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Greetings from Charleston

Dear Friends,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve Eastern Illinois University for the past fifteen years as a faculty member, as Acting Chair, and now as Chair of the Department of Music. It is a genuine pleasure to work with our wonderful faculty and students. As highly valued friends and alumni, I'm sure you are aware that the quality of these people as much as the quality of their musical talent is what makes our Department so very unique. I wish we had a nickel in scholarship money for every time a parent, prospective student, or alum has commented on the personable and friendly atmosphere they encountered while visiting the campus. With the completion of the new Doudna Fine Arts Center and all of the exciting innovations it will bring only one year away, we are more committed than ever to maintaining our core traditions in the Department of Music: talented students and faculty, excellence in teaching, and personal attention. On behalf of all Music faculty and students, I thank you so very much for your continued support of the Department and invite you to enjoy this year's newsletter and the wonderful accomplishments it celebrates!

Warmest regards,
W. Parker Melvin
Chair



For questions or comments, please contact

music@eiu.edu

New Faculty Members



Dr. Milton Allen is Eastern's newly-appointed Director of Bands. He conducts the Wind Symphony and Collegiate Band, teaches undergraduate conducting, guides the graduate wind conducting program, and oversees all aspects of Eastern's band program. Dr. Allen has served on the faculty of Wirttenburg University and as the Doctoral Conducting Associate for The Ohio State University Bands. He holds degrees from the University of North Texas, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and The Ohio State University.



Dr. Dave Fink joined Eastern Illinois' faculty this fall as Instructor of Bass. Comfortable in many styles of music, Mr. Fink maintains a busy performing schedule. He is also the principal bassist of the Eastern Symphony Orchestra. He is an alumnus of the Indiana University School of Music and of Ravinia's Stearns Institute for Young Artists.



Eastern is happy to welcome **Dr. Luminita Florea** back to Charleston. She served on Eastern's faculty from 1993-1998. Dr. Florea received her Bachelor's degree in Musicology from the George Dima Academy of Music in Romania and her Ph.D. in Musicology from the Indiana University School of Music. She has presented papers for the International Musicological Society, the American Musicological Society, the U. K. Royal Musical Association, the University of California Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the Regional Central Renaissance Conference.

Eastern Illinois University

Department of Music

Fall Newsletter - 2006

Eastern Student & Alumnus Perform in Italy

EIU senior Dane Thomas and Lucas Goodrich (BM '04) sang in the opera *Le nozze di Figaro* in Urbania, Italy in August. Dane sang the role of Figaro and Lucas sang the roles of Don Curzio and Don Basilio. The performance was the culmination of a month-long program called "The Italian Opera Experience." The program included intensive language study, courses in Italian culture, Italian opera history, as well as music classes in preparing and staging opera performances.

Dane Thomas and Lucas Goodrich were joined by EIU Professor Jerry Daniels who served as a guest faculty member. Participants in the "The Italian Opera Experience" were selected following a series of auditions.

This year has been an exciting and busy one for Dane Thomas. In February he was the winner of the 2006 Peck Music Competition. In addition, he was the second place winner in the Southern Illinois Young Artist Competition held in Edwardsville, Illinois in April. In January 2007 he will be featured in recital in Edwardsville.



Dane Thomas and Lucas Goodrich

Construction Continues on Fine Arts Center

We are eagerly anticipating the completion of construction on the \$55 million new Doudna Fine Arts Center, scheduled for 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, two large rehearsal rooms, state-of-the-art electronic and digital recording studios, and 25 Wenger V-Technology practice rooms.



Music Department Bids Farewell to Professor

After 27 years of service to Eastern, Professor Richard Bartra retired in August. His distinguished career included teaching applied clarinet, conducting, instrumental music education methods, and piano for elementary education majors. In addition, he conducted clarinet ensembles and served as Director of Bands for two and a half years. He remained active as a performer in the EIU Faculty Woodwind Quintet and with the Prairie Chamber Winds. The faculty, staff, and students of the Department join together in celebrating his career and wish to thank Mr. Bartra for his many years of excellence and dedication!

For all of our friends and alumni who will be attending the 2007 IMEA Convention in Peoria, please be sure to stop by our booth and our annual reception Friday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the North Marquette Room (the usual spot).

We look forward to seeing you!

