

## GREETINGS FROM CULLOWHEE

*Dear School of Music Alumni and Friends,*

*Welcome to this year's edition of Rondo, our School of Music alumni newsletter.*

*Enrollment is up in the School of Music this fall, with 214 majors, of whom 21 are graduate students. This is the largest graduate student population we've had in more than 20 years. Congratulations to the faculty and to Dr. Mary Kay Bauer, coordinator of the graduate program, for their efforts to improve the program and attract new students.*

*It is an exciting year, especially with the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band's trip to Pasadena, Calif., for the Rose Bowl, which helped to attract more than 400 students to participate in the Pride of the Mountains this fall. We already have more than 100 concerts scheduled for the academic year, the majority of which are free and open to the public. Any time you're in the area, check the website ([music.wcu.edu](http://music.wcu.edu)) for a schedule of events.*

*Continued on page 5*



## Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet Performs in China

The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, resident quintet at WCU, recently returned from a two-week performance tour of China. The trip took the quintet to eight major cities within China, where they performed music with both Appalachian and Chinese themes. Auditoriums were packed, and the people of China enthusiastically welcomed quintet members as well as Dr. Will Peebles, director of the School of Music, who accompanied the quintet on the trip.

Three performances were given at WCU's sister schools in Xi'an, Chongqing and Guilin, where audiences overflowed. Dan Cherry, trombonist with the group, said, "It's a new and exciting experience to be treated like 'rock stars' before, during and after our concerts." In addition to Cherry, quintet members include Brad Ulrich and David Ginn BA '92 (trumpets), Travis Bennett (horn) and Michael Schallock (tuba). The group served as ambassadors for the student exchange and language program within the Office of International Programs and Studies, which leads Western Carolina's partnerships with foreign schools.

The group managed to squeeze in fun-filled tours of the Li River, the Terracotta Army and the Great Wall of China. For more about the quintet's adventures, as well as for photos and videos, visit the website [www.smbq.org](http://www.smbq.org).

The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet will be going to Germany next spring to visit four WCU sister schools in southwestern Germany. Dean Robert Kehrberg will accompany them on that concert tour.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pride to Pasadena	2
Musical Theatre News	4
'A Christmas Carol'	5
Faculty News	6
Choral News	8
The Dooleys	9
Student News	10



## Pride Marches On to California

Western Carolina University's "Pride of the Mountains" Marching Band, under the direction of Bob Buckner, Matt Henley and Jon Henson, has accepted an invitation to represent the state of North Carolina at the prestigious Tournament of Roses Parade® in Pasadena, Calif., on Saturday, Jan. 1.

The parade is celebrating its 122nd year with the theme "Building Dreams, Friendships, and Memories."

Join the nationally recognized, award-winning band in celebration by watching on New Year's Day and see how the band's blossoming friendship with members of the ska band Suburban Legends will be represented on the parade route.

The five-day trip will be filled with many exciting events and destinations such as Bandfest, the Tournament of Roses Parade®, Disneyland, the Getty Museum, the Santa Monica Pier, and a tour of Hollywood. While in Pasadena, the

band will hold its annual banquet for its members. Despite the change of scenery, the band will celebrate its accomplishments in sunny California, with the event hosted by the Hyatt-Regency Orange County.

The "Pride to Pasadena" campaign was created in an effort to make the trip easy and affordable for all band members. While members are required to pay a portion of their way, this campaign has been designed to help the bandsmen raise these funds. Members will be selling shirts, lapel pens and wristbands to help them reach their goal.

This year's 411-member band will literally "Rock U" this season with music from Kid Rock, AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, Prima J, Joan Jett, KISS, Dem Franchize Boyz, Apollo 440, Kevin Rudolf, Black Eyed Peas and Queen. The band will rock out to songs such as "We Will Rock You," "Rock and Roll," "Rock and Roll All Nite," "Stop the

Rock," "Let it Rock," "Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution," "Rock That Body," and "I Love Rock and Roll." The band is not limiting itself to sheer musical talent: "Rock U" has members physically engaged in their show performances. The combination of playing, singing and dancing will keep the audience on their toes until the very end. It will surely prove to be one of the most elaborate moments of pageantry in WCU's history.

Other highlights of the Pride of the Mountains schedule included an exhibition show at the "Land of the Sky" competition Tuesday, Oct. 2 at Enka High School. Also in October, the band rocked the Georgia Dome as a special guest at a Bands of America regional competition in Atlanta.

The 10th annual Tournament of Champions high school marching band competition was held Saturday, Oct. 16. Twenty-three bands from four states performed throughout the day to compete for the grand champion title. The Pride of the Mountains performed twice, once each for preliminaries and for finals. All profits from the tournament will go toward the marching band scholarship fund.

