

GREETINGS FROM CULLOWHEE

I trust that you are doing well in your careers and are enjoying the pleasures of music, wherever you may be. Music and the other arts make life worth living, especially when times are hard. Mozart and Monk speak to us as clearly as ever, and are more capable of turning worry into hope – or even joy – than any economic prognostication.

We continue to make music here in Cullowhee: Faculty and student ensembles are rehearsing for a busy year of concerts and recitals. Dr. Brad Ulrich is preparing for a trip to perform in Russia, and Dr. Shannon Thompson will be doing a recital in Oregon. The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet is hoping to be able to accept an invitation to perform in China in the spring. The Pride of the Mountains Marching Band is larger and better than ever, and the musical theater program has its largest freshman class yet. It's going to be a lively year!



We congratulate three faculty members who received their doctorates in the past year: Amy Cherry, Dan Cherry, and Brad Martin. Congratulations also to Dr. Christina Reitz, who won a tenure-track position in music history.

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John Wells receives Emmy award

John E. Wells, studio engineer with Western Carolina University's School of Music, recently won an Emmy award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Wells served as an edit systems maintenance engineer for an NBC team that was honored with a Sports Emmy Award for Outstanding Technical Team Remote in recognition of their coverage of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. They executed the largest high-definition remote broadcast ever attempted, and the Olympics became the most-watched program in the history of television.

"It is a special honor to be recognized for what I do on a national level," said Wells. "I am very fortunate and very grateful. I was part of an extraordinary team. Everyone that I worked with in Beijing was incredibly helpful and brought something special to the effort." Wells, who has experience as a technical consultant for audio and video firms, was invited to work five weeks in China assembling and operating temporary edit suites where camera feeds from Olympic event venues were assembled into five- to 30-minute segments.

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LONGTIME VOICE INSTRUCTOR HOLQUIST TO RETIRE; CONCERT TO HONOR CAREER

Robert Holquist came to WCU in August 1979 as director of choral activities, with additional responsibilities in voice instruction, music education and conducting. He was appointed chair of the voice division in 1980, a position he held until he entered "phased retirement"

in fall 2007, when he began a part-time appointment directing the choral ensembles. (This is the last year of that three-year agreement. However, through a special contract, Holquist will continue during the 2010-11 academic year as director of choral activities.)

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Pride of the Mountains awarded nation's top honor for university marching bands

The Pride of the Mountains Marching Band was named the 2009 recipient of the prestigious Sudler Trophy, the nation's highest and most-coveted award for college and university marching bands. The announcement of WCU's selection for the trophy, awarded by the John Philip Sousa Foundation, came May 18 from Paula Crider, chair of the Sudler Trophy Committee and director emeritus of the Longhorn Bands at the University of Texas.

"The purpose of the Sudler Trophy is to identify and recognize collegiate marching bands of particular excellence that have made outstanding contributions to the American way of life," Crider said. "After seeing a DVD of your exciting and innovative performances, there is no doubt that the Pride of the Mountains is most deserving of this singular honor."

Established in 1982, the trophy is presented to a college or university marching band that has demonstrated the highest of musical standards and innovative marching routines and ideas, and which has made important contributions to the advancement of the performance standards of college marching bands over a number of years. No other band from the Southern Conference, or the Carolinas, has ever received the award.

The official presentation of the trophy, which will reside at Western Carolina University for one year, will take place during halftime of the WCU versus Wofford football game Oct. 24. Weekend events will include Friday dinner with WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo and Sudler officials, a Saturday "tailgating party" on the University

Center lawn for band members and former directors and alumni, and a private gathering following the football game.

"We hope that all past members of the Western Carolina Marching Band will come back for the award presentation this fall because this honor is an achievement made possible by everyone who has ever been a member of the band," said director Bob Buckner. "This is an incredible tribute to all band members, past and present."





Western Carolina's marching band program (currently under the direction of Buckner, Matt Henley and Jon Henson) has a long and storied tradition dating back to 1938, when 23 students made up the first band of Western Carolina Teachers College. The first halftime show was performed in October 1941 and was organized by a student, Joe Hedden of Kings Mountain, N.C., who later became WCU's first graduate in music education. All of the living directors of the group, Richard Trevarthen, Aaron Hyatt, Bill Curtin, Bob Welch, Joe Scagnoli and John West, have been invited to return for the October award presentation.

