INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
» Jazz Band Tours Cuba
» Panther Marching Band Tours Rome
» Wind Symphony 35 - Year Reunion
In this issue...

Jazz Band Tours Cuba.................................................................pg.3

Marching Band Tours Rome..........................................................pg.4

Wind Symphony 35 - Year Reunion................................................pg.5

Also...

From the Director.................................................................pg.2
Orchestra Hosts International Guests..................................................pg.6
All in the Family...........................................................................pg.6
Opera at UNI.................................................................pg.7
Midwest International Carillon Festival...............................................pg.8
Hall of Fame Awards................................................................pg.9
Guest Artists 2016-17.................................................................pg.10
Community Outreach...............................................................pg.11
Spectrum Project........................................................................pg.12
Phi Mu Alpha Beta Nu Reunion......................................................pg.13
Midwest International Conducting Symposium.................................pg.14
Scholarship Benefit Concert.........................................................pg.15-16
Student Awards and Honors........................................................pg.17-19
Spotlight Series 2017-18...............................................................pg.20
Faculty News and Activities.........................................................pg.21-23
Faculty Spotlight......................................................................pg.24
Retirements and New Faculty/Staff................................................pg.25
Emeritus Faculty News................................................................pg.26
Alumni News and Update............................................................pg.27-29
Snapshots................................................................................pg.30
Greetings from the UNI School of Music!

This year marks a time of celebration and transition for the School of Music. After a very successful 19-year tenure, Dr. John Vallentine stepped down as director of the School of Music to assume the post of associate provost for faculty. While no longer in the School of Music, we are happy Dr. Vallentine remains on our campus in his new role. Congratulations to John!

Concluding a long and distinguished career at UNI, Dr. Ronald Johnson stepped down as conductor of the Wind Symphony. As part of the celebration, the Wind Symphony hosted a terrific 35-year alumni reunion event.

Dr. Danny Galyen will assume the position of director of bands and conductor of the UNI Wind Ensemble. Mr. Justin Mertz, formerly of Syracuse University, will be joining us as associate director of bands and director of the Panther Marching Band.

After many years as our associate director and professor of theory and composition, Dr. Alan Schmitz retired. We all wish Alan a long and happy retirement!

Nationally known choral composer Dr. Nancy Cobb is joining our faculty. Nancy was formerly UNI’s associate provost for faculty and previously served as head of the schools of music at Indiana State University and Florida Gulf Coast University following a very successful career teaching at Oklahoma Baptist University.

We will miss the contributions of long time colleagues, but we are excited about the talents and possibilities our new colleagues bring.

It is clear that our School of Music is among an elite group in the country that offers so many high quality opportunities to students and maintain a highly distinguished faculty of performers and scholars. In the coming pages, you will read about some recent activities of our UNI music community. Students, faculty and staff continue to enjoy great success. Highlights include Jazz Band One’s exciting tour of Cuba, while Rome, Italy got to experience the Panther Marching Band!

It is a great honor to step into the role of director of the School of Music on an interim basis. Serving with such gifted colleagues who are passionate about their art and their teaching will be a pleasure.

In the three decades I have spent at UNI, many things have changed, but there has been one constant. The UNI School of Music is a very special place, blessed with outstanding musicians at every level and always at the forefront of educating musicians and serving our community.

Please come visit us!

Jeffrey Funderburk | Interim Director and Professor

School of Music
azz education is alive and well in Cuba! The 20 members of Jazz Band One, together with director Christopher Merz, faculty members Robert Washut, Anthony Williams and Alex Pershounin, as well as photographer Gregory Merz, witnessed this firsthand on their recent tour to Cuba over spring break, March 9-18. The band shared a concert with the all-female band from the National School of Music and the amazing young tenor saxophonist Ernesto at the Avenida Theater. No less thrilling was the delightful, informal musical exchange at the School of Music Amadeo Roldan, where students of master teacher Enriquito played a brief set, then sat in on Jazz Band One’s set, improvising and reading parts. The band’s third performance took place at an amazing gallery/performance space/nightclub called the Art Factory, which is obviously THE place to be on a Sunday night in Havana! Among the audience members was a graduate of Iowa State University. One never knows where one might encounter Iowans!

As exciting as it was to perform in Cuba, equally important were the educational opportunities. The students enjoyed a lecture on the cultural contributions of José Martí and Cuban rhythm and dance, a workshop with world-class drummer Oliver Valdés, and a presentation given by the son of Cuban jazz pioneer Peruchín. The students were encouraged each time to sit in with the Cuban masters, and were invited to attend a club performance by Valdés and his quartet. Several students took the opportunity to sit in there as well.

Along with the musical experiences, the group also took advantage of a number of cultural offerings. These included a tour of the Havana Club rum factory, a cigar factory, the Plaza de la Revolución y José Martí, Havana University, and the historic canon firing ceremony at the Havana city gates. In the evenings, students and faculty hung out in the clubs surrounding the hotel, including the famous Hotel National. There was live music and dancing everywhere, including the top floor of the hotel!

The trip ended with a few days of relaxation at the resort at Veradero Beach, where the group swam in the ocean, played volleyball, caught up on social media, and ate from the unlimited buffet.

