Remembering Robert Schott

by Russell Jones

Bob Schott was the long-time, now legendary, teacher of hundreds of clarinet, saxophone, and flute students at Pittsburg State University. He was a great personal friend and I still miss his enthusiasm, positive attitude, and sense of humor. He taught hundreds of students from graduate students to elementary students. As far as I could tell he was well liked by all of them. Part of Bob’s genius was to be able to inspire so many of his students to share his love and enthusiasm for solo and ensemble music. Sadly he died too early, in 2005, from cancer.

Bob and I performed a duo faculty recital together early in my tenure at Pittsburg State University. Included in that program were the Poulenc duo for clarinet and bassoon, and a trio for clarinet, flute, and bassoon by Walter Piston. The flutist in the trio was Isa Schott, Bob’s lovely wife and a very fine flutist. Bob often called on me to play bass clarinet, clarinet, bassoon, or saxophone in chamber groups which he organized. Especially memorable were the saxophone quartets and quintets we put together for Steve Wilkerson’s masters degree recitals. In addition to Bob and me, Bob Stahl also participated in a number of those ensembles. A common element in all of the collaborations was Bob Schott’s desire for excellence.

It is impossible to name all of Bob’s students and their many accomplishments. His former students include Dr. Don McGlothlin, retired former dean of the School of Music at the University of Missouri-Columbia and
later the University of Florida; Keith Lemmons, Associate Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Professor of Clarinet at the University of New Mexico; Dr. Steve Lyons, outstanding clarinetist and music educator; Phil Brenner, outstanding Kansas City jazz saxophonist; and Steve Wilkerson, great jazz artist and professor of music at Mt. St. Antonio College in Walnut, Calif., since 1989. A couple of them have shared comments about him and are included below. I’m sure that we could have had dozens of comments from former students, including other fine local clarinetists and teachers including Betty Jo Laflen and Bob Stahl.

At a memorial service for Bob, there were many tributes about Bob’s positive comments and the wonderful cards and notes that he sent. I have saved many of them and value them highly. He was generous with praise. I didn’t think that I deserved some of the positive things he said about me but I always appreciated hearing them. I am sure that we could still fill a notebook of comments from former students and friends, but I specifically asked two people to include comments for this article about Bob.

The first comment is from Keith Lemmons, a native of Pittsburg, and now serving as Associate Dean for the College of Fine Arts at The University of New Mexico and Professor of Clarinet. He is a sought after soloist, clinician, chamber and orchestral musician with a distinguished teaching career. He has been designated a Presidential Teaching Fellow, received the UNM Teacher of the Year Award and the prestigious PSU Meritorious Alumni Achievement Award. His numerous achievements and recordings are shown on his UNM web site: music.unm.edu/faculty_staff/fac_profiles/lemmons.htm

“From my junior year in high school through my undergraduate, graduate and professional careers Mr. Schott was my absolute inspiration! He gave unaccountably 100% of his soul, wisdom, love, knowledge, advice, friendship, kindness, warmth, compassion, encouragement, enthusiasm, positivity, smile, twinkle in his eyes and infectious laugh. Mr. Schott truly changed my life and led by example. His impact on me has been immeasurable and permanent. I was, indeed, blessed to know, be his student and love him. Pittsburg State was most fortunate that he was on the faculty as he made the world a better place. I speak about him to my students every day. I truly loved him very much and miss him greatly.”

The next comment is from the legendary saxophone player and teacher, Steve Wilkerson. Steve was a recipient of the Meritorious Alumni Achievement Award, one of the highest honors bestowed by Pittsburg State University. Steve is a Professor of Music at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif. His career spans performances as lead alto and jazz soloist with Stan Kenton to recordings with Jack Sheldon, Joey DeFrancesco, Shelley Manne, and many others. His biography may be found at: www.mtsac.edu/music/staff/stephen-wilkerson.html