In addition to the presentation of the Sudler, the band will keep a busy schedule this fall. Its first performance was Sept. 12 at the WCU versus Gardner-Webb football game. In addition to performances at all home games, the band hosted the ninth annual

Tournament of Champions on Oct. 10, the annual Homecoming Parade and other Homecoming activities Oct. 16-17, and will take a recruiting trip to the Cary Band Day in Cary, N.C., on Oct. 30-31.

Oct. 24 is Alumni Band Day. We hope that a record number of alumni will choose to be present for the presentation.

This year's band has 362 members who represent almost every major at WCU. Often referred to as "the world's largest funk-rock band," the band continues to expand its electronic and musical horizons. The engine that makes the band go is the student leadership program. Staff coordinators for the year include Lizzie Morantz, Erica Impagliatelli, Tyler LaDuke, Andy Alexander and Josh Bevin. Drum majors are Lance Barton, Amy Ashford and Kristin Beasley. Woodwind coordinators are Michael Dobbs and Dustin King. High brass coordinators are Chris McAllister and Rachel Rimmer. Low brass coordinators are Kevin Kimbrough and Francis Stover. Jonathan Churchill, Jonathan Parker and Russell Hawes comprise the electronics and live sound crew.

The exhibition show this fall is titled "Born to Be Alive" and features the music of the Black Eyed Peas, Pearl Jam, Mötley Crüe, Chick Corea, Kanye West, Michael Jackson, the Bee Gees, Maroon 5 and Patrick Hernandez.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE TO PLAY WITH GUEST AT FAPAC

The WCU Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Pavel Wlosok, will perform in concert Dec. 1 in the Fine and Performing Arts Center with featured guest artist Zack Hexum, tenor saxophone. The ensemble will present a concert tour of North Carolina high schools March 10-12. If you are interested in hosting the ensemble for a concert at your school, please contact Wlosok at (828) 227-3261 or pwlosok@email.wcu.edu. The annual WCU Jazz Festival will take place April 8-9. Details of the event, including featured guest artists and clinicians, have yet to be determined.



WCU TO HOST BAND CLINIC

On Feb. 12-13, the WCU School of Music and Dr. John West, director of bands, will again host the Western North Carolina All-District Band Clinic. This 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 and the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet. All the rehearsals and performances in the clinic take place on the WCU campus in Cullowhee at either the Fine and Performing Arts Center or the Coulter Building.

Program had busy year

As we look forward to the coming season, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the highlights of the musical theatre program from the 2008-09 academic year.

Four fully staged productions took place on campus this past year, with several smaller, in-house concerts around campus. The spring production of "Fiddler on the Roof" was attended by 3,320 people, including sold-out performances Saturday and Sunday.

The Broadway Guest Artist Series brought six wonderful teachers and performers to campus, including Tony Award-winning composer Jason Robert Brown and Tony nominated dancer/actor Charlotte d'Amboise.

Musical theatre is a professional degree program: The hallmark of any good program is the extent to which its students are actually gaining experience in the field. Once again, this summer we had students working across the nation in various residencies and young artist programs. This summer our students have worked at University of Findlay Summer Theatre in



Ohio; "The Lost Colony" in North Carolina; Bigfork Summer Playhouse in Montana; Encore Michigan in Livonia, Mich.; Parkway Playhouse in North Carolina; Missoula Children's Theatre in Montana; Flat Rock Playhouse in North Carolina; Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.; and Clater Kaye Theatreworks in North Carolina.

The Triple Arts Series, Western Carolina's exciting summer program of musical theatre performance, had 33 students in its third year. While enrollment was slightly down this year, the faculty nonetheless thought this was the most talented group of young artists yet, said Brad Martin, director of WCU's musical theatre program. As

a further gauge of our growing national presence, students have come from Florida, Tennessee, Texas, South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina.

On the Fourth of July, a select group of eight singers and 11 musicians from WCU performed for more than 3,000 people at Roanoke Island Festival Park on North Carolina's scenic Outer Banks. Titled "What a County, A Celebration of America," the performance was at the invitation of State Sen. Marc Basnight and the Friends of the Elizabeth II Committee. This extraordinary event again demonstrated the growing regional reputation of WCU's musical theatre program.



HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sunday, December 6th

This year's "Sounds of the Season" holiday concert, the WCU School of Music's primary scholarship fundraiser for the year, will take place Sunday, Dec. 6, in the concert hall of the Fine and Performing Arts Center. The concert will be presented in a new, more traditional format this year and will include performances by WCU's Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Concert Choir, University Chorus, Early Music Ensemble, Musical Theater Singers, and the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet. We are thrilled to be joined this year by an honors children's choir made up of elementary school students from throughout Jackson County. As always, Santa will be in town to help get us in the holiday spirit, and a special guest will join us to read a rousing rendition of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" set to music and accompanied by our Wind Ensemble. Tickets for the program are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students, with children under age 5 admitted free. All proceeds from this event support the WCU School of Music Scholarship Fund.

HOLQUIST ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AND PLANS CAREER CELEBRATION

Continued from cover

Holquist has led the Concert Choir and the Early Music Ensemble during his entire tenure at Western Carolina. He also directed the University Chorus from '79 to '92, and from '02 to the present. In addition to concert performances on campus, the choral groups have sung choral-orchestral masterworks with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra. Several students visited central Europe in 1986 and 2008, performing in church and concert venues. The Concert Choir and EME have gone on tours to Disney World and to Washington, D.C., with memorable performances in the National Cathedral. The Concert Choir and University Chorus have had a sustained record of concerts, which include everything from a cappella and accompanied choral miniatures to works accompanied by full orchestra.

Holquist assumed the responsibility of a tradition of annual WCU Madrigal Christmas Dinners, initiated in 1970 under the leadership of Dr. James Dooley. Holquist has written 18 fanfares for three trumpets, arranged six familiar carols for voices and trumpets, and composed five settings of "Gloria in Excelsis" for the same forces. His "Candle-Lighting Carol" for voices with hand drum, finger cymbal and tambourine is a favorite of madrigal dinner patrons, as well as concert audiences.

Up to the time he entered phased retirement, Holquist gave private voice instruction to Western Carolina students. Many have participated in the annual North Carolina spring auditions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and several have advanced to regional competition. Five have had the opportunity to perform with the Western Carolina Civic Orchestra during its spring concert and to perform with WCU music students who have won the "concerto" competition.

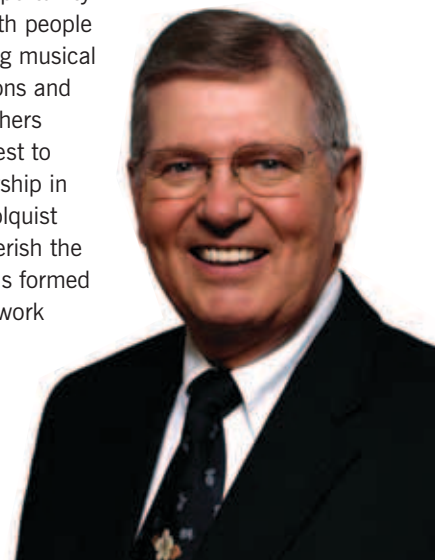
As a vocalist, Holquist has remained active, singing in Faculty Showcase recitals, as well as performances in church, and in oratorio in the region. He has sung annually for WCU commencement ceremonies and also appeared on the stage in opera and musical theater roles during the years of the Cullowhee Music Festival. He has enjoyed singing for many of his students' weddings.

Music education and involvement in professional organizations that support teaching and performance have been a significant aspect of Holquist's career. He was North Carolina president of the American Choral Directors Association from 1987 to '89, and he has served in many other leadership roles there. He served on the N.C. Music Educators Association for 16 years in various positions. Holquist has been the guest director of numerous all-county choruses in the Southeast and Midwest and enjoys working with singers of all ages in the festival setting. He has organized and hosted 25 Invitational High School Choral Clinics on the WCU campus and holds the West III Middle School Choral Festival each spring. Holquist maintains an active schedule of choral and vocal solo adjudication, and he has been on the team of judges who select the members of the N.C. High School Honors Chorus continuously since 1984. His contributions to music education and performance were recognized in 2000, when he received the Lara Hoggard Award for Distinguished Service in Choral Music in North Carolina from the members of the North Carolina branch of the American Choral Directors Association.

