



Department of Music #1-00061  
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## Greetings from Charleston

Dear Friends,

This is an exciting time for the Department of Music at Eastern Illinois University. Since last spring, we have been proud to welcome three new faculty members who are already making significant contributions to our program, and we are currently searching for three new tenure-track positions. As this newsletter illustrates, accomplishments by our continuing faculty and students are numerous and distinctive. As you know, we pride ourselves on the care and attention given to each and every student, and that commitment has never been stronger. With construction of our new facility well underway, we are actively engaged in plans to purchase the finest musical and technological equipment available and to feature a wide variety of world-class performances in both the jazz and classical idioms. The new Doudna Fine Arts Center will therefore create a unique atmosphere that will inspire our students and audiences. This is a tremendous opportunity for us, and we are extremely grateful to all of our benefactors who continue to generously support our efforts. No donation is too small, and your support greatly enhances our ability to attract top-quality students and to prepare them for success in their future lives and careers. If there is ever anything we can do for you, please



let us know, and we welcome you to visit us soon!

Warmest regards,

W. Parker Melvin  
Acting Chairperson

**For questions or comments, please contact**

**music@eiu.edu**

## New Faculty Members



**Mark DeGotti** joined the faculty as the trumpet instructor in spring 2005. He holds a Master's in Trumpet Performance from Indiana University, where he is currently a doctoral candidate and assistant trumpet instructor. He also holds Bachelor's degrees in Trumpet Performance and Music Theory from The University of Michigan and is a graduate of the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy. Mr. DeGotti is an active performer as a solo, chamber, and orchestral musician. His teachers include John Rommel, Marie Speziale, Charles Daval, and Raymond Mase.

**Maureen Murchie** is our new Instructor of Strings. She teaches violin, viola, string methods, and classes in music appreciation. She holds degrees from Baylor University and has completed coursework for her doctorate at the University of Illinois. In addition to her teaching duties, Ms. Murchie serves as concertmistress of the Eastern Symphony Orchestra. On November 17, she will be performing Schönberg's *Pierrot lunaire* in a faculty ensemble as part of Booth Library's presentation Frankenstein and the Music that Could Have Been.



**Jeff Steiner** joined the faculty this fall as Director of Athletic Bands. He also conducts the wind ensemble and teaches conducting. Mr. Steiner has also served on the faculties of Adams State College, Western Kentucky University, Alderson-Broadus College, and Indiana State University. He is currently completing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Colorado at Boulder and received Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Professor Steiner has presented research at the College Band Director's National Association and is in demand as a guest conductor and clinician.

# Eastern Illinois University Department of Music

## Fall Newsletter - 2005

## Construction Underway on the New Doudna Fine Arts Center

Construction of the \$55 million-dollar new Doudna Fine Arts Center is currently on schedule with completion expected in fall 2007. This state-of-the-art teaching and performance facility will serve as an architectural and cultural centerpiece for the EIU campus and central Illinois. The 234,000 square-foot complex features a newly-renovated, 600-seat Dvorak Concert Hall, 175-seat recital hall, 250-seat Proscenium Theatre, 150-seat, high-tech lecture hall, 2 large rehearsal rooms, state-of-the-art electronic and digital recording studios, and 25 Wenger V-Technology practice rooms (currently in use on campus).



## Helen Krehbiel-Reed and Dennis Sparger Recognized as Outstanding Alumni

As part of the Graduate School's Fiftieth Anniversary celebration in April, Helen Krehbiel-Reed (MA, '85) and Dennis Sparger (MA, '78) were honored as Outstanding Alumni. We are very proud of them and of all our Department of Music Alumni.



**Dr. Helen Krehbiel-Reed** earned her Master's degree in music education from EIU in 1968. She taught elementary music for 10 years and later taught first and third grades for nine years. After earning her doctorate from the University of Illinois in 1990 and teaching in Champaign-Urbana schools, she taught music education and supervised music student teachers at EIU for 10 years. She retired in May 1998, but music is still a big part of her life, as she is active in church music and continues playing piano duets. She recently created an EIU Music Education Scholarship for prospective music educators. She and her husband, John, live in Charleston and remain active in community organizations. Dr. Krehbiel-Reed loves traveling to visit with her children and grandchildren.