“I began my work on my Masters in Performance-Saxophone with Bob Schott around the fall of 1987 through the fall of 1988 at Pittsburg State University. What a tremendous learning experience this was for me studying with some of the finest educators in the nation. Bob Schott immediately went to work to prepare me for the performance pieces that I would be drilled on to bring me to the level of playing expected by PSU. I was up to the challenge and excited about the knowledge that was being given me. I was in my thirties when given this opportunity, and I think sometimes older people appreciate the chance to learn from a master such as Bob Schott. We would discuss concepts of practice and performance and then I was off to the PSU practice rooms with the steam heaters. Bob always made the lessons fun and yet he had a way of letting you know when I was slacking a little. Being a full time teacher at NEO in Miami, Okla., and raising a family as well as playing on the weekend was starting to wipe me out and yet I looked forward to every lesson I encountered with Bob. He always had a super smile and warmth that you don’t always see, and that would always lead to the joke of the day that he probably heard from Rusty Jones. Laughter and hard work are a good combination for super results, and I feel I received the best education while attending PSU. My Masters Recital was during a sleet storm which caused my wife and me to be almost late for my portion of the recital. I warmed up on my saxophone for 10 minutes, and then ran down to the auditorium. I was a little rattled as I began to walk on to the stage. I remember Bob Schott looking at me, and with a smile, he told me to have fun out there. I was stunned! It worked in that I lost my jitters and gave a great recital. Bob Schott was a teacher’s teacher. None better! Go PSU!”
By 1947 Schott was performing with the Kansas City Conservatory of Music as first clarinetist. He received a Bachelors of Music degree from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in 1949 and he also played clarinet for the renowned Frank Simon Radio Band of the Air during the period. At the same time he began his career as a teacher of clarinet in 1949 at Kansas State Teacher’s College, now Pittsburg State University, Schott also performed with the Kansas City Philharmonic during their 1949 and 1950 seasons. Later he resumed his education, earning a Master of Music degree in clarinet performance from the University of Tulsa in 1952. At Pittsburg State Schott was responsible for all woodwinds instruction by 1952 – clarinet, flute, oboe, bassoon, and saxophone – and also led small ensembles.

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1960s Faculty Ensemble –
Back row: Millard Laing, Bob Schott, Russell Pugh
Front row: Markwood Holmes, Lowell Adams, Walter Osadchuk, unknown
Pittsburg State University presented “Tragedy and the American Spirit,” a moving musical performance in two separate venues at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, in Pittsburg’s Memorial Auditorium and First United Methodist Church. The PSU Wind Ensemble began the performance in Memorial Auditorium.

“The program speaks to the great resiliency of Americans in the face of sometimes unspeakable tragedy,” said Craig Fuchs, director of the ensemble and a member of the PSU Music Department faculty. “Whether it is the Joplin tornado, the terrorist attacks in New York or the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Americans turn their sorrow into triumph and that is what these musical selections celebrate.”

The Wind Ensemble program included a number of great works reflecting the American spirit. Col. Lesley Bryan Shelburne, former conductor of the U.S. Army Band, was the guest conductor for the Wind Ensemble’s performance of a John Philip Sousa march, “Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.”

Following the Wind Ensemble performance, the audience was invited to move across the street to the First United Methodist Church for a performance of “The Other Side of Storm,” by PSU alumnus Dr Hubert Bird.

Dr. Hubert Bird said that in the days following the Joplin tornado in 2011, he was haunted by the images of the damage to his hometown and by thoughts of those killed and injured in the storm. As he watched volunteers flock to the city to help first with recovery and later with rebuilding, he thought of what he could do to help. Bird said he was encouraged by a longtime friend, Col. Lesley Bryan Shelburne, to use his talent as a composer to write a piece that would help heal the community. “It was important to me to bring this work to my alma mater,” Bird said.

“The Other Side of Storm” presented for the first time in Joplin in 2012 as part of the city’s commemoration of the first anniversary of the storm and was conducted by Colonel Shelburne, who returned to conduct the performance in Pittsburg in the First United Methodist Church.

The Pittsburg performance was presented by members of the PSU Chorale, Dr. Susan Marchant, director; the Southeast Kansas Symphony, Dr. Raul Munguia, conductor; and the Pittsburg Community Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Chorus, Virginia Darling, director. The composition features an adult chorus, a children’s chorus, two soloists, two narrators, and full orchestra. It is divided into three sections featuring eleven poetic texts by ten different authors, plus a narrative text by Duane Hunt.

For more information and to purchase this CD, contact: tphowle@yahoo.com or rnatenberg@pittstate.edu

A unique program—
“Tragedy and the American Spirit”

Music faculty members Patrick Howle, baritone and Reena Berger Natenberg, piano, performed a recital to a full house in New York City’s Carnegie Hall on January 22, 2013. The program featured several song cycles by Twentieth Century French composer, Francis Poulenc, as well as selected lieder by Brahms. Also included in the concert were two solo piano works performed by Dr. Natenberg. Because of the success of their performance they were invited to return. Many of the song cycles by Poulenc which were performed at Carnegie Hall, were recorded for a CD just released this past January, by Mr. Howle and Dr. Natenberg. This CD, entitled Carte Postale was funded by grants from the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Hubert Bird
Pianist and recording artist—Osborne receives PSU Alumni Meritorious Achievement Award

A native of Miami, Okla., David Osborne earned a master’s degree in music from PSU in 1984. Previously, he earned a bachelor’s degree from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa and began his graduate studies at Indiana University-Bloomington.