This year wouldn't be possible without a hardworking and unique staff to fuel the band's jet. The staff coordinators are Adam Stewart, Billie Jean Curns, Kevin Kimbrough and Rachel Rimmer. Drum majors are Amy Shuford, Trip Lewis and Hannah Austin. Woodwind coordinators are Keith Marwitz and Molly Underwood. The low brass coordinator is Frances Stover and high brass coordinator is Ashleigh Cook. This season's electronics are powered by Dustin Painter and Daryll Victorio.





## WIND ENSEMBLE AND SYMPHONY BAND HAVE BUSY YEAR AHEAD

The WCU Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band, under the baton of conductor John T. West, have an exciting 2010-11 ahead of them. The Wind Ensemble will present its first concert Tuesday, Nov. 2, and it will feature two monumental works. The first, "Pines of Rome" by Ottorino Respighi, is a transcription of the orchestral work. It is a four-movement tone poem full of color and drama culminating in the famous last movement, "The Pines of the Appian Way." The other large work is the "Sinfonietta" by the German-American composer Ingolf

Dahl. This three-movement work was composed in 1961 and is considered one of the most important pieces written for wind band in the 20th century.

The Wind Ensemble also will participate in the annual Sounds of the Season holiday concert in December, performing several selections featuring student vocalists and collaborations with the WCU choirs.

In the spring semester, both bands will perform two formal concerts as well as the annual student soloist and conductor

concert in April. The Wind Ensemble will perform for the annual WNC All-District Band Clinic hosted by the WCU School of Music and will leave on its biennial concert tour in late February. This year's tour will feature concerts in the Charlotte area.

For more information or details about any of these events, please contact the WCU School of Music at 828.227.7242.



## JAZZ FESTIVAL PLANNED FOR APRIL

The annual WCU Jazz Festival will take place Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center on the WCU campus. Afternoon clinics will be followed by evening performances by the WCU Jazz Ensemble and jazz combos, all under the direction of Pavel Wlosok. The lineup of clinicians and artists has not been completely determined as of yet, but artists such as Bobby Watson and Dick Oats are being considered, as is the Libor Smoldas Quartet, a premier group of Czech jazz musicians. Look for more details on this event in early spring and make plans to attend this outstanding festival!

## BAND CLINIC SET FOR FEBRUARY

On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 11-12, the WCU School of Music will again host the Western North Carolina All-District Band Clinic. The event involves more than 350 middle and high school band musicians from throughout Western North Carolina. These students are selected for participation through a rigorous audition process and spend two days at WCU rehearsing with guest clinicians. They present a final concert Saturday evening as the concluding event to the clinic. Also, as part of the clinic, the students will have the opportunity to hear performances from the WCU Wind Ensemble. All rehearsals and performances in the clinic take place in either the Fine and Performing Arts Center or the Coulter Building on the WCU campus in Cullowhee.

## Musical Theatre Maintains Its Busy Schedule

Musical theatre at WCU continues to be extremely active throughout the year. Over the summer most of our students worked in regional theater around the United States. Once again the program was invited to perform at the Roanoke Festival Park this summer. We presented two shows over a two-week period: "I Love A Piano," a revue of the music of Irving Berlin, and the family classic "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." Both shows were well attended and made possible by a grant from the state of North Carolina.

In September we performed the Kurt Weill masterpiece "The Seven Deadly Sins" at the Fine and Performing Arts Center. This work, an unusual hybrid of genres, is a ballet with singing. The performance was made possible by a grant from the Kurt Weill Foundation in New York.

On Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 17, 20 and 21, we will be presenting the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical "Rent" in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

This promises to be a great show, as our guest director Owen Johnston has been associated with the show as an actor or director since its Broadway debut. The



show also will be playing in conjunction with a visit to campus of the AIDS Quilt, which will be housed in the Fine Art Museum.

Our main show for the year will be the Cole Porter musical "Kiss Me Kate," a classic from Broadway's Golden Age, from Thursday through Sunday, March 24-27. It will be directed by Terrence Mann, our Carolyn Plemmons Phillips and

Ben R. Phillips Distinguished Professor of Musical Theatre. Mann is currently performing in the new Broadway show "The Addams Family," composed by Andrew Lippa, who has been a guest artist on campus.

For information or to purchase tickets, visit the FAPAC box office, call: 828.227.2479, or go online to: [fapac.wcu.edu.theatre](http://fapac.wcu.edu.theatre) program.



## HOLIDAY CONCERT *Sunday, December 5th*

"Sounds of the Season," the annual WCU School of Music holiday concert in support of scholarships, will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

The concert will feature performances by the WCU Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, University Chorus, Early Music Ensemble, Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, WCU Jazz Ensemble and the Angklung Ensemble, among others. Also included in this year's program is an honors choir made up of

Jackson County elementary school students and special guest narrator Steve Carlisle.

Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for seniors (individuals 60 and older) and WCU faculty and staff; and \$5 for students and children. All proceeds from the sale of tickets will go toward music student scholarships.

For information or to purchase tickets, visit the FAPAC box office, call 828.227.2479, or go online to [fapac.wcu.edu](http://fapac.wcu.edu).

## 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' TO STAGE DEC. 9 AT FAPAC

Preparations are under way for a December re-creation of the 1938 Campbell Playhouse radio classic "A Christmas Carol" that starred the legendary Orson Welles.

The show will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, in WCU's Fine and Performing Arts Center and also will be broadcast live on radio station 570 WWNC-AM in Asheville and 1400 WMXF-AM in Waynesville. (Both stations offer the option of listening online.)

The WCU production will work from a copy of Welles' personal script and will star Arthur Anderson, who will reprise his role as the Ghost of Christmas Past, which he performed in the original radio show more than 70 years ago. Now 87, Anderson was 16 at the time.

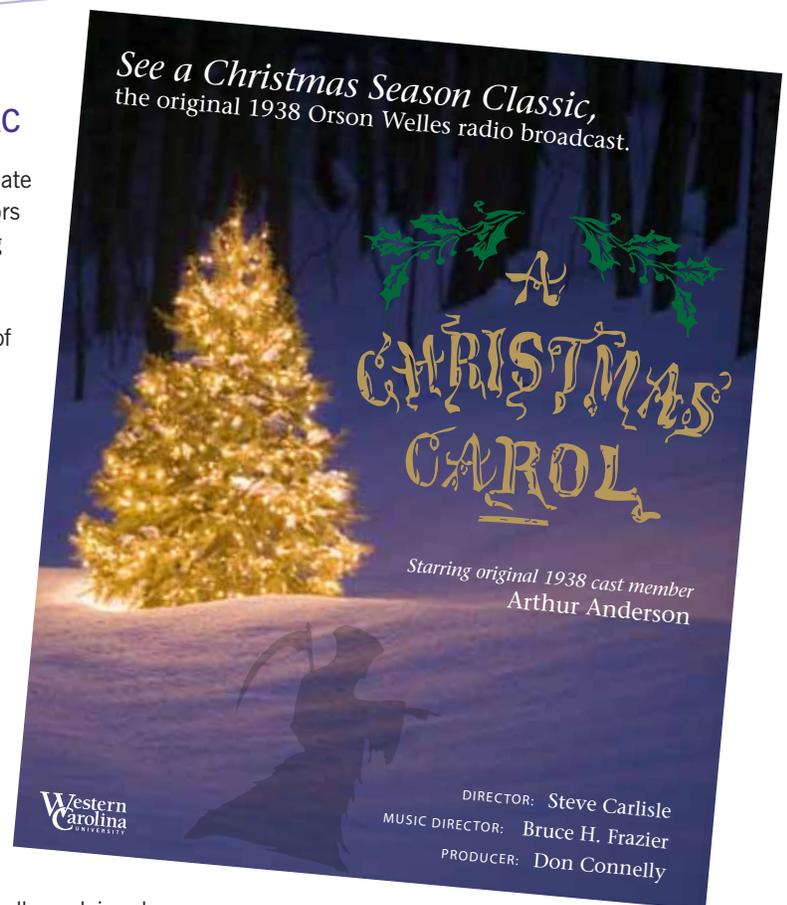


Steve Carlisle, associate dean of WCU's Honors College, is organizing the event. Donald Connelly, head of WCU's Department of Communication, will produce the show, and Bruce Frazier, Belk Distinguished Professor of Commercial and Electronic Music, will serve as musical director. The team previously collaborated on the 2008 live radio show production "The War of the Worlds," the H.G. Wells story as told by Orson Welles, and last year's nationally acclaimed Veterans Day tribute "On the Home Front, Nov. '44," which won two top honors in the Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts.

"A Christmas Carol" will feature a live orchestra and the talents of WCU faculty, staff and students, as well as radio professionals from Western North

Carolina. It is a joint production of WCU's Department of Communication, Department of English, School of Music, School of Stage and Screen, and the Honors College.

For ticket information, visit the FAPAC box office, call 828.227.2479, or go online to [fapac.wcu.edu](http://fapac.wcu.edu).



