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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY department of music

FALL NEWSLETTER 2007

for questions or comments, please contact us at
music@eiu.edu or visit www.eiu.edu/music

ALUMNI PROFILES

Ruth Ann Craig (BM '68, MS '96) retired last June after 30 years of distinguished service as a choral and general music teacher. She began her teaching career in Shelbyville, IL and spent the last 28 years teaching at Jefferson and Carl Sandburg Elementary schools in Charleston, IL. Craig returned to Eastern for her masters degree in Counseling in the mid-90's, a degree that she feels enhanced her work as a music teacher. One of her many joys was working with Eastern students who came through the schools for student teaching and practicum work because "they always brought new ideas with them." She remains active in music as a church pianist/organist and as a private piano teacher and is enjoying spending more time with her family.



Larry Morton (BM '82) has served as President of Hal Leonard Corporation since September 1999. He is also active in music industry associations and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Music Merchants. While at Eastern, Morton majored in music theory and composition and studied composition with Dr. Peter Hesterman and piano with Dr. David Appleby. He played trumpet in the marching and concert bands and played piano in the jazz band. He often wrote for and performed with various groups including a vocal jazz ensemble. Morton found Eastern to be a place that gave students an opportunity to find their own paths. He appreciated the accessibility of Eastern professors, who always had time to share feedback, advice, and new ideas. Morton still enjoys getting away from spreadsheets and data and playing the piano. He resides in Milwaukee with his wife, Diana Morton (Delaney), who is also a graduate of Eastern's music department, and their daughter, Lauren.



If you are an alum, the Music Department would love to hear from you. Please send an update to music@eiu.edu

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GREETINGS FROM CHARLESTON

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

Fall is an exciting time here in Charleston. To see the campus alive with so much activity is invigorating, and to hear such great music coming from our practice rooms and rehearsal halls is inspiring.

This year will continue to be a busy and exciting one, as we make preparations for the move into the new Doudna Fine Arts Center during the spring term and begin planning the inaugural "Year of Celebration" in 2008-09. We have many wonderful performances, festivals, and clinics scheduled for this year as well, and we look forward having you join us.

Please enjoy this year's newsletter, our gift to you in celebration of the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni. As you will see, our students continue to excel both in and out of the classroom, while our faculty and alumni make important contributions across the state and throughout the world.

Best wishes to all of you, and thank you for your support of our efforts toward musical and academic excellence!

Sincerely,

W. Parker Melvin
Chair



Construction continues on the Doudna Fine Arts Center with completion anticipated in Spring 2008.

EIU MUSIC DEPARTMENT PARTNERS WITH SAMUEL MUSIC COMPANY

After 13 years without a music program, the Beecher City Junior/Senior High School offered students a chance to join a choral ensemble this fall, thanks to a unique collaboration with Eastern Illinois University, Samuel Music Company, and the Effingham County Community Foundation.

Eastern graduate student Janet McCumber was chosen to lead Beecher City's new choral program. The effort is funded through a tuition waiver through Eastern and a stipend thanks to donations from Dean Samuel and the Samuel Family Foundation and the Effingham County Community Foundation. Dean Samuel, CEO of Samuel Music Company, said he strongly supports the cooperative effort: "The Samuel family and everyone at Samuel Music firmly believes that music enriches peoples' lives, and we are fully committed to supporting communities in any way we can in order to get more people involved in music."

McCumber is a veteran teacher who has served as the choir director at Villa Grove High School since 1996. She will be assisted by undergraduate music education students who will receive invaluable hands-on training in a real-world teaching environment.

SCHOLARSHIPS HONOR W. DAVID HOBBS AND ALAN AULABAUGH

In April a reception was held at the Tarble Arts Center to honor Professor of Piano W. David Hobbs. Dr. Hobbs served the Department with great distinction for the past sixteen years, teaching class and studio piano, maintaining a busy performing schedule, and coordinating the summer piano camp. Dr. Hobbs passed away in September, and the W. David Hobbs Music Scholarship, established in his honor, will be awarded each year to a promising Eastern piano student.