Osborne returned to PSU to complete his master’s degree when his mother was diagnosed with cancer in 1982. “The teachers were really great,” Osborne said. “They let me reach the level I wanted to.”

Following graduation, Osborne performed for 10 years in Florida for Hyatt and Mariott Hotels and for Disney. He then performed with the St. Louis Symphony. On the advice of pianist Roger Williams, Osborne took a shot at Las Vegas in 1999, where he quickly made a name for himself and has become fixture in the Las Vegas entertainment scene.

Osborne performed at Caesar’s Palace for 12 years before moving to his current home at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

In the mid ’90s, Osborne began recording a series of CDs for the North Star label that have been immensely successful. His 27 CDs have sold nearly 5 million copies.

Over the years, Osborne has earned the unofficial title of “Pianist to the Presidents” because of his popularity with no fewer than five presidents.

In 2010, the Los Angeles Music Awards and Hollywood Fame Awards Committee chose Osborne to receive a lifetime piano achievement award and he received a star at the historic Paramount Theater in Hollywood, Calif. In 2012, L.A. Music Awards named him Concert Pianist of the Year. He is a member of the international roster of Steinway Artists.

Osborne is married to Jeanine Carter Osborne, and has four children: Katie, Joshua, Christopher and Hannah.

Trumpet Ensemble performs Ross composition at 2013 ITG Convention

The PSU Trumpet Ensemble, directed by Dr. Todd Hastings, was selected to perform a trumpet prelude, “Intrada,” by PSU Composer John Ross, during the 2013 International Trumpet Guild Convention in Grand Rapids, Mich. There are six members in the group: Matt Carter, Zach Hatcher, Kelsey DeVore, Tom Lawlor, Dalton Williams, and Wyatt Smith. The ensemble was conducted by Dr. Hastings. Dr. Ross was also in attendance.

Pittsburg Chamber Music Festival

From June 10 – 15, 2013, the initial Pittsburg Chamber Music Festival presented 10 recitals throughout Pittsburg and Frontenac. The festival was well received by the music lovers as well by 30 wonderful artists who donated their talent, time, and effort to the first edition of the Festival. The project was conceived by a group of enthusiastic alumni, students, and faculty who believe that summer presents a wonderful opportunity to get together and perform some of the best chamber music. Plans are to continue the festival every summer in the month of June. Coordinator of the festival is Dr. Raul Munguia.

Performing artists included: Reena Berger Natenberg, piano; Rebecca Cutler, violin; Stella Hastings, soprano; Lisa M. Gerstenkorn, mezzo; Patrick Howle, baritone; Jeeyeum Kim, soprano; Meiling Jin, piano; Joanne Britz, clarinet; John Ross, composer and pianist; Russell Jones, bassoon; Susan Marchant, organ and harpsichord; Raul A. Munguia, violin; Bob Kehle, trombone; Kathryn Park, soprano; Shu Zhang, piano; Junghee Lee, soprano; Pedro Oviedo, viola; Denissa Rivas, flute; Ernesto Estigarribia, viola; Gloria Britez Scolari, viola; Irene Diaz, cello; Alheli Aranda, piano and the Festival Orchestra.
from the chairperson
(from pg. 1)
Rusty Jones, Chairperson

then will be in Pittsburg to see his parents, who celebrated the 65th wedding anniversary in January.

Steve Wilkerson played with the Andrea Baker/Steve Wilkerson Quintet at The Theatre@Boston Court in Pasadena, CA, on June 1. Andrea, by the way, has an MM degree in voice and studied with Margaret Thuenemann. Andrea is an absolutely amazing singer and musician also. They are the headliners in that concert. He is also playing with the Joey DeFrancesco band this summer. Speaking of Joey DeFrancesco, I decided to look up the reviews of the CD Steve made with him a few years ago: “Steve Wilkerson Meets Joey DeFrancesco - It’s A Blues Sorta Thing.” This quotation is taken from one of the customer reviews: “There’s no one out there like him! De Francesco is his perfect alter ego - incredible timing - great stuff - when is their next one coming out? They ought to be at every major jazz festival! I love it - want more!!”

I have had the opportunity to get better acquainted over dinner on a few occasions with composer Dr. Hubert Bird in the last year, and always enjoy visiting with him. He is still making music at a high level, as evidenced by his musical tribute to the victims and heroes of the Joplin tornado tragedy. He has won numerous awards for his compositions including the Roger Wagner Award for Excellence in Choral Composition, the National Prize in Choral Composition from the Baroque Choral Guild of San Francisco, and was a four-time recipient of the Ithaca International Prize for Choral Composition at Ithaca College in New York State. His commissioned works include the official anthem of the U.S. Bicentennial celebration (1976) chosen by a national competition; and “Constitution Overture,” commissioned by the West Point Military Academy band (1987) to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. After teaching in the Missouri public schools for several years he taught at Keene State College of the University System of New Hampshire starting in 1982. He was named “Composer of the Year” by the New Hampshire Music Teachers Association on three different occasions. He was also the only individual to be named “Artist of the Year” by the New Hampshire legislature.