**Dr. A. Dennis Sparger** started his music career at EIU, singing in the chorus and playing cello in the orchestra before leaving with his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in 1965. He went on to earn a doctorate in choral conducting from the University of Illinois. He taught at the high school and college level before founding the Masterworks Choral in Belleville, Illinois, in 1974, where he continues as music director and conductor. Since 1986, he has been music director and conductor of the Bach Society of Saint Louis. Sparger, a past president of the Illinois chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, received its Harold A. Decker Award in 1998. In 2003, he was named Choir Director of the Year by the St. Louis chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He and his wife, EIU alumna Helene Gottschling, have three children and four grandchildren.

# Congratulations to Our 2004-2005 Graduates!

**Melissa Barbee** (BME) Trumpet  
**Jacqueline Bilbrey** (BM/BME)

Percussion

**Jessica Clark** (BME) Clarinet  
**Jennifer Colgan** (BM)

Piano/Composition

**Eric Combs** (BME) Saxophone

**Audrey Cravens** (BME) Piano

**Kevin Devany** (BME) Trombone

**Thomas Dickey** (BM) Bassoon

**Robert Elston** (BM) Percussion

**Ryan Groff** (BM) Composition

**Abigail Heras** (BME) Clarinet

**Travis Wesley Hoover** (MA) Jazz

**Michael Jones** (MA) Trumpet

**Andrew Messerli** (BME) Baritone

**Karli Oblak** (BME) Percussion

**James Schroyer** (BME) Tuba

**Adam Smith** (BME) Percussion

**Laycie Sprague** (BME) Trumpet

**Amber Stallings** (BME) Clarinet

**Jacob Stouffer** (BME) Voice

**Tracy Suemnicht** (BME) Trumpet

**Amy Whitezell** (BME) Clarinet

**Julie Wilkerson** (BM) Voice

**Paul Yarcho** (BM) Piano

## EIU Launches Summer

### Master's in Music Ed

Eastern began a program in summer 2005 that allows working Music Educators to complete a Master's Degree during the summer or to receive CEU's for attending workshops offered as part of the program. Each summer the Department offers certain core courses and workshops on topics of special interest to Music Educators of all specialties. For more information, visit us online at [www.eiu.edu/music](http://www.eiu.edu/music) or call 217.581.3010.

## Find Out More About

### Music at Eastern

High school students interested in majoring in music or performing in one of Eastern's ensembles are welcome to visit us! Open Houses and auditions are scheduled on February 20, February 25, March 25, and April 22.

These dates provide prospective students and their families an opportunity to tour the campus, meet with administrators and faculty members, and audition for the department.

To schedule a visit and/or audition on one of the above dates or on a more convenient date, visit us online at [www.eiu.edu/music](http://www.eiu.edu/music) or call 217.581.3010.

## New Website Unveiled

An entirely new Department of Music website is due to be unveiled in mid November. Working with the EIU Center for Academic Technology Support (CATS) and lead designer Michael Babcock, our faculty and staff have created a comprehensive website that makes pertinent information available to users both within and outside the university. Anyone interested in the Department can visit [www.eiu.edu/music](http://www.eiu.edu/music) and easily obtain information regarding any and all aspects of the Department.

**Allan Horney**, Trombone, wrote a big band piece for publication and served as an adjudicator at the Purdue Jazz Festival while on sabbatical in spring 2005. He recently adjudicated the Danville Invitational Marching Band Competition and conducted the IMEA District V Junior High Jazz Band.

**Aaron Hunt** (BM '94), Composition and Theory, gave a lecture on microtonal music in London on October 15. His presentation included a demonstration of a keyboard and notation system he invented. More information about his work is available at [www.emancipation-of-pitch.org](http://www.emancipation-of-pitch.org).

**Gary Jensen**, Music Education, received a 2005 Redden Fund Grant from the EIU Foundation for the purpose of enhancing instruction.

**Paul Johnston**, Jazz Piano, was recently promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor. Mr. Johnston also serves on the summer faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan and continues to perform across the Midwest.