A scholarship was also established to honor Professor Emeritus Alan R. Aulabaugh, who passed away this summer. After earning degrees at Northwestern University and the University of Iowa, Dr. Aulabaugh taught at Arkansas State University before coming to Eastern in 1957. During his distinguished career at Eastern, he taught piano, theory, and aural skills and won the Outstanding Faculty Member Award and the Distinguished Service Award. After retiring in 1986, he was active for several years in the Charleston Civic Association before moving to Estes Park, Colorado.

To make a contribution to either scholarship fund, please contact the music office at (217) 581-3010.

ENSEMBLES PERFORM WITH DISTINCTION

In January, the **EIU Jazz Ensemble** performed with legendary trumpeter Bobby Shew at the IMEA Convention in Peoria. In February, the ensemble kicked off the 38th annual Eastern Jazz Festival in a concert with guest tenor saxophonist Mark Colby. Thirty middle school and high school ensembles performed and received feedback from professionals as part of the weekend's events.

In March, the **Latin Ensemble's** annual tour reached 4,800 students at twelve schools. The **Concert Choir's** spring tour culminated in a concert at the St. Vincent Archabbey, in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The program featured music including Pergolesi's *Magnificat* and Hammerschmidt's "O ihr lieben Hirten." The choir will perform at the 2008 IMEA Convention on February 2. The program, which is scheduled for 9:30 am at Riverside Church in Peoria, will include the Eastern Symphony Chamber Orchestra accompanying the choir on Daniel Pinkham's *Wedding Cantata*.

Eastern's **Wind Symphony** performed in six schools last spring with Steven Reineike, Principal Conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. Their final concert of the spring season featured composer and guitarist Jim Bonney. Eastern is also a part of three college consortiums that are commissioning three new works for wind bands. Compositions by Jonathan Newman and Mark Camhouse are expected this spring, and a new work by Steven Bryant will follow in the next academic year.

Last February's middle school honor band and director's symposium included guests Larry Daehn and George Farmer. Over 130 students from fifteen schools participated in this special event. Next year's event, scheduled for January 19, will include guest clinicians Michael Sweeney and Tim Loest.

The **Eastern Symphony Orchestra** concluded last season with performances by Concerto Competition winners tenor Dane Thomas and pianist Harrison Cole.



Bryan Cheski, Garrett Schmidt, and Scott Clements perform in the Eastern Illinois University Grand Ballroom.

Visit www.eiu.edu/music for a complete calendar of departmental events. For questions or comments, please contact the Music Department at music@eiu.edu.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Kent Conrad, Eastern's new piano faculty member, is a 1984 graduate of Franklin and Marshall College with a degree in Classical Studies. After serving in the United States Air Force as a Chinese linguist, Conrad received a law degree from Dickinson School of Law in 1995. After practicing law, he returned to music and earned a Masters in Accompanying from the University of Missouri at Columbia in 2003. He is currently completing his DMA in Vocal Accompanying and Coaching at the University of Illinois.

Benjamin Hayek, Cello, performs in many central Illinois orchestras and chamber ensembles. While studying with Suren Bartatuni, he earned both Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in cello performance from the University of Illinois. Currently completing his DMA, Hayek also serves as principal cellist in the Eastern Symphony Orchestra and teaches in Eastern's SHIP program.



Scott Hesse is an in-demand guitarist based in Chicago. As a performer and educator, he has appeared all over the country. Hesse holds degrees in Jazz Studies from Empire State College in New York and Jazz Composition from DePaul University. Scott Hesse has two critically acclaimed albums: *Intuition* (1998) and *The Flame Within the Fire* (2000.) To learn more, visit www.scotthese.org.

Rebecca Johnson, Flute, performs with the *Sinfonia da Camera*. She was a finalist this summer in the National Flute Association's Young Artist and Orchestral Audition competitions and is the Assistant Program Chair for the 2008 National Flute Association Convention. Currently a DMA candidate at the University of Illinois, she holds degrees from the University of Louisville, the Royal Northern College of Music, and the University of Northern Iowa.



MUSIC CAMPS REACH HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS

The Department hosted over 400 middle and high school students for **band, choir, piano, jazz, and show choir camps** in July. For information on camps for 2008, please visit www.eiu.edu/music. In addition, 1200 students attended the **Smith Walbridge Clinics** hosted by the university. The Smith Walbridge Clinics also offer summer workshops for band directors. For information on the 2008 workshops, visit www.swclinics.com.