I recently mentioned to Janette Mauk of the Special Collections library staff that we were not able to get a good recording of “The Other Side of Storm” performed on October 4, 2012. She said that it was a shame because it was a beautiful piece and performance.

The most recent Alumni Association Meritorious Achievement Award recipient was David Osborne (MM ’84). Several of us, including his former teacher, Dr. Marchant, were able to spend additional time with David at lunch and other events. He is fascinating to talk with about a great variety of topics. At the lunch he related that he had been asked by President Jimmy Carter to play at his funeral and to be sure and play “Imagine” by John Lennon. We were discussing what else he should play and I suggested “It Is Well With My Soul,” which had been performed at my mother’s funeral. I was asked to present David’s Alumni Meritorious Achievement Award again at a concert by his trio in Miami, which is his hometown. In return he was very complimentary about the education he received at PSU. After intermission most of the second half of his program consisted of requests from the audience. About half way through the requests he began playing “It Is Well With My Soul” which I had mentioned in a lunch discussion two days earlier. What a great entertainer and enjoyable person!

Other outstanding alumni I have had at least some contact with recently are Barbara Rondelli and Dr. Jim Wintle.

Colonel Shelburne guest of PSU Music Department

It was a great pleasure having our students and faculty work with Colonel Bryan L. Shelburne. In addition to conducting “The Other Side of Storm,” he was a guest conductor with the Wind Ensemble, as mentioned above, and guest conductor of the PSU Marching Band the following Saturday at the home football game. I received an email from Colonel Shelburne which included the following statements.

“Russell, thank you for the nice note. I appreciated receiving it. I am certain you know how much I enjoyed being on campus, being in the music building, interacting with your student body, being on the field for the National Anthem on game day, firing the kickoff blast on the ROTC cannon, and standing before Craig Fuchs’ fine band, as well. I will long remember and treasure every experience at Pittsburg State University. Nowhere have I experienced a richer tapestry of varied experiences. It was great. All the best to you and to all within the music department: faculty, staff, and students alike.”
2012 Midwest Trumpet Festival

The fourth annual Midwest Trumpet Festival was held October 14 and 15, 2012, on the campus of Pittsburg State University. Dr. Todd Hastings, Professor of Trumpet at the University, hosted the event. In four short years, the festival has become one of the most popular trumpet events in the Midwestern United States with large and small education sessions, classes, and recitals and concerts, and a welcoming environment.

Guest Artists this year included Byron Stripling, International Trumpet Soloist and Artistic Director of the Columbus Jazz Orchestra; Ryan Anthony, Principal Trumpet of the Dallas Symphony and former member of the Canadian Brass Quintet; Alan Hood, Associate Professor of Trumpet at the University of Denver; Tito Carrillo, Assistant Professor of Jazz Trumpet at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Dr. Iskander Akhmadullin, Associate Professor of Trumpet at the University of Missouri; Dr. Natalia Bolshakova, Adjunct Professor of Piano/Accompanying at the University of Missouri; Dr. William Richardson, Associate Professor of Music at Northwest Missouri State University; Dr. Jason Dovel, Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Northeastern State University; Dr. Andrew Cheetham, Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Eastern Illinois University; Dr. Tom Smith, Professor of Trumpet at Edison State College; and the Crowder Jazz Orchestra.

Dr. Todd Hastings opened the ceremonies by welcoming all those in attendance, followed by the Pittsburg State University Trumpet Ensemble performing Canterbury Flourish by Gordon Jacob. Immediately following opening ceremonies, Byron Stripling presented a master class to an appreciative and enthusiastic audience of trumpet players that ranged in ability level from beginners to professionals. Other events included a group trumpet ensemble reading session and a master class led by several teachers.

The highlight of the first day of the festival came with the evening concert, featuring The Crowder Jazz Orchestra, led by Todd Hastings, and starring festival guest artists Byron Stripling and Tito Carillo. Multiple encores were called for by the audience to standing ovations.

The second day of the festival included lectures, concerts, and master classes. The festival concluded with the final concert presented by guest artist Ryan Anthony accompanied by pianist Natalia Bolshakova. The festival crowd showed their appreciation with a standing ovation and was rewarded with an encore by Anthony of La Virgen de la Macarena.