Holquist has been responsible for church music leadership almost continuously since 1966. Last September, Sylva First Baptist

Church honored his 25 years of service as minister of music there. More than 70 WCU students have participated in that ministry, and several have assumed positions of choir leadership in churches where they live. A few are in full-time church music careers.

Holquist has enjoyed a warm relationship with the faculty and students at WCU during his time at Western Carolina. In 2000, the officers of the Concert Choir established the Robert A. Holquist Vocalist Scholarship in honor of his commitment to choral music students and the university. Since that time, the endowed fund has grown to more than \$14,000. "I have been very fortunate during my career to have had the opportunity to work with people in preparing musical presentations and to guide others in their quest to give leadership in music," Holquist said. "I cherish the bond that is formed as people work together in order to achieve a rewarding musical product."



You're Invited MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF HOLQUIST'S CAREER

On April 24 and 25, all alumni of any WCU choral organization are invited to WCU to participate in a choral concert celebrating Holquist's long tenure at WCU. The music to be performed will be selected from past programs. Rehearsals will be held Saturday, April 24, from 2-5:30 p.m., with a social and meal to follow. Anyone wanting to sing at First Baptist Church in Sylva on Sunday morning is invited to do so. There will be a rehearsal there at 10 a.m. There will be another rehearsal for the celebration concert from 2-3:15 p.m. Sunday in the Fine and Performing Arts Center. The concert will start at 4 p.m. Former accompanists may be asked to play, and graduate assistants will be recognized. The current choral ensemble members will form the nucleus of the choir, but it is hoped that we will run out of riser space because many former members have returned to participate!

Help is requested in getting the word out to former choral singers who do not receive this newsletter. Please let us know that you will participate in this event by e-mailing holquist@email.wcu.edu. More complete information regarding this concert will be provided following your registration. Be assured that this will be a joyous time of singing together!

FACULTY NEWS

Andrew Adams and **Travis Bennett** performed at the International Horn Symposium held at Western Illinois University last June. They collaborated to create a new edition of the “Morceau de Concert Op. 94” for horn and piano by Saint-Saens. They researched the original orchestral version and corrected many inaccuracies and awkward spots in the existing piano reduction. They plan to turn this research into a publishable article sometime next year. Bennett and Adams premiered their new edition at the WCU faculty winds recital in September.

Bob Buckner, director of Western Carolina University’s Pride of the Mountains Marching Band, is one of the first two recipients of the Award for Excellence in Marching Music Education, presented by MENC: The National Association for Music Education and Drum Corps International. Buckner received the award in recognition of his outstanding work as a music educator, and for his efforts to assist both organizations with the creation and implementation of the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. The newly created award will be given twice yearly to recognize educators, organizations or businesses that have made significant, lifelong contributions to the art of marching music. Tom Batiuk, an American comic strip creator, designed the award. Batiuk created the “Funky Winkerbean” comic strip, which featured Harry Dinkle, the self-proclaimed world’s greatest band director.



Amy Cherry received her DMA in trumpet performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music this past summer. Her dissertation was titled “Extended Techniques in Trumpet Performance and Pedagogy.” In June, she performed at the Brass Band Invitational Festival at Indiana University Southeast with the Athena Brass Band, the first all-female brass band in the United States.



Mario Gaetano's percussion ensemble work “Two Designs” will be a featured work at the Latin American Percussion Encounter at Uberlandia

City, Brazil, on Nov. 11. The work will be performed by the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Percussion Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Ana Leticia Barros. His “Prelude for Marimba” was performed at last year’s Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Austin, Texas, by marimba artist Anna Shelton. At this same conference, the work also was included as part of a formal lecture/presentation on marimba pedagogy by Dr. Julia Gaines of the University of Missouri.

Matt Henley instructed the drumline of the second annual Army All-American Marching Band in San Antonio in January 2009. He also



adjudicated many marching band events this year, including the Indiana Indoor State Championships in Indianapolis in March. At the CBDNA Athletic Band Symposium, held at the University of Connecticut in June, Henley co-presented a clinic on Dr. Paul Buyer’s new book, “Marching Bands and Drumlines: Secrets of Success from the Best of the Best.” The WCU band and drumline were one of seven university band programs chosen to be featured in the publication. Henley also will participate in a panel discussion on this same topic at the PAS International Convention in Indianapolis on Nov. 12. Also, he was recently selected as a member of the Percussive Arts Society’s national Marching Committee.