“Students and faculty will not soon forget the amazing music we heard, and the rich culture of the Cuban people,” noted director Christopher Merz. “Nor will we forget our new friends: Driver Juan Carlos, tour guide Andy Valdés, and tour organizer Omar Mederos of Academic Tours Cuba. Thank you, gentlemen, for the spring break of a lifetime!”

Editor’s note: thank you to Christopher Merz for his contribution of this article, and to Gregory Merz for the accompanying photos.
When in Rome:

Panther Marching Band’s New Year’s Tour

The Panther Marching Band’s (PMB) trip to Rome this past year was a tremendous experience. This trip followed the group’s first international trip two years ago to perform in London at the New Year’s Day parade. Since that trip was so meaningful for our students, when the Rome City Council invited PMB to perform in the New Year’s Day parade in Rome, they were excited to travel again.

Approximately 200 PMB students and staff loaded buses on Dec. 28 to make the journey to Italy. The group was divided into four flights leaving from both Minneapolis and Chicago. They landed in Milan and bused to Florence, where students saw Michaelangelo’s Statue of David and the wonderful Renaissance art and architecture of such a magnificent city. Students then visited Pisa where they saw the leaning tower before heading to Rome.

In Rome, PMB visited the Colosseum and Roman Forum, toured the city, ate gelato, visited the Vatican, explored the Catacombs, and shopped and dined in Piazza Navona. The band performed on New Year’s Eve for packed crowds in the Italian city of Frascati and visited the Pope’s summer residence at Castel Gandolfo. On New Year’s Day, they attended the Pope’s blessing – truly a special experience – and then performed in the late afternoon for the New Year’s Day Parade to a giant and appreciative Italian audience.

On their final day, the group left the city of Rome for a memorable visit to Pompeii – one of the most famous archeological sites in history.

The PMB’s visit to Florence, Rome, and Pompeii was filled with incredible history, art, architecture, ancient ruins, food and culture. Director Danny Galyen noted, “I was tremendously proud of our students and the way they represented UNI, our state, and the United States. I was also proud of the joy that they took in learning so much about this historically and culturally important place. As a faculty member, it was my greatest pleasure to take such a deserving group of students on such an important trip. I believe our students enjoyed it because we did it together – with our PMB family.”

Now the strains of UNI Fight have been spread across London and Rome. Stay in touch with the Panther Marching Band at bands.uni.edu to find out where their travels will take them next!

Editor’s note: thank you to Danny Galyen for his contribution of this article.
April 21-24 served as a time of celebration for Wind Symphony members, alumni and long-time band music enthusiasts. The four-day celebration included a visiting performance of the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony at Urbandale High School in southern Iowa. Alumni and friends traveled to Urbandale to see the concert, and to mingle and share memories at the pre-concert reception. Returning alumna Jillian Whitaker celebrated a return to two alma maters – both to UNI and to Urbandale High School. Whitaker currently resides in California and is an active composer and arranger. She composed a work titled “Coming Home” that the Wind Symphony performed and premiered at the weekend celebration.

Upon returning to Cedar Falls, the weekend was filled with a banquet, reception, rehearsals, tours and time to visit and catch up. Nearly 60 alumni returned for the events, some traveling from as far away as Texas, California and New York, and others who have stayed right here in Cedar Falls.

The grand finale of the event was a full concert by the Wind Symphony, featuring the Varsity Men’s Glee Club, at the Gallagher Bluedorn on Monday, April 24. At the concert, conductor Ronald Johnson led the ensemble through a program that received multiple standing ovations. The emotionally charged program was followed by a celebratory reception where students and friends from the 35 years of Wind Symphony history celebrated the legacy of Johnson’s career as a conductor and educator. The evening was capped off with the announcement of a $30,000 endowed gift in Johnson’s honor. For more on the endowment, see page 29.
All in the Family: A recital-celebration of UNI composers and performers

The students of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra delivered two world premieres and one American premiere of new works in a joint Chinese-American performance. On the orchestra’s Feb. 23 concert, Dr. Jiang Lui, conductor of the Sichuan Conservatory Orchestra and the Chengdu Symphony Orchestra, conducted works by Mozart and Schumann which featured student pianist and concerto contest winner, Mariya Akhadjanova, and faculty artists Dr. Ross Winter, violin, and Dr. Julia Bullard, viola. The orchestra’s music director, Dr. Rebecca Burkhardt, conducted the premieres of “Mandala,” by composer Xiang Ao, and “Liangshan Capriccio,” by Changqun Ao. Both composers, father (Changqun) and son (Xiang), teach composition at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music in Chengdu, China. The elder Ao, now retired, also served as president of the conservatory. The final world premiere of the evening, completing the Chinese-American collaboration, was the presentation of “The Guilty Fifth” by UNI faculty composer Dr. Jonathan Schwabe. This exchange began in 2013 when Burkhardt traveled to Chengdu to conduct both the Sichuan Conservatory Orchestra and the Chengdu Symphony. In 2018, Burkhardt will return to Chengdu again to conduct a festival of new American Music.