2013 Midwest Trumpet Festival staff:
Back row: Todd Hastings, Tom Smith, Byron Stripling
Front row: Jason Dovel, Alan Hood, Iskander Akhmadullin, Andy Cheetham, Ryan Anthony, Bill Richardson

Construction underway on the Center for the Arts

The decades-old dream of a new arts center at Pittsburg State University took a giant leap forward early in 2013 when construction work began on a facility that signals PSU’s “intent to reclaim its rightful place as the cultural center of this region.”

PSU’s Center for the Arts is rising out of the ground at corner of Homer and Ford Streets. The $33 million facility will be completed in the fall of 2014. A formal grand opening and dedication has not yet been scheduled.

The Center for the Arts includes an 1,100-seat performance hall with an orchestra pit, a 250-seat theater, an art gallery, a large rehearsal room, dressing rooms, storage and other technical space needed to support the performance venues. Concerts, theatrical productions, lectures, art exhibits and other special events will be held in the new center.

University President Steven A. Scott said that “we are excited about what will happen within the new performance spaces, and we are so appreciative of the many donors and the students who have made it possible for us to move to construction phase of this much needed facility.”

The facility is being built with private funds and student support. Naming opportunities are available in recognition of major gifts. Seat plaques are available for $500 and $1,000 in the large performance hall. Donations of all size are welcome.

For information, contact the Office of University Development by visiting pittstate.edu/centerforarts or contact the Office of University Development at 620-235-4768
Music Endowments and Department Aspirations

The Department of Music has almost 50 separate endowment funds with annual interest earnings supporting scholarships, instrument purchases and other needs of the department. One of those was named the Schott Endowment Fund, in honor of the former woodwind instructor featured in this edition of the newsletter. You may make a contribution to this fund as well as to any of the endowments housed in the PSU Foundation. A complete list of the Music Department’s endowment funds is available on the department web site ww.pittstate.edu/music. Here is an overview of just some of the endowments and their purposes along with goals to expand those funds to meet departmental needs.

STRINGS: The string program receives vital assistance from the Waddill Endowment. The string program also receives support from the Best Violin Scholarship Endowment and the Paul Carlson Scholarship Endowment Fund. The Carlson Endowment was recently created in honor of our valued faculty emeritus colleague. The string program has the most substantial private support base of any of our programs, but more support is needed to reach its full potential.

BAND: The band program does not have a specified endowment fund and depends on substantial annual funding allocated by the university and the student senate. That annual funding is not guaranteed. A new endowment fund specifically designated for the band needs to be established.

WIND INSTRUMENTS: The only endowment fund designated for wind instrument scholarships is the Schott Endowment Fund, created in memory of Robert Schott, who served as a valued member of the music faculty for many years.

KEYBOARD: A number of endowments support the keyboard area, with piano designated as the primary area of choice for scholarships. Funds which designate pianists as the preferred recipients include the Baird Fund and the Gordon Fund. Dr. Ray Baird, a former university administrator and great friend of the department, established the Baird Endowment Scholarship Fund. His daughter Catherine was a piano student in the department. Dr. Baird regularly attended concerts until his death in the spring of 2010.

GRADUATE STUDENTS: There is no endowment specifically devoted to provide financial support for graduate students in music. Although graduate students do sometimes benefit from other scholarships and assistantships, there is a clear need for more help in this area.

CHORAL/VOCAL: A new Choral/Vocal Endowment was established last year... That fund has now surpassed $10,000, but still needs to be expanded significantly because there is no strong base of annual funding available for unrestricted vocal scholarships. Two growing endowments for vocal music majors are the Barbara Rondelli Endowment and the Ida Locarni Endowment.

MULTI-PURPOSE FUND: The Vollen Endowment, established as a tribute to Dr. Gene Vollen, department chair for 17 years, was established in 1995 as a multi-purpose fund which could be used for scholarships as well as other departmental needs.

Endowment Goals

The Department has established the following goals for Music Department endowment funds:

- **Establish two new endowment funds to support band and graduate students** with a goal of increasing the principal in each to $100,000.

- **Increase the principal in each of the following established endowments to $100,000** in order produce the annual earnings needed to adequately support specific programs within music: Carlson String Endowment, Choral/Vocal Endowment, and Schott Woodwind Endowment.

- **Increase the principal in each of these already established endowments to $150,000** in order to produce annual earnings necessary to meet program needs: Vollen Endowment, C.R. and Anne Baird Endowment.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of University Development at 620-235-4768 or Dr. Rusty Jones, chairperson of the music department, at 620-235-4467. Your support is appreciated.