## GREETINGS FROM CULLOWHEE

(Continued from cover)

*New curricula are in place for commercial and electronic music, music industry, and music education programs. Beginning this fall, the School of Music will offer the BM degree with a concentration in music education (graduates will also receive the BSEd degree). These changes are the result of significant reviews of curricula as part of our recent reaccreditation by NASM, and also are based on feedback from teachers, students and alumni.*

*We are also very pleased to report the founding of a new organization to support music and the other arts at Western Carolina University: Friends of the Arts. This replaces Friends of Music and is a joint effort of all the constituents of the College of Fine and Performing Arts. There will be one administrative structure, but donors can designate funds to a variety of specific areas. See the CFPA website for more details.*

*Our School of Music scholarships remain at an unsatisfactorily low level. We regularly lose students to other schools that have two to five times as much scholarship money available. Please consider helping out a deserving student with a donation to the Friends of the Arts designated for music scholarships!*

*We look forward to seeing many of you at the N.C. Music Educators Association conference in November. Drop by our booth and say hello, or stop by anytime your travels bring you back to Cullowhee. It's always great to see you and hear how you are doing. Keep in touch!*

**Will Peebles, Director**

# FACULTY NEWS



**Amy Cherry** appeared as a performer and guest panelist at the International Women's Brass Conference held at Humber College in Toronto, Canada, in June. She performed as a member of the Monarch Brass Ensemble and served as a panelist on the "Pregnancy and Parenting" forum held at the event. In July, Amy performed a recital as part of the Summer Organ Concert Series held at Christ Episcopal Church in Roanoke, Va., with her collaborator, Ben Outen. The two premiered a piece written for them by composer Michael Sitton titled "Hymn for Trumpet and Organ."



**Ian Jeffress** premiered two new works by WCU School of Music faculty at the North American Saxophone Alliance 2010 Biennial Conference, held on the campus of the University of Georgia last

March. The compositions premiered were Mario Gaetano's "Recession Pieces" for saxophone with percussion and Daniel Gonko's "Filaments and Firmaments" for saxophone and electronics.

**Bill Martin** and the Blue Ridge Orchestra recently completed a DVD project titled "For the Love of Music." This 45-minute DVD is a look at how a community orchestra puts



together a concert. The concert that the orchestra chose to film was "A Night at the Opera II," which was designed as a tribute to the late Luciano Pavarotti and features Bill Martin as tenor soloist. The Blue Ridge Orchestra hopes to market this DVD to educational television stations around the country, including PBS. The film combines music with commentary from various orchestral members. Anyone wishing to purchase the DVD can order it at [blueridgeorchestra.org](http://blueridgeorchestra.org). Under "PDF order forms" on the home page, select "DVD of 'For the Love of Music.'"



**Will Peebles** performed with the We Three woodwind trio in July (with flute alumna Townes Osborn Miller and oboist Terri Armfield), and the Page Five Woodwind Quintet

in a concert in Marquette, Mich., in August. Gamelan Gunung Biru also performed a concert in Asheville in June with guest artists Burhan Sukarma and Rae Ann Stahl. The ensemble recorded a CD of traditional Sundanese gamelan music that should be available for purchase this fall. Proceeds from this CD will go directly to the School of Music trust fund.

**Christina Reitz's** article "Jennifer Higdon's Pulitzer Prize Winning Violin Concerto" appeared in the fall 2010 issue of the journal of the International Alliance for



Women in Music, along with her review of the world premiere performance of Higdon's "On a Wire" with Eighth Blackbird and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. She presented a research paper entitled "Pedagogical and Performance Practices in Late 19th-Century Pianism: The Heritage from Leschetizky to Zeisler"

at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association national conference in Tampa, Fla., in March. Also in March, she presented research titled "Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler: The Woman Problem – A Concert Pianist's Answer" at the Ninth Festival of Women Composers, held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Grove Dictionary of Music and the second edition of the Grove Dictionary of American Music will soon be updated and include information submitted by Reitz on the life and contributions of composer Jennifer Higdon.

**Shannon Thompson** and **Andrew Adams**

performed at the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest at the University of Texas in Austin this past July. They performed Thompson's transcription of "Romances" (originally for violin and piano) by Clara Schumann. This was a homecoming of sorts for Thompson, as she lived in Austin for seven years and did her doctorate there.



**Pavel Wlosok** taught jazz piano, theory and "big band" at the International Summer Jazz Camp in Bratislava, Slovakia, July 5-9, and at the International Summer Jazz Big Band Camp in Nysa, Poland, July 10-15. He gave about 15 performances in Prague; Krakow, Poland; and Bojnice, Slovakia, during the month of July.

# Gaetano Uses Grant Money to Record a CD of Original Work



**Dr. Mario Gaetano** was one of four WCU faculty members to receive a Research and Creative Activities Grant in spring 2010. The \$4,000 award was used by Gaetano to record and produce a professional quality CD of his original works for solo percussion. The entire CD was recorded on the WCU campus, in either the recital hall of the Coulter Building or the recording studio in the Center for Applied Technology. Approximately 20 individual recording sessions began in fall 2009 and were completed by September 2010. Randy Harris BM '09 served as the project's recording engineer, editor and CD master. Harris is currently a graduate student in the commercial/electronic music program, under the tutelage of Bruce Frazier. Disc Makers of Pennsauken, N.J., will soon duplicate, assemble and package the CD.