A Look Back: 2006 Highlights

- Eastern hosted 28 high school jazz bands and combos as part of the **47th Annual EIU Jazz Festival**. Wayne Bergeron, one of the most sought-after trumpeters in Los Angeles, was the guest artist. He performed with the EIU Jazz Ensemble on February 10 and 11.
- The **Latin Ensemble** visited 12 schools and played for 4,500 students during a 3-day tour in March.
- The second annual **Peck Music Competition**, underwritten by Alex Peck Medical Antiques, was held on Eastern's campus on March 4. Sixteen students participated in the event. The judges awarded baritone Dane Thomas, pianist Kozue Ebina, and percussionist Clifford Hunt a total of \$1,750 in prize money.
- The winners of the annual **Concerto Competition**, pianist Thomas McElwee, baritone Dane Thomas, and euphonium player Chris Dickey, performed with the Eastern Symphony Orchestra in its March and April concerts.
- The Department's annual **Awards Banquet and Honors Recital** honored our graduates, scholarship recipients, and benefactors. Pianist Sonny Pickowitz, saxophonist Dan Matthews, vocalists Kaylie Diel and Dane Thomas, and Chris Dickey, euphonium, performed during the April 23rd event.
- Through **Eastern Music Camp**, the Department hosted over 400 middle and high school students in **band, choir, piano, jazz, and show choir** in July. Information on camps for 2007 is available at www.eiu.edu/music.
- Eastern's **Mid-West Funk Factory drumline** performed this fall at the Glamorama 2006 cancer research benefit concerts in Minneapolis and Chicago. They performed with Beyonce Knowles and Kelly Rowland of Destiny's Child. These concerts garnered media coverage from Entertainment Tonight, CNN, and the Today Show.
- Eastern hosted the **Smith Walbridge Clinics and Directors' Workshops** this summer. Student clinics were given for marching band leaders, and workshops were offered for marching band directors. For dates and information for 2007, visit www.swclincinc.com.
- Eastern hosted 16 high school marching bands on September 30 for its annual festival. Eastern's **Panther Marching Band** closed the day-long festivities with a performance featuring music from *Mission Impossible* and *The Incredibles*.

Faculty and Staff Updates

- Marilyn Coles**, Voice, will spend her Spring 2007 sabbatical in Maastricht, Netherlands, as Faculty Director of the Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies. Dr. Coles will also teach a course entitled *Music in European Cathedrals, Castles, and Cafes*.
- Sam Fagaly**, saxophone and Director of Jazz Studies, was recently promoted to full professor. He directed the IMEA District I Senior Jazz Band this fall and will lead the EIU Jazz Ensemble in a featured performance at the 2007 IMEA/All-State Convention in Peoria.
- Gary Jensen**, Music Education, will conduct the Junior High Chorus at this year's District V Choral Festival held at EIU this November. He will also present a series of musical workshops across the state for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) as they introduce a new hymnal for their denomination.
- Paul Johnston**, Jazz Piano, performed this fall with the Jazz Heritage Orchestra in Cleveland, Ohio. He spent the past summer teaching at Eastern's music camp and at the Interlochen Center for the Arts.
- Maureen Murchie**, Violin, collaborated with a Houston-based string sextet this summer on a concert that will be repeated in Houston in February and in Japan next summer. This fall she performed Vivaldi's "Autumn" concerto from *The Four Seasons* with the Eastern Symphony Chamber Orchestra and the Telemann *Viola Concerto* with the student string quartet she coaches.
- Richard Rossi**, Director of Orchestral and Choral Activities, was recently granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. This past summer Mr. Rossi conducted the Blue Lake Festival Orchestra and Staff Choir in Fauré's *Requiem* in Twin Lake, Michigan. He is also preparing to conduct Mozart's *Requiem* with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in November.
- Susan Teicher**, Piano, performed the Dvorak Piano Quintet with the Pacific Quartet on the first concert in this season's Tarble Arts Chamber Series. She also performed a two piano recital this fall in Coopersburg, PA.
- Keith Wright**, Flute and Recording, received an EIU Council on Faculty Research Summer Grant to travel to Peru. While in Peru, he gave a multimedia presentation at the Congreso de Americas in Lima. He also performed and gave a masterclass at the National Peru Music Conservatory. In August Dr. Wright performed at the National Flute Association Convention in Pittsburgh.