The WCU drumline, under Henley’s direction, will be presenting a clinic at the annual NCMEA Conference in Winston-Salem on Nov. 8. This event, titled “Habits of a Successful Drumline,” will hopefully provide insight to band directors about developing and sustaining successful marching percussion in their schools.

William Martin

performed as tenor soloist in Haydn’s “Creation” as part of the WCU Artist-in-Residence concert last April. In May he appeared as guest soloist in the spring concert of the Voices in the Laurel at Long’s Chapel in Lake Junaluska. In June he was a featured performer in a gala concert celebrating the opening of the Oconomowoc Fine Arts Center.



Shannon Thompson will present a master class and solo recital at the University of Oregon on Friday, Oct. 23. She will be accompanied by Brad Martin.

Christina Reitz was recently elected to the nominating committee for the Nineteenth Century Studies Association. At the annual conference, March 26-28 in Milwaukee, she chaired a session on “green music”



and presented research titled “Musically Exotic Landscapes and the Birth of Exoticism.”

At the Athena Festival, March 10 at Murray State University in Kentucky, she

presented a paper titled “Intuitive Unifying Elements in Jennifer Higdon’s Concerto for Orchestra.” On May 29 she presented the research “Vernacular and Classical: An Appalachian Marriage” at the Feminist Theory and Music 10 conference in Greensboro, N.C. This fall she will present a lecture for the Warren Wilson College’s “Social Justice Series” and the Jewish Community Center, both in Asheville, N.C.

known WCU Trumpet Festival of the past and be held at the University of Alabama from Feb. 26-28. WCU trumpet students will attend and perform at the event.

Pavel Wlosok had a busy summer, performing more than 25 jazz engagements in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. He taught at a summer jazz camp in Bratislava, Slovakia, from July 6-10 and was recognized by the American Embassy in Slovakia for his service to that camp. From July 18-26, he taught at a summer jazz camp in Prague.



P. Bradley Ulrich will perform and teach in Russia again in October. On Oct. 1 Ulrich will perform a concerto with an orchestra in St. Petersburg as part of the gala concert of the Seventh International Romantic Trumpet Festival. From there he will fly to Moscow to teach a trumpet master class and start the first-ever Russian student trumpet ensemble at the Moscow Conservatory. On Oct. 6, while in Moscow, he will perform in a trumpet recital with Vlad Lavrik, principal trumpet of the Russian National Orchestra, along with several other American trumpet players.

On Jan. 30, Ulrich will be a featured soloist/clinician at the West Chester University Trumpet Festival, where he will perform a concerto with the West Chester Wind Ensemble.

In February, Ulrich will be a clinician at the first-ever Trumpet Festival of the Southeast. This event will take the place of the well-

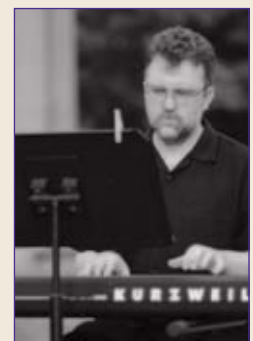
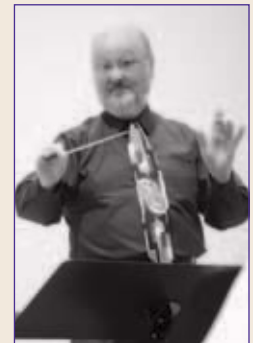
Music professors travel to Oregon to present at annual meeting

Bruce Frazier, the Carol Grotnes Belk professor, and **Shannon Thompson**, WCU professor of clarinet, will travel to Portland, Ore., in October to present sessions at the joint conference of the annual meeting of the College Music Society and the Association for Technology in Music Instruction. At the CMS sessions, Thompson will perform “Constructs for Unaccompanied Clarinet,” written expressly for her by Frazier. This performance will be part of a focus session titled “New Directions in Music” at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22.

On Wednesday morning, Oct. 21, Frazier will highlight the digital audio recording and editing program “Audacity” at a pre-conference showcase sponsored by the College Music Society.