This is Gaetano's first solo CD project, and he performs each selection. It includes 16 recorded tracks that represent Gaetano's solo or chamber works with one percussionist. Included on the CD is "Three Inventions for Flute and Percussion" with flutist Dr. Eldred Spell. WCU music education student Parker Cox and alumnus Andrew Blair BSEd '10 accompany on "Circles" for solo marimba and percussion, while pianist Andrew Adams accompanies on a "A Medley of Hymns." Other works included on the CD include "Prelude for Marimba," "Two Movements for Marimba," "Three Multiple Percussion Episodes," "Three Unaccompanied Snare Drum Solos" and music for solo doumbeck.

Gaetano has 50 published percussion pieces to his credit along with 10 ASCAP Standard Awards.

# Frazier Focuses on Technology for Convention Presentations

**Dr. Bruce Frazier**, the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Commercial and Electronic Music, traveled to Minneapolis in September to present two sessions at the joint conference of the annual meeting of the College Music Society and the Association for Technology in Music Instruction.

On Sept. 21, Frazier presented a hands-on session titled "From Disc to Desktop and Beyond!" In this session, participants explored selected popular software applications for capturing video and audio excerpts from read-only media, then converted these assets for use in instructional materials and exported to the Web. The session included a discussion of common video image and compression formats, and tutorials for applications such as HandBrake, Cinematize, QuickTime and iTunes.

His second session, "eBriefcase Development Using Apple's iLife," was a beginner's tutorial for managing educational materials in a variety of digital formats using Apple's iLife package of media management software. Topics in this hands-on session included video and audio capture, basic video editing techniques, adding transitions and titles, working with audio, sharing and exporting files, DVD assembly, and burning a disc of the completed project. Featured applications were iMovie, iTunes and iDVD.



# New Faculty CLASSICAL GUITARIST AND COMPOSER GREG ROBIN JOINS MUSIC FACULTY

**Dr. Greg Robin** has recently been appointed to the faculty as a visiting assistant professor of music theory and composition. A native of Southwest Louisiana, Robin earned degrees from the University



of Louisiana-Lafayette, the University of South Carolina and the University of Alabama.

As a composer, his works have been performed

in a variety of venues and festivals across the United States. His current projects include commissions by Michael Fernandez, principal violist of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and by flutist Rebecca Ashe. Beauport Classical released his "Trio for Violin, Flute, and Piano" in 2008. Robin's composition teachers include C.P. First, Mario Davidovsky and Tristan Murail.

As a classical guitarist, he has performed in master classes with Manuel Barrueco, Alieksey Vianna, Franco Platino, Mary Akerman, Susan McDonald, Andrew Zohn and Robert Trent. His guitar teachers include Gerd Wuestemann and Christopher Berg.

Before arriving at WCU, Robin taught theory, composition and classical guitar at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama



## Ensemble Takes Show on the Road

The Catamount Singers and Electric Soul, an auditioned ensemble of 25 vocal and instrumental students, presented a program of popular music and jazz on tour to various schools in Eastern North Carolina and Southeast Virginia last May.

The program, "Don't Stop the Music," featured current musical hits made popular by performers such as Rihanna, Alicia Keys and Kelly Clarkson and included a tribute to classic pop artists Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder and Earth Wind & Fire, to name a few. The tour culminated with two performances at Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo.

The ensemble, which meets during the spring semesters only and is co-directed by Bruce Frazier and Jon Henson, will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at WCU's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

For more information about the ensemble, visit its website at [www.wcu.edu/6533.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/6533.asp).

## MUSIC EDUCATORS TO MEET NOVEMBER 7-9

The North Carolina Music Educators Association In-Service Conference is Sunday to Tuesday, Nov. 7-9, at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem.

The School of Music will hold its traditional Sunday evening reception at 5 p.m. Please check for the location after arrival.

Also at the conference, Mario Gaetano, professor of percussion, will present a timpani clinic from noon to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 8, in the convention center's North Main Hall. The clinic is sponsored by the NCMEA and the N.C. chapter of the Percussive Arts Society.

We hope to see you there!

## *You're Invited*

### HOLQUIST TO PERFORM JAN. 18 VOICE RECITAL FINALE

Dr. Robert Holquist will sing his final WCU voice recital at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, at the recital hall of the Coulter Building.

Holquist, who announced his retirement last year, has agreed to continue serving as director of choral activities through the 2010-11 academic year until a replacement has been found.

This program will feature works with significance in Holquist's singing career, including audience favorites, selections that helped him improve a particular technique, the first solo assigned to him, and music that has special meaning to him. A narrator will inform the audience about each song.