Question and Answer

Q. Can I contribute a small amount to an existing endowment fund?
A. Yes, you can. Just as with annual giving to the university, any amount that you can afford is helpful and very much appreciated.

Q. How do I make out the check?
A. A check should be made out to the PSU Foundation. The memo line should specify the fund, such as “Vollen Music Endowment – principal.” Checks should be sent to the PSU Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 4005, Pittsburg, KS 66762
Carlson receives Lifetime Achievement Award from Friends of the SEK Symphony

Professor Emeritus of Violin at Pittsburg State University, was presented the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra. During his tenure at PSU Dr. Carlson played first violin in a faculty string quartet, and first violin or section violin, or viola in the orchestra, depending on what was needed. He also played in a number of other ensembles through the years and was a past member of the board of the Friends of the SEK Symphony. The string quartet played a number of times in the home of the Waddills in Bartlesville, Okla., and they were very good friends for years. This connection undoubtedly led to the Waddill Orchestra Endowment. Friends of Dr. Carlson may also want to consider a contribution the Carlson Endowment Fund.

Sharon Kay Dean Recital Hall dedication

During a special ceremony in early September, the performance area inside McCray Recital Hall was dedicated to Sharon Kay Dean. Dean is the wife of Pitsco founder and CEO Harvey Dean, who made a generous donation to PSU for the renovation of McCray Hall. Harvey Dean and the couple’s three children were in attendance at the dedication ceremony.

“I was very surprised about it all,” Sharon Kay Dean said. “I felt like it should have been named for someone else, but I’m definitely grateful for this special honor.” McCray Recital Hall was first dedicated in 1929 as Music Hall. In 1961, it was re-dedicated in honor of music teacher Walter McCray.

New Faculty feature:

Dr. Raúl Munguía

Raúl Antonio Munguía is professor of violin and viola, and the Artistic Director and Conductor of both the Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra and Pittsburg State University Chamber Orchestra position that he took in July of 2012. He recently completed his DMA in Orchestral Conducting at Texas Tech University. A versatile musician, Raúl combines his work in orchestral conducting with an active career as an orchestral musician and a chamber player. As a violinist, he has held the concertmaster chair with The San Pedro Sula Chamber Orchestra, The Honduran Symphony Orchestra, The Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, among many others. His orchestral experience has given him the opportunity to perform with world renowned soloists such as Itzhak Perlman, Edgar Meyer, Plácido Domingo, Yo Yo Ma, Christopher Parkening, Susan Graham, Emanuel Ax, Ruggiero Ricci, James Galway, and Joshua Bell.

As a music educator Raúl was a recipient of the Don and Kay Cash Grant from the Graduate School at Texas Tech that allowed him to do research in his native country Honduras on 20th Century Honduran composers. Raúl holds a Master of Music degree in both Violin Performance and Orchestral Conducting from Northwestern State University of Louisiana studying violin and orchestral conducting. He also holds a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from The University of Southern Mississippi.
DR. JAMES CLANTON performed with several ensembles in NE Oklahoma including the Tulsa Signature Symphony and the Oklahoma Mozart Festival. Dr. Clanton presented numerous master classes and clinics at public schools in NE Oklahoma during the past academic year.

DR. CAROL DEATS earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this year. She performed multiple concerts with four symphony orchestras this year in the Metroplex, West Texas, Missouri, and Southeast Kansas.

DR. CRAIG FUCHS has been invited back to Paraguay this summer for two weeks. The first week is to conduct another concert with the OSN (National Symphony Orchestra) and the second week is to serve as the Festival Orchestra Conductor for a new International Music Festival being held at the National University in Asuncion.

LISA GERSTENKORN performed a series of Spanish Zarzuelas with the American Opera Studio in Kansas City, Mo., and the Heartland Opera Theatre’s HOT Scandals! in Joplin. She also performed in her sixth season with the Tulsa Opera and assisted onstage with PSU Opera’s production of HMS Pinafore.

STELLA HASTINGS took a sabbatical leave during the Fall of 2012 studying voice, vocal pedagogy and doing research. As part of the leave she visited three campuses: Nebraska Wesleyan, the Ohio State University, and the University of Texas at Austin. She also toured France with the Grammy-nominated vocal group “Conspirare” in October.

DR. TODD HASTINGS travelled to Greece in January of 2013 as a faculty member for the “Exploring Trumpets in Greece” symposium and also performed as lead trumpet for the Broadway touring production of "Anything Goes" at the Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville, Ark.