Jonathon Kirk, Composition and Music Theory, is a composer, performer, and improviser active in many areas of contemporary music, new media, and the electronic arts. His works have been performed throughout the United States, in Europe, Canada, and Asia by a diverse group of international musicians. He has studied at the Eastman School of Music, Brown University, Augustana College, and is currently a doctoral candidate at Northwestern University.



Katherine Carothers McBain, Horn, is an active performer and recitalist with vast professional experience performing in orchestras, wind ensembles, and opera orchestras throughout Texas, Ohio, Michigan and upstate New York. McBain holds degrees from the University of Houston and Eastman School of Music, where she is completing her DMA. She has held previous teaching appointments at the University of Rochester and Nazareth College.

Mark Rubel, who directs Eastern's Recording Studio, has produced and engineered hundreds of recordings since 1980. He enjoys mentoring aspiring professionals and holds teaching positions at Parkland College and Millikin University. Rubel is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, and has served on its Producers Committee since 2001. He is also a member of the Audio Engineering Society, the Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association, and the Engineering and Recording Society.



STUDENTS WIN HONORS

The **Third Annual Peck Music Competition**, underwritten by Alex Peck Medical Antiques, was held at the Tarble Arts Center on March 3. Eighteen students competed for \$1,500 in prize money. Senior Chris Dickey, euphonium, took first place, with tenor Dane Thomas and tenor saxophonist Kyle Slemmer placing second and third.

The Department's Annual Awards Banquet and Honors Recital honored our graduates, scholarship recipients, and benefactors. Pianists Harrison Cole, Sonny Pickowitz, and Kozue Ebina performed with soprano Courtney Alburtus, tenor Dane Thomas and Chris Dickey, euphonium, on the April 22nd event.

This summer senior Josh Marcus participated in the Disney All-American Collegiate Band in Pasadena, California. This select group of college students performs in Disneyland all summer and attends workshops with music industry professionals. Senior trumpeter Chris Jansen spent the summer marching in the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps, which placed in the top ten on the corps circuit. Junior trumpeter Ashley Tarr was accepted and participated in the Chosen Vale International Trumpet Seminar in New Hampshire this summer.

FACULTY MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Milton Allen, Director of Bands, gave clinics at three regional MENC Conferences this past year. He also presented and premiered a composition at this summer's International Wind Festival at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He will present at several music educator state conferences this year and will be a clinician at the national MENC Conference in Milwaukee.

Marilyn Coles, Voice, spent her Spring 2007 sabbatical in the Netherlands, as Faculty Director of the Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies. This international study abroad program included about 45 students from Europe and the United States who spent the semester taking courses and traveling to exciting European locations. In addition to directing the program, Dr. Coles taught a course titled *Dutch Life and Culture*.

Jerry Daniels, Tenor, taught in Urbana, Italy in a program for young singers called "The Italian Operatic Experience." The month-long program was dedicated to the study of the Italian language and the preparation and performance, with orchestra, of Puccini's one-act operas *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica*. Mr. Daniels directed a program of eleven opera scenes and taught private voice lessons.

As a recipient of the Robbins Senior Fellowship, **Luminta Florea**, Musicology, spent five weeks as a visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Florea also presented a paper at the International Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference in Vienna, Austria. She is also preparing articles on Bela Bartok and Claude Debussy for *Musicians and Composers of the Twentieth Century*, forthcoming from Salem Press.

Maureen Murchie, Violin and Viola, traveled in May with *Sinfonia da Camera* on a chamber orchestra tour of Beijing and Shanghai, China. She also spent the latter part of the summer playing concerts in Osaka, Tokyo, and Sendai, Japan with a Houston-based string sextet.

On July 27, **Susan Teicher**, Piano, and Martha Thomas appeared as soloists with the DeKalb, Georgia Symphony Orchestra, performing two piano arrangements of Ferrante and Teicher. On November 4, Dr. Teicher presented a recital with fellow faculty members Maureen Murchie, violin, Ben Hayek, cello, and Magie Smith, clarinet, as part of the Tarble Arts Center's Chamber Music Series.



Chris Dickey took top honors at the 2007 Peck Music Competition. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, March 1 in the Tarble Arts Center Atrium.