Holquist has been a frequent performer in the WCU faculty recital series and has sung roles for operas during the former Cullowhee Music Festival. He also has sung several times with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra and in oratorio productions throughout the region. He often sings solos and ensembles for church services.



## IN APPRECIATION

# The Dooleys Are a Long and Lasting Part of WCU

Dr. James E. Dooley and his wife, Barbara, have been actively involved in the musical life of Western Carolina University since the fall of 1969, when Dooley began his duties as department head, supervising about a dozen faculty members and 30 to 40 majors. Bob Welch, the first faculty member hired by Dooley, began the marching band that year with about 30 performers at the first rehearsal, but by the time of the first home football game, it had grown to about 90. Within a few weeks, Dooley had to assume leadership of the Concert Choir because of the serious illness of its director. This new role soon led to the establishment of what is now the Western Carolina Civic Orchestra, which was formed to provide orchestral accompaniment to choral programs, including a full production of Handel's "Messiah" in 1970.

In his first few years in Cullowhee, Dooley also established the University Chorus, Community Chorus and a master of music education program, and served on the board of the Asheville Symphony. A summer music camp program and the Cullowhee Music Festival were soon added to the list of activities of a growing campus and community music program. When Herb Rhinehart, a new vice chancellor for student affairs, suggested starting an annual madrigal dinner, Dooley not only prepared the singers but also served as the "Lord of Misrule."

Dooley jokes that this role prepared him for the next phase of his career, an unplanned turn into higher administration, first as acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1973-75) and then as vice chancellor for development and special services, appointed by Chancellor Harold F. "Cotton" Robinson in 1976. As vice chancellor, Dooley's duties focused on the university's relationship to the larger community, and a number of significant programs were established during his tenure, including the university's Cherokee Center, the Mountain Heritage Center, and the Center for Improving Mountain Living.



A strong international focus also was established with institutional partnerships in Nepal, Taiwan, Korea and Burkina Faso.

Although Dooley's formal role in the university was largely administrative after 1976, his activities in music continued, often quite literally accompanied by Barbara. Friends since grade school, James and Barbara have been an integral part of the musical life of the university, not only through their 40-year association with the Community Chorus and Madrigal Dinners, but also as faithful members of the audience and as benefactors.

Generous donations by the Dooleys support scholarships for voice and piano majors and the annual James E. Dooley Award for Excellence in Teaching Music.

The Dooleys have purchased a second home in Chattanooga, Tenn., just more than a mile from Barbara's family's farm, but they find it hard to leave the mountains, their friends here and the many musical programs available at the university. We in the School of Music (now at 215 majors and 25 full-time faculty) express our heartfelt thanks for their many years of service to music and the arts.

## Madrigal Dinner, Dec. 3-4

The 2010 Madrigal Dinner production will be Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3-4, in the University Grandroom. Seating will begin at 6 p.m., with the show starting at 6:30 p.m. The new lord and lady this year will be two WCU alumni: Boyd Sossamon BSBA '86 and Lynda Sossamon BS '69, co-owners of Radio Shack in Sylva. Boyd Sossamon is a former WCU Concert Choir president and member of the Early Music Ensemble. He holds his bachelor's degree in business administration; Lynda Sossamon's degree is in chemistry.

The musical ensembles will include the Early Music Ensemble (under the direction of Robert Holquist), a trio of herald trumpets, and period instruments played by Will Peebles, Bruce Frazier and Diana Fisher BSEd '71 MME '76. This year's menu features a choice of Cornish game hen, stuffed pork tenderloin, or vegetarian entree.

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, Nov. 2. To reserve seats, call 828.227.7206 and ask for Diane Harris.

## WCU MUSIC EDUCATORS CHAPTER LAUNCHES WEBSITE

For some time, Western Carolina's chapter of Collegiate Music Educators National Conference has needed a website to call its own. Now, thanks to the efforts of CMENC member Dossie Ransom, the chapter is able to project a fresh, professional image online.

The new website, [cmenc.wcu.edu](http://cmenc.wcu.edu), provides students with a wealth of information, including general information about the chapter, contact information for chapter officers and numerous links to other sites of interest, including the related state and national websites.

The site also offers a useful discussion board, which the executive board can use to help keep members informed about upcoming events, and which will provide a forum for members to suggest new ideas



and communicate with each other about chapter business.

"I'm also working on a place where the chapter alumni can stay connected and offer their input as well," Ransom said. "Basically, the idea is to facilitate interaction between our members, past and present."

The CMENC is looking for alumni to provide information about its past members, executive officers and activities. Please e-mail information to share to Dr. Michael Schallock, CMENC faculty adviser, at [mschallock@email.wcu.edu](mailto:mschallock@email.wcu.edu), or Dossie Ransom at [dlransom1@catamount.wcu.edu](mailto:dlransom1@catamount.wcu.edu).