On Friday, Oct. 23, as a part of the ATMI portion of the conference, he will lead a hands-on session titled “Multimedia Development: Digital Video Basics for Musicians.”

On Oct. 22 at this same conference, pianist **Brad Martin** will present a lecture/recital addressing the music of Franz Schubert and Franz Liszt. The musical connection between these two composers was the topic of Martin’s doctoral research and dissertation.



Musical groups take the show on the road

The WCU Concert Choir and Early Music Ensemble will embark on their annual fall concert tour Oct. 25-27. The itinerary and daily concert schedule follows. Sunday, Oct. 25: 11 a.m., First Baptist Church in Sylva; 7 p.m., St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Hickory. Monday, Oct. 26: 8:30 a.m., Fred T. Foard High School in Newton; 11:15 a.m., Bob Alexander Central High School in Taylorsville; 2:05 p.m., Forbush High School in East Bend. Tuesday, Oct.

27: 9:20 and 10:15 a.m., Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem; 1 p.m., Glenn High School in Winston-Salem. Monday, Nov. 2: 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall at WCU.

The WCU Concert Choir, under the direction of Robert Holquist, has 53 members and is accompanied by Abigail Roper, a sophomore from Franklin, N.C., majoring in piano performance and music education. Choir officers are Lance Newman, president; Abigail Roper, vice president;

Amy Shuford, secretary; Courtney Allen, librarian; and Marilyn Bledsoe, freshman representative. Heather Hallmark, graduate student in vocal performance, is the assistant conductor.

The tour repertoire will include such outstanding works as Thompson's "Choose Something Like a Star," Ferguson's "Followers of the Lamb," Handel's "Sing Unto God," Stroope's "I Am Not Yours" and Dilworth's "Jonah."

The Early Music Ensemble, also under Holquist's direction, has 15 members and performs a cappella madrigals and part songs primarily from the 16th and 17th centuries. Maggie Jennings serves as graduate assistant for this ensemble.



Madrigal Dinner

DECEMBER 4th – 5th

The 2009 Madrigal Dinner productions will be Dec. 4-5 in the Grandroom of the University Center. Presented nearly every year since 1970, this program has been a colorful way to usher in the Christmas season. It features the members of the Early Music Ensemble (15 singers this year), under the direction of Robert Holquist; a trio of trumpets, which introduces each of the events of the evening with fanfares; and a trio of early instruments, played by Will Peebles, Bruce Frazier and WCU alumna Diana Fisher. Dramatic personnel include a jester, pages, a lord and lady of the feast and others, depending on the chosen script. Dr. James and Barbara Dooley have served as lord and lady continuously since 1979. Seating begins at 6 p.m., with a 6:30 show time. There are three entrees to choose from, and orders will be taken with ticket purchase. Tickets will be available after Nov. 2 by calling Diane Harris at the University Center at (828) 227-7206.

GREETINGS FROM CULLOWHEE

Continued from cover

The School of Music has weathered the budget cuts fairly well, losing only one full-time faculty position, but hiring the same individual on a part-time basis while he works on a doctoral degree. We added a second piano lab this year, which now allows us to teach all the aural skills courses in rooms with keyboards. With enrollment significantly up across the university, we hope for a turnaround in the budget and staffing areas as the North Carolina economy recovers. Enrollment in the School of Music is now at 205 majors (with 26 enrolled in the BFA musical theatre program!).

Unfortunately, our scholarship situation has deteriorated significantly this year. Dividends from endowed funds are down, and some previously active donors have found it hard to match their earlier generosity, so if you find it possible to help out the next generation of musicians with a donation to the scholarship fund, now is an especially good time to do so. Even a small amount can really make a difference!

It is always good to hear from you, and to see you any time you're back in Cullowhee.

**Will Peebles, director
School of Music**

John Wells receives Emmy award

Continued from cover



"Anytime something broke or wasn't working right, they would call me to the edit rooms to fix it," said Wells, who worked 12- to 20-hour shifts in China. "When it was all over, I broke down the rooms." Highlights for him included having an up-close view of Olympic moments, such as watching Shawn Johnson win gold on the balance beam, Michael Phelps win his fourth gold, and closing ceremonies. They also included the opportunity to explore China – sampling dumplings and Kung Pao shrimp, and visiting the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square.