PATRICK HOWLE will be performing the Greenville Light Opera Works as a featured soloist in their productions of Pirates of Penzance and Jesus Christ Superstar in early August of 2013. In October of 2013 he will be singing the role of Silvio in Heartland Opera Theatre’s production of Pagliacci. One of his graduate students, Jeeyeun Kim, was the first place winner in her division at the Regional NATS competition in Lincoln, Neb., and was also a finalist for the Barry Alexander International Vocal Competition which resulted in her having a performance at Weill (Carnegie) Recital Hall in New York.

DR. DAVID HURLEY reviewed an article for suitability of publication in Music & Letters, a scholarly periodical published by Oxford University Press. He continues work on a rarely-discussed aria form in Handel’s oratorios, evaluating the composer’s reasons for utilizing it as well as other issues that arise from working on this topic. This project will be his main focus during the summer.

ROBERT KEHLE continues as principle trombone in the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and also performed with the American Trombone choir which gave performances in Bad Neuenahr, Germany; and Bruges, Belgium; and at the International Trombone Festival held at the Paris Conservatory.

DR. RUSSELL JONES performed bassoon in the Heartland Opera production of “Hansel and Gretel,” the January concert of the Ft. Smith Symphony Orchestra, and the Faculty Chamber Music performance of the Stravinsky Octet.

DR. SUSAN MARCHANT’S edition of “Three English Voluntaries” for oboe and organ was published by Morning Star Music Publishers. The title was a featured item in the company’s spring catalog and was included in the demonstration CD that accompanies the catalog.

DR. RAUL MUNGUIA will accompany Dr. Fuchs to Paraguay this summer. During the first week he will be the soloist with the OSN and teach lessons and master classes to any interested string players in the OSN. The second week he will be the violin teacher for an International Music Festival being held at the National University. He would teach lessons and master classes as well being a featured soloist on the finale concert that Dr. Fuchs will conduct.

DR. REENA NATENBERG performed a solo and collaborative recital with Patrick Howle at Carnegie Hall this past January. Also in January they released a CD featuring the songs of Francis Poulenc. Dr. Natenberg was recipient of the “Excellence in Teaching Award” from the PSU College of Arts and Sciences. Four of her students, Alheli Aranda, Yuwan Zhao, Shu Zhang and Meiling Jin are performing at the Texas State International Piano Festival in San Marcos, Texas.

DR. CHRISTINA WEBSTER recently was a featured soloist with the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra in December 2012, performing J.S. Bach’s Suite in B Minor. She also gave a guest artist recital and master class at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

DOUGLAS WHITTEN has been approved for a Spring semester sabbatical leave to research effective recruiting for college marching bands and to perform a series of recitals throughout the country. Under his direction, the Pittsburg State University “Pride of the Plains” Marching Band recorded selections for the Hollywood movie “The Campaign” which starred Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis. Another major accolade for the band is that it was featured as one of 5 college Marching Bands on CNN’s “Battle of the Bands.”
CHERI AVERY (BME, Saxophone) and Anthony Wright were married on June 8, 2013, at the First United Methodist Church, Pittsburg. Cheri completed her MM in performance this year at Arkansas State University where she was a graduate assistant.

JESSICA BAKER (BME, Voice, 2012) has been offered a position at Truman Elementary School in Nevada, Mo. It is a 3-5 building. She will be teaching general music and an after school 5th grade choir.

DANIEL BENITZ (MM, Piano, 2011) will be starting a masters program in collaborative piano at the University of Colorado in August 2013. He has received a full graduate assistantship from the University of Colorado to support his studies there.

Marilyn Brock (BM, Voice) was accepted into three graduate programs in musicology: the University of Kansas, the University of Denver, and the University of Northern Arizona. She has been offered an assistantship at Denver and has completed her first year in the program.

Matthew Carter (BME, Trumpet, MM, Music Education, 2013) has been awarded a fellowship at the University of Minnesota, where he will be pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in the fall of 2013.

Jessica Dold (BME, Voice) is singing the role of the Countess in Mozart’s Marriage of Figaro with the Ann Arbor Opera this month.

Josh Donaldson (BME, Voice, 2013) will be teaching at Council Grove HS/MS in Council Grove, Kan., where he will be responsible for beginning band (5th grade), 6-12 Band, and 9-12 Choir.

Sarah Fanning (BME, Voice) has spent the last year as the middle school and high school band and choir director at Quapaw Public Schools.

Quentin Gilkey (2008, BA, Trombone) has gone into the recording engineering field. After an internship in Los Angeles he was able to land a job at Paramount Recording Studios as an audio engineer. He worked on the Epic Records Michael Jackson Album “Michael.” He was awarded a platinum copy of the album.

Miranda Grimmer (BME, Violin, 2012) accepted a graduate assistantship to play in the graduate string quartet at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. She is earning a Master’s degree in Music Therapy.