## Student Works with the Area's Youngest Musicians

Senior music education major Valerie Templeton recently responded to a special request to work with children at the local Kindermusik program, located at The Music Village in Cullowhee and owned and operated by WCU alumna Lori Richards MA '95.

The Kindermusik program provides young children, birth to 7 years of age, with an opportunity to share in movement-learning activities that are based on brain

development research and that emphasize music. There are currently more than 5,000 Kindermusik educators worldwide. Richards teaches classes in Cullowhee and Waynesville as well as around the country.

Valerie worked weekly with the Kindermusik program for an entire semester.

"The program is set up so that kids get one-on-one attention, usually with a parent," Valerie said. "However, in this case, there were two children from the same family in the same age group, and only one parent could be there. So I was asked to step in and work with one child while the parent worked with the other."

"The children I was working with were 2 and 3 years old, and I could see a significant difference in their communication skills as the weeks went on," Valerie said. "It's just an ideal learning environment."

The children get a chance to interact with their peers while still having the safety of a parent's presence at all times."

Valerie, who wants to teach elementary music, said that she would like to re-create this same atmosphere of safety and comfort in her own classroom: "The best thing about Kindermusik is that it offers kids a unique way of experiencing music."

How did the experience work out from Richards' perspective? "Valerie is kind, gentle and nurturing," said Richards, "And the older child bonded instantly with her and looked forward to seeing her each week. Valerie's compassion for children is the quality that distinguishes a great teacher from a good teacher."



## MUSIC STUDENTS PRESENT ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Two WCU music students were selected to present research papers at the National Council of Undergraduate Research on April 15-17 in Missoula, Mont. Nick Gattis (who went on to graduate in spring 2010) presented “Christian Harmony: A 19th Century Tradition in the 21st Century” and Courtney Allen presented “Free Masonry and Mozart: A Look at the Simple Woman.”

Many other music students were selected to present at the WCU undergraduate and graduate research symposiums on campus last March. Undergraduate presenters included: Billie Jeanne Curns (“The Clarinet

Music of Johannes Brahms”); Parker Cox (“Philip Glass and Minimalism: A Bridge to the Future of Orchestral Music”); Jessica Palmer (“Bluegrass: An Appalachian Tradition”); and Nick Gattis (“Christian Harmony”). Ashley Jonas, Tabitha Stinson and Tripp Lewis co-presented “Mozart, Anton Stadler, and the Clarinet.”

Graduate student presenters included: Michael Collings (“Music Theory as Theology”); Judith Gilbert (“The Perception of Music’s Influence on Human Emotion and Behavior”); and Cynthia Smith (“Defining Musical Gesture”).

## CLARINET STUDIO EXCELS IN RECENT COMPETITIONS

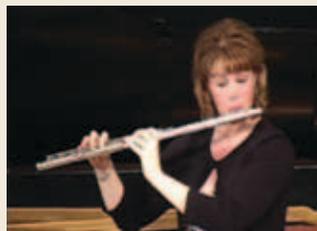
Many members of the WCU clarinet studio, under the tutelage of Shannon Thompson, clarinetist and associate professor of music, won recent performance and concerto competitions held at WCU. The Wind Ensemble Concerto Competition, held last spring, resulted in winning performances by sophomore Tripp Lewis (performing “Viktor’s Tale” from “The Terminal” by John Williams), junior Austin Waynick and senior Lance Barton (“Allegro” from “Concerto for Two Clarinets, Op. 35” by Franz Krommer).

The Western Carolina Civic Orchestra Concert Competition, also held last spring, resulted in winning performances by two freshmen: Hannah Austin (“Allegro” from “Concerto, K. 622” by W.A. Mozart) and Leanna Smith (“Rondo” from “Concerto, K. 622” by W.A. Mozart).

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Townes Osborn Miller BA '94 MM '97** completed her DMA in flute performance this past spring from the University of Kansas, where she held a graduate teaching assistantship and studied with professor David Fedele.

**Dillon Ingle BSEd '07** is an assistant band director at Gladys Porter High School in Brownsville, Texas. He also is the percussion captain head of the Genesis Drum and Bugle Corps.