Before joining the WCU staff five years ago, Wells served as technical consultant for firms such as Sony Electronics. He was part of the engineering staff that designed and built the state-of-the-art studios in WCU's Center for Applied Technology. As WCU studio engineer, he maintains equipment and functionality and assists faculty and students using the recording studio and edit rooms.

Music educators to meet November 8-10

We hope to see many of you at the North Carolina Music Educators Association In-Service Conference from Nov. 8-10 in Winston-Salem. The School of Music will be well-represented, with presentations by Matt Henley and the Pride of the Mountains drum line Sunday afternoon. Mario Gaetano will be co-presenting a session on percussion ensemble literature for the public school at noon Monday. Robert Holquist will serve as a clinician and panelist for future choral conductors

and educators. The woodwind faculty will be doing a workshop on reed adjustments Tuesday morning. Bruce Frazier and Jon Henson will present clinics on music technology. And of course, many of us will be manning the booth and attending programs along with you. Our School of Music reception will be 5 p.m. Sunday night in the Ardmore Room. Due to budget cuts, the spread will be more frugal than in years past, but we look forward to your fellowship most of all.

Orchestra to present Masterworks on February 21

The Artist-in-Residence Orchestra, under the direction of Bruce H. Frazier, will present a program of orchestral masterworks Feb. 21. The AIR orchestra is composed of Western Carolina's wind and percussion students performing with a string section of members of the Asheville Symphony. Brad Ulrich, Western Carolina's music faculty trumpet professor, will be the featured soloist in the program, playing Haydn's "Concerto in E Flat." Richard Wagner's symphonic poem "Siegfried's Idyll" for chamber orchestra will follow. It is one of few nonoperatic works by Wagner but includes melodies that he used a few years later in his opera "Siegfried." It was composed as a birthday gift for his second wife, Cosima, shortly after the birth of their son, for whom the work is named. The concert will conclude with Sergei Prokofiev's "Symphony No. 1 in D major, Op. 25." Dubbed the "Classical Symphony," it is one of the first prominent 20th-century works written in a neoclassical style, inspired by and emulating musical characteristics of the of 18th-century composer Joseph Haydn. The performance, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center on WCU's campus, will begin at 4 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

MARIMBA PLAYER ATTENDS CLASS BY FAMED VIRTUOSO



Junior music education major Andrew Blair was accepted to attend the prestigious Leigh Howard Stevens' 30th Summer Marimba Seminar, held in New Jersey's Asbury Park this past May 26-June 18. This comprehensive and intensive three-week master class is under the direction of the world's foremost marimba virtuoso.

Only 30 students from around the world are selected to participate in this seminar. To be accepted, the students must submit programs and letters of recommendation; be college age or a professional teacher; possess an outstanding level of achievement in terms of marimba technique and musicianship; and be highly motivated toward marimba performance.

"It's really a great honor as a musician and as a percussionist to be selected to participate," Blair said. "It means I'm going to be studying with the father of our modern marimba technique. What I think I'm really going to get out of the seminar is how I might apply these instruction methods in my own teaching career."

Blair, son of Paulette Johnson of Liberty and John Blair of Salisbury, has studied all concert percussion instruments over the past three years under the tutelage of WCU Professor Mario Gaetano. Although highly skilled at all instruments, Blair has excelled at the marimba and has performed a number of major marimba works on recitals.

"Andrew has been an outstanding student - extremely bright, talented, and most importantly, highly motivated toward excellence in everything he does," Gaetano said.

"This is indeed the highest mark of artistic distinction one could achieve in this performance area," said Robert Kehrberg, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Blair began playing music in eighth grade, when a shortage of other elective classes left him enrolled in band. Blair played the snare drum in marching band at Eastern Randolph High School, where his band director was WCU alumnus Luke Brown. Blair gradually began to spend more time with mallet-based percussion and decided that he wanted to pursue music education in college.

The seminar participants also had the opportunity to study with other world-renowned artists such as Gordon Stout, Michael Burritt and She-e-Wu. Andrew Blair will graduate from WCU in spring 2010 and is planning to attend graduate school.

Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet to perform in China

The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet will perform in China in late spring 2010. The quintet, composed of Brad Ulrich, David Ginn, Travis Bennett, Dan Cherry and Michael Schallock, will perform in Beijing at a university attended by two WCU students. Performances also are planned at WCU's sister institutions - Guangxi Normal University in Guilin, Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, and Chongqing Technology and Business University. The SMBQ will be performing as "cultural ambassadors" for WCU!



STUDENTS SHOWCASE RESEARCH EFFORTS



Nicholas Gattis presented at the National Council of Undergraduate Research in La Crosse, Wis., and the WCU Undergraduate Expo, March 23-26, with a paper titled "Evolution of the Clarinet: Antiquity Through Eighteenth Century." Gattis is a senior music education major with an applied principal of clarinet. He worked on this research with faculty members Christina Reitz and Shannon Thompson. Rebecca Frank also presented her research paper, "Implementing Community-Based

Learning Opportunities in the Music Classroom," at the National Council of Undergraduate Research.

Graduate students Cynthia L. Smith and Todd Ebert presented at the WCU Graduate Student Symposium with papers entitled, respectively, "Jewish Signifiers in the Third Movement of Gustav Mahler's First Symphony" and "Grainger's Preservation of the English Folk Song Genre through Lincolnshire Posy."



Members of the 2009 WCU Executive Council hold their engraved plaque. From left, members are Kelly Litfin, president; Joshua Parker, secretary; Tony Sane, treasurer; and Brandon Chapman, vice president.

WCU MUSIC EDUCATION CHAPTER RECOGNIZED

The WCU Collegiate Music Educators Association received a Chapter Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement in Music Education and Commitment to Professional Development. The award was presented by the North Carolina Music Educators Association at the 2008 In-Service Conference in Winston-Salem. The WCU CMENC is under the faculty advisement of Dr. Michael Schallock.

CMENC members provided an "Instrument Petting Zoo" during an Aug. 15 SMBQ concert at Bridge Park in Sylva. The activity was designed to spark interest in instrumental music among children in Jackson County, with the hopes they will one day take lessons and participate in their school band programs. CMENC members helping with the zoo were Nick Gattis, Amber Mattatall, Logan Rodgers and Jason Stevens.

HORN WORKSHOP ENJOYS RECORD ATTENDANCE

The Southeast Horn Workshop, hosted by Travis Bennett last March 6-8, was attended by more than 300 horn enthusiasts, setting an attendance record for this event. Featured guest artists were Jeff Nelsen of the Canadian Brass and Roger Kaza, principal horn of the St. Louis Symphony. It was a huge success! The weekend included recitals and master classes by the featured artists, as well as regional artist recitals, horn ensemble recitals, and lectures and presentations on natural horn, horn and percussion, Wagner tuba, life as a military musician and more.

ALUMNI NEWS

Scott Adelman BSEd '94 has accepted a position with the Department of Defense. He will be going to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to teach band and chorus at W.T. Sampson Elementary and High schools.

Wells Gordon MM '09 has accepted a music faculty position at Elizabeth City State University for this academic year. He will teach classes in music technology and recording arts. Wells also is a highly accomplished string bass and electric bass player.

Andrew Craft BSEd '05 is band director with Wilkes County Schools.

RECENT GRADUATES

Steven Burke, BSEd, winter '08

Adam Capps, BSEd, winter '08

Shannon Ehlers, BSEd, winter '08

Andrew Jenkins, BSEd, winter '08

Nicole Lawson, BSEd, winter '08

Claire Richards, BSEd, winter '08

Ashan Davis, BSEd, spring '09

Rebecca Frank, BSEd, spring '09

Sheldon Frazier, BSEd, spring '09

Dustin Hoke, BSEd, spring '09

Dawn Holt, BSEd, spring '09

Gary Lemming, BSEd, spring '09

Brandon Meeks, BSEd, spring '09

Jared Morgan, BSEd, spring '09

Joslyn Parker, BSEd, spring '09

Sarah Todd, BSEd, spring '09

LET US KNOW WHERE YOU ARE

The WCU School of Music wishes to update alumni information.

Name _____
last first middle maiden

Degree _____ Year _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

This is a change of address (from that on the newsletter)

Position and employer _____

Spouse's Name _____

News of interest _____

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