Megan Hizey (BME, Voice, 2008) was married to Brian Lamb (BS, Construction Technology, 2007) in Webb City on June 8, 2013.

LEWIS HUNDLEY (BME, Saxophone) has completed his first year teaching as Band and Choir Director at Uniontown High School.

Will Koehler (BM, Trumpet) is working on a Masters degree in trumpet at Temple University. He has a paid Academic Internship for teaching in the community music program and working for the band department. He also has a scholarship by playing in the TU Wind Symphony. Will’s email included this statement. “The more time I spend out of PSU the more I truly appreciate the education that I received Pittsburg State University.”

Patrick O’Halloran (BM, Voice, 2009) spent two summers at the Des Moines Metro Opera, covering the roles of Rodolfo in La bohème and Sam in Susannah. Last summer he sang the role of Rodolfo in Puccini’s: La Boheme at Central City Opera in Colorado. He also sang the role of Larry in Henry Mollicone’s The Face on the Barroom Floor. The production was featured in Newport’s Classic’s film documentary “THE FACE ON THE BARROOM FLOOR: The Opera, the Place, the Poem.” More recently he was seen performing Cavaradossi in Tosca with the Owensboro symphony, as well as the role of Rodolfo in Central City Opera’s family performance of La Bohème. In 2012-13, as an Emerging Artist with the Virginia opera, Patrick had several major roles. He has also been featured in roles with the Kentucky Opera and the Glimmerglass Opera.

Cooper Neil (BME, Trombone, 2011) received the Rising Star Award in May, 2013 from the Pittsburg, USD 250 School District. This award is given to a certified staff member who has been with the district less than 5 years, and who has demonstrated exceptional teaching and leadership in their content area - and throughout their school. Cooper is the High School Band and Orchestra director.

Carrie Njoroge (BME, Voice) is moving from the junior high to the senior high choral program at Webb City next year.

Lori Pommier (BME) has been teaching elementary music for the last year at Eastmorland and Dusquene/Duenweg schools in the Joplin School District.

Salvador Prado (BME, Percussion, 2011) received an Outstanding Educator Award this year from the College of Education. The award goes to Kansas educators who have shown, within their first seven years of service, the potential to make significant contributions to education. He is the Junior/Senior High School Band Teacher in Jasper R-V School District, Jasper, Mo.

Luis Reyes (BM, Piano, 2011) is currently working on an MM in collaborative piano at the University of Maryland. He was awarded a scholarship to cover his full tuition and room and board for the collaborative program at the Aspen Music Festival for the summer of 2012.

Neva A. Rowland (BME, Saxophone) will be teaching 5-12 Band and High School Choir in Macksville, Kan., beginning in the Fall of 2013.

Andy Slater (BM, Percussion, 2011) is working on a MM degree in Percussion at Wichita State University.

Cagdas Soylar (MM, Piano, 2011), is instructor of piano at Yasar University in Turkey since Sept. 2012. She will also start the D.M.A. program in piano performance at this same university in Sept. 2013.

Erin Smith (BME, Trumpet, MM, Wind Conducting) will be joining the band staff in Webb City, Mo., next year.

Josh Tidd (BM 2012) has been accepted into the Pierre Monteux School, Hancock, ME for their summer 2013 program. Josh is working toward a masters degree in trombone at the University of Nebraska.
In Memory

JOYCE MEDFORD, age 77, passed away Sunday, May 20, at 5:35 p.m. at Via Christi Hospital with her husband by her side, after a battle with heart disease. She received a Bachelor of Science in voice and piano and a Master’s degree in counseling.

She also trained and became third level certified in Carl Orff pedagogy - a teaching method emphasizing music, movement and rhythm. She finished her public school career teaching music at Nettles Elementary in Pittsburg. Upon retirement from elementary education she taught music at Pittsburg State University for 15 years. Her teaching career spanned 56 years. She loved teaching and loved her “kids.” She is survived by her husband, Dr. Robert E. Medford, son Doug Medford, daughter Jerre Medford; daughter-in-law Sheila Medford and granddaughter Margaret Olivia Medford. Joyce taught Elementary Music Methods and Children’s Music and did countless workshops as well. She was a tremendous asset to the Department and will be missed by all of us who knew her.

Marilyn Jo McCarter, 64, passed away December 20, 2012, at Barton County Memorial Hospital, Lamar, Mo. Marilyn graduated from Field Kindley Memorial High School, Coffeyville, KS, and majored in Music Education at PSU, completing her degree in 1972. Marilyn and her husband, Doug, were mainstays in the Department of Music in the 1970s. She was active as a percussionist throughout her career. She is survived by her husband, Doug, daughters Michelle and Misty, and their families.

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