**Peter Loewen**, Musicology, was recently awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor. Dr. Loewen also received an Excellence in Technology Award from the University, presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the American Musicological Society, and authored numerous publications.

**Joseph Martin**, Assistant Chair and Oboe, was recently honored for 35 years of service to the University.

**Terence Mayhue**, Percussion, continues to tour throughout the state of Illinois with the EIU Percussion Ensemble. The group was recently featured at the EIU Latino Heritage Banquet.

**Richard Rossi**, Director of Orchestral and Choral Activities, was recently appointed as Chorusmaster of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra Chorus. They will perform the Faure Requiem and Vaughan Williams' A Sea Symphony in the coming season. Mr. Rossi also received a 2005 Redden Fund Grant from the EIU Foundation.

**Kathreen Ryan**, General Education, recently performed the solo violin part in performances with the touring production of the Broadway musical Chicago in Springfield, Illinois.

**Susan Teicher**, Piano, recently performed Ferrante and Teicher two-piano arrangements with colleague Martha Thomas with the University of Georgia Symphony in Athens, Georgia and with the Rockford Symphony Orchestra in Rockford, Illinois.

**Keith Wright**, Flute and Recording, was co-creator of a multi-media presentation at the EIU Latino Heritage Banquet. Dr. Wright traveled to Japan this summer where he networked with officials at the Senzoku Gakuin School of Music. He also recently performed at a benefit concert for the Japanese American Foundation in the Washington D.C. area.

## Please consider making a gift . . .

Alumni and friends of the Department of Music have given generously to Eastern throughout the years. Each and every gift has a significant impact on our ability to recruit the finest students and to provide them the best possible training and experiences. If you have not already done so, please consider designating a gift for the Department of Music.

For more information on how to give, contact the Department directly at 217.581.3010 or the EIU Development Office at 217.581.3313. You can even contribute online at [www.give2iu.eiu.edu](http://www.give2iu.eiu.edu). Thank you for your support!

# 2005 Highlights

## JANUARY

The EIU Wind Ensemble performed at the IMEA state conference in Peoria. The program included works by Dana Wilson, Eric Whitacre, and James Clifton Williams.

## FEBRUARY

The First Annual Peck Music Competition, underwritten by Alex Peck Medical Antiques, was held at EIU on February 5. Twenty-two students participated in the event. The judges awarded Katrina Kappes, Rob Elston, and Chris Dickey a total of \$1,500 in prize money.

Eastern hosted 30 high school jazz bands and combos as part of the 46th annual EIU Jazz Festival. Steve Wilson, also saxophonist *par excellence*, was the guest artist.

He performed with the EIU Jazz Ensemble on February 11 and 12.

## MARCH

The Concert Choir toured Pennsylvania from March 12-15. They performed at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Art and at Vincent Archabbey Basilica in Latrobe.

The Percussion Ensemble visited 13 schools and played for 8,500 students during a 3-day tour.

## APRIL

Eastern's Jazz Combo I performed at the Addison Jazz Festival in Texas. Travis Wesley, Tim Gillins, Josh Marcus, and Tyrone Garner were named Outstanding Soloists.

The winners of the annual concerto competition, pianist Daniel Cather and soprano Toni Beavers, performed with the Eastern Symphony Orchestra.

The Department's Annual Awards Banquet honored our graduates, scholarship recipients, and benefactors. A plaque was also presented to community members Robert and Carol Timblin in honor of their membership in the Eastern Symphony Orchestra since 1960.

## MAY/JUNE

The Department welcomed its first students in the new Summer Master's in Music Education degree program.

## JULY/AUGUST

The Department hosted over 400 middle and high school students for band, choir, piano, jazz, and show choir camps. Information on camps for 2006 is available at [www.eiu.edu/music](http://www.eiu.edu/music).

University Bands and the EIU Department of Athletics co-sponsored the Thunder on the Plains competition of Drum Corp International. The competition featured five drum and bugle corps including the Cavaliers and Madison Scouts.

Eastern's new Allen Renaissance Quantum organ arrived on campus. An unveiling concert is planned for spring 2006.