer so we can tap into your expertise. Maybe you want to start an

internship. ☺ Thanks to all. Have a great summer.

ORCHESTRA NEWS

The WTAMU symphony's live cinema event last October filled Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall to capacity with hundreds more left waiting to see an encore presentation later that evening. The 1929 silent film *The Phantom of the Opera* was screened while the orchestra performed a score by Canadian composer Gabriel Thibaudau in synchronization with the movie. Senior music business major Rachel Johnson enthralled the audience as the featured soprano soloist, singing arias from Gounod's *Faust* and adding the occasional scream in time with the action on-screen.

Phantom was the first venture of the WTAMU symphony under new conductor Dr. Mark Bartley. In addition to the performance in Northen Hall, the ensemble presented *Phantom* at the historic Ector Theater in Odessa. Late in November, the orchestra performed on the annual Christmas concert combined with the WTAMU choirs under the direction of Dr. Daniel Hall. A busy spring semester has thus far brought performances in the new Branding Iron Theatre of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with WTAMU opera and an appearance at the Showcase of Music in the Amarillo Civic Center. On April 26, the orchestra performed a Russian Masterworks concert in Northen Hall. The program included Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* and *Pictures at an Exhibition*, and featured two student soloists: Lyndi Fisher singing Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise* and Lyndsay Eiben playing the flute version of Khachaturian's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra.

BANDS

This spring has been a very exciting time for the WTAMU symphonic band. Our tour to the Midland/Odessa area was a wonderful opportunity for students and directors of that area to hear what we have to offer at WTAMU. William Takacs was our featured soloist on the tour. He dazzled each and every audience. While on the tour we were able to

present eight concerts, and we would like to thank the directors of Permian, Crane, Midland Lee, Midland High, Big Spring, Lubbock Monterey, Lubbock High and Plainview for all of their efforts.

At the Showcase of Music concert on April 13, we presented four band scholarships in Dr. Dudley Moore's name. This year's recipients were David Lough from Canyon, Caitlin McCready from Midland, Lyndsay Eiben from Odessa, and Kerry Hughes from Amarillo.

Our instrumental band clinic and concert was a success again this year. This was the seventeenth year that we have hosted the event on the WTAMU campus. The visiting bands were Canyon High School, Tascosa High School, Lubbock Coronado High School, and Midland Lee High School. Dr. Gary Garner and I were the band clinicians for the day. In addition, our wind and percussion faculty taught master classes to each of the high schools.

Our final concerts were on Wednesday, April 25.

Kappa Kappa Psi presented a plaque in honor of Dr. Dudley Moore. The plaque is mounted on an old band chair from the Fine Art Building and will have a permanent place in our band set-up during rehearsals and concerts. The plaque is inscribed with the following:

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance
West Texas A&M University
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In Loving Memory of Dr. Dudley Moore
November 9, 1919 – January 13, 2007

Founding member of the "Fabulous Five"
Personally Donated over \$100,000 to the
WTAMU band program

"Let's get it done!"
Dr. Moore

BAND CAMP

The WTAMU Band Camp is scheduled July 8-20. During the second week of the camp we will be featuring New Orleans trombonist and Conn-Selmer Artist Harry Watters. Watters serves with the Army Blues Jazz Ensemble and is the newest member of the United States Army Brass Quintet in Washington, DC. His recordings include *Love Songs*, Centaur Records' *S'Wonderful: The Music of George Gershwin* with arranger and conductor William Grimes, and Summit Records' *Brothers, Brothers II & Brothers III* with trumpeter Ken Watters.

Dr. Gary Garner will be conducting the director's band and Dr. Russ Teweleit will direct the faculty jazz band again this year. We hope to see you and your students at the camp! For more information concerning the WTAMU band camp, please call 806-651-2828 or visit our website at www.wtamu.edu/academic/fah/mus/summer/band

BASSOON BASH PREMIERS

This year's Bassoon Bash premiered a number of new pieces by WT alumni on its January concert. "Bassoon Bashing" by B. J. Brooks, which can be found in the TrevCo catalog, and Kathy Kendle's loving tribute to her dog, "Heckel's Song," were featured as well as Mike Johnson's inspired medley of music from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, "Bassoons of the Caribbean." We always enjoy new music from all our talented participants and we look forward to seeing many more of you at the next Bash!



Send us your information!
E-mail any news to us at
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and we will include it the
next issue of *Ritornello*

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