New Faculty Members

- Troy Marble** joined Eastern's faculty this fall as Instructor of Tuba. Mr. Marble holds his Bachelor of Music degree from Eastern and received his Master's in Orchestral Performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. He is the principal tuba for the St. Louis Philharmonic and has served as principal tuba with the United States Marine Corps Field Bands and the Danville and Champaign-Urbana Symphonies.
- Rebecca Schuette** is pleased to join the faculty at Eastern. She graduated from the University of Iowa with an honors performance degree in oboe and music education. She received her Masters of Music Education in voice from VanderCook College of Music. She was most recently a public school music teacher having taught band, orchestra, chorus, and general music.
- Magie Smith** is our new Instructor of Clarinet. She holds degrees in clarinet performance from Western Kentucky University and The Ohio State University, where she is currently a doctoral candidate. Ms. Smith is an active solo and chamber musician. Her primary teachers include John Carmichael, Tod Kerstetter, Lee Levine, and James Pyne.

Alumni News



Brian Downen (BM '87) continues to perform all over the continent with performances of *Don Giovanni* with the Edmonton Opera, Handel's *Messiah* with the Jacksonville Symphony in Florida and at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City, and *Barber of Seville* with the Jacksonville Symphony and the Florentine Opera in Wisconsin. Mr. Downen also worked with high school students in Charleston this summer as part of Eastern's Choral Festival Camp.



Charlotte Martin (BM '98) is celebrating the release of her second full-length album, *Sromata*. Her national headline tour in support of the record garnered sold out performances in Chicago and Boston. The first leg of the tour concluded with a performance in Los Angeles in September. In early 2007 Charlotte is expected to tour with Columbia Records artist Pete Yorn. Charlotte is endorsed by Yamaha Pianos and studied with Professor **Jerry Daniels** at Eastern Illinois University.



Matthew Polenzani (BM '91), an EIU Distinguished Alumni, sings the role of Roméo in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* at the Chicago Lyric Opera in November and December performances. Also this season, he sings Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* and David in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, both at the Metropolitan Opera. His recital CD is available from vaimusic.com.

Brian Shaw (BM '01) performed a series of recitals of new music last spring with Eastern Professor of Piano **Dr. W. David Hobbs**.



The duo presented this program, consisting mostly of newly-commissioned works, in Texas, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Illinois. The new works performed included compositions by Joseph Turrin, Dave Rivello, Michael Hay, Jonathan Schwabe (MM '88) and two new pieces by Shaw. Shaw and Hobbs are currently completing a recording of these compositions and other works by contemporary American composers to be released in the near future. Shaw has also served on the faculty of Eastern's summer Jazz Instrumental Camp since 2003.

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 February 19, February 24, March 24 and April 21. 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 or call 217.581.3010.

A Look Ahead: Upcoming Special Events

- For more information on these events, visit us online at www.eiu.edu/music or call 217.581.3010.
- The Department of Music is proud to announce the return of its annual **Honor Band Festival** that will be held **Friday, December 1**, on the EIU campus. Top high school students from all over the state will be invited to spend a day rehearsing and performing with Steven Reineke, composer and arranger for the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra and Dr. Milt Allen, Eastern's new Director of Bands. As part of this event, conductors are invited to join the EIU Wind Symphony for a Band Literature Reading Session sponsored by Shattinger Music.
 - The **EIU Jazz Ensemble** has been invited to perform at the **2007 IMEA Convention** in Peoria. Their performance, scheduled for Friday, January 26, at 3 p.m. in the Hotel Pere Marquette's LaSalle Room, will feature renowned trumpeter **Bobby Shew**.
 - EIU will host a **Middle School Honors Band and Director's Symposium** on Saturday, February 3. Middle school students who will rehearse with Hal Leonard composer **Michael Sweeney** and Dr. Allen. Directors will have the opportunity to attend a series of classes designed for the middle school band instructor and presented by EIU faculty and special guests.
 - The **48th Annual EIU Jazz Festival** will open Friday night, **February 9**, with a concert featuring Chicago tenor saxophonist Mark Colby and the EIU Jazz Ensemble. This concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the MLK University Union Grand Ballroom, on the campus of EIU. High school and junior high school bands will compete and participate in clinics all day Saturday, February 10.
 - Eastern will host a **Conducting Symposium** on **Saturday, February 24**. Up to ten conductors will be selected for active participation in the symposium featuring **Dr. Patrick Casey**, outstanding conductor of the Virginia Tech Wind Ensemble.
 - Eastern is proud to announce the **2007 Peck Music Competition** on Saturday, April 7 in the Grand Ballroom of the MLK University Union. Underwritten by Alex Peck Medical Antiques, this prestigious event will once again feature the top student talent from the Music Department competing for \$1,750 in prize money in this professional-level competition.

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. For 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.edu. Thank you for your support!