## RECENT GRADUATES

### FALL '09

Heather Hallmark, MM

John Calloway, BM

Michael Dobbs, BA

Thomas MacInnes, BM

John Paulson, BM

Erin Pugh, BSEd

Andrew Robinson, BM

Matthew Slaughter, BA

Jason Stevens, BSEd

### SPRING '10

Judith Gilbert, MM

Cynthia Smith, MM

Kristin Beesley, BSEd

Joshua Belvin, BSEd

Kristopher Bence, BSEd

Andrew Blair, BSEd

Ryan Cameron, BSEd

Justin Carter, BSEd

Zachary Ferguson, BSEd

Nicholas Gattis, BSEd

Jarrett Goodchild, BSEd

Dustin King, BSEd

Tyler Laduke, BSEd

Kyle Lowdermilk, BSEd

Amber Mattatall, BSEd

Christopher McAllister, BSEd

Elizabeth Morantz, BSEd

Ashley Setzer, BSEd

Caleb Brower, BM

Jonathan Churchill, BM

Benjamin Fleenor, BM

Daniel Iannucci, BM

William Norris, BM

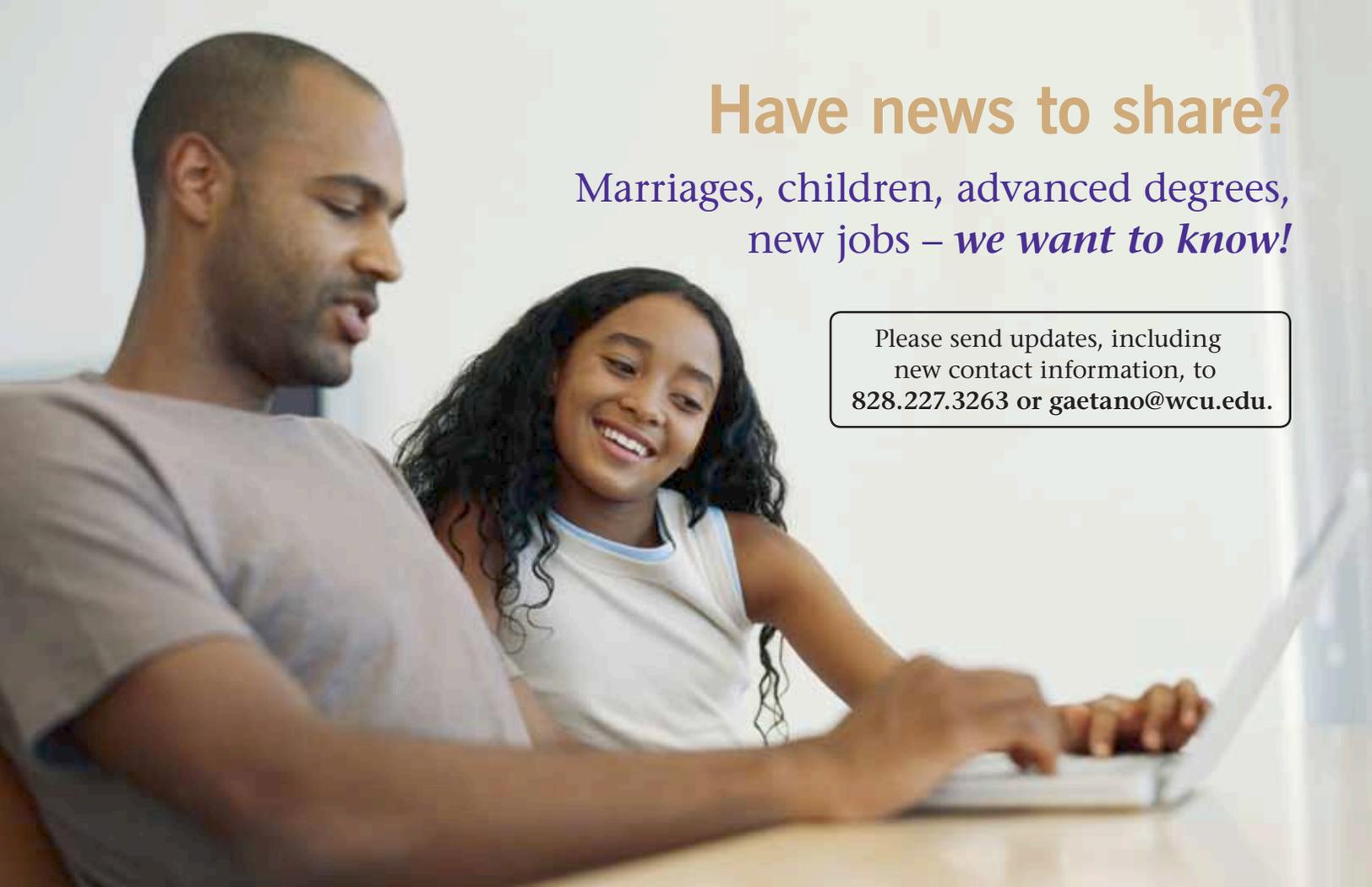
Justin Powell, BA

Austin Sanders, BA

Ashley Setzer, BM

Aaron Smith, BM

Sylvia Thomas, BA



# Have news to share?

Marriages, children, advanced degrees,  
new jobs – *we want to know!*

Please send updates, including  
new contact information, to  
828.227.3263 or [gaetano@wcu.edu](mailto:gaetano@wcu.edu).

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