Editor’s note: thank you to Rebecca Burkhardt for her contribution of this article.

The array of talents, career paths, and interests at the UNI School of Music has taken both students and faculty across the country and around the globe. On March 31, however, many united in a family reunion of sorts taking place in a most unusual location... a bassoon recital. For assistant professor Cayla Bellamy, this semester’s faculty solo recital was far from solo. In fact, the program featured the compositional and performance achievements of 12 UNI musicians, including five composers, six artist-faculty and two graduate students performing five distinct works unified by the unique voice of the bassoon.

Editor’s note: thank you to Cayla Bellamy for the contribution of this article.

The program grew from a 2015 seedling, when Bellamy performed Dr. Nancy Hill Cobb’s Suite pour Trio d’Anches during her first year at UNI. Fascinated by Cobb’s tonal language and programmatic inclinations – and genuinely impressed by her ability to write un-awkwardly for the bassoon! – Bellamy asked her if she would consider writing a solo work for bassoon and piano. Shortly thereafter and upon first hearing of Dr. Rebecca Burkhardt’s Ackerbatics for solo clarinet, she requested her second composition from a UNI composer, this time a duo for herself and saxophone professor Dr. Ann Bradfield. With that, a recital theme was born.

UNI composition faculty members Dr. Alan Schmitz and Dr. Jonathan Schwabe were already no strangers to the bassoon – both had previously composed a number of chamber works involving the bassoon. Bellamy first selected Schmitz’s Bassoon Trio to share the stage with two graduate bassoon students. To follow, Schwabe requested that Bellamy and her colleagues tackle one of his larger and newly revised chamber works for clarinet, bassoon, piano and percussion, that included a stage full of marimba, vibraphone, triangle and woodblocks.

The program closer came into existence more experimentally, with Dr. Jeff Funderburk recording various sound samples, extended techniques and articulation effects from Bellamy in a studio and heavily processing them until a growling, groovy soundscape arose. In recital performance, a single microphone on stage picks up the live acoustic sounds of the bassoon and manipulates them in real-time to trigger various howling and percussive effects, creating an ever-changing duet for bassoonist and computer.

UNI School of Music students and faculty members flourish in collaboration, and their drive to best serve each other and the music was clearly evident in the preparation and performance of this recital.

Editor’s note: thank you to Cayla Bellamy for the contribution of this article.
This was an amazing year for UNI Opera! Throughout the year, the ensemble featured more than 40 singers in a vast array of performances and activities. The program hit the ground running last fall, with students providing “after party” arias following the School of Music’s annual Scholarship Benefit Concert. In November, the ensemble presented fully produced performances of *Signor Deluso* by Thomas Pasatieri and *L’enfant et les sortilèges* (The Enchanted Child) by Maurice Ravel. In addition to two full public performances of each, the cast and chamber orchestras, led by Dr. Rebecca Burkhardt, performed a special morning run of the shows for local schools and home school students and their families. The school performance was enthusiastically received, and many cast members cite these outreach events as their favorites of the year. The *Signor Deluso* cast also traveled to Hoover Middle School with Dr. Korey Barrett at the keyboard. Eight graduate students also made a road trip with Dr. Mitra Sadeghpour to Martelle, Iowa, to sing arias and share desserts with members of the Martelle Federated Women’s Club. “Each time we go into the community,” noted Sadeghpour, “we find opera lovers and create new opera lovers! Several of the Martelle audience drove to Cedar Falls for our spring opera scenes.”

“Night and Dreams” was the spring scenes offering, with music from *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* by Bellini, *Adriana Lecouvreur* by Cilea, *La Finta Giardiniera* by Mozart, *Suor Angelica* by Puccini, *Carmen* by Bizet, all woven together by the wandering characters of Hansel and Gretel. Student singers were joined by vocal coach Mark Bilyeu for the semester, and senior Alexandra Saulsbury directed the mini-opera *The Little Harlequinade* by Salieri on the program as well.

In April, UNI Opera held a fundraising gala, “Death by Aria.” Davis Hall was transformed by Chris Tuzicka’s lighting, food was provided by Primo thanks to UNI alumni Tony Tomlyanovich and Bradley Boyd, and more than 20 local businesses donated to the silent auction. It was magical evening, with guests including Gallagher Bluedorn’s Steve Carignan and UNI President Mark Nook. Plans are under way to make the gala an annual event. UNI Opera closed out the year with another student favorite of mini operas created from art songs. Thanks to Professor Bilyeu for this marvelously innovative idea!

Additionally, UNI opera hosted singer, philanthropist and alumna Nicolle Foland (along with UNI SNATS), singer and alum Kyle Albertson, and opera educator Dr. Colleen Brooks as guest artists. Four of our students presented “Redefining Success” at the Central NATS conference at the University of Iowa, and again at University of Missouri and Missouri State University. Graduate student Kelly Noltner presented a research project with Dr. Sadeghpour on “Reggio Emilia” at the National Opera Association Conference in Santa Barbara, and at UW-Madison. Students spent the summer singing, directing and interning at programs all over the United States and Europe: Chautauqua Opera, Harrower Opera, Opera NEO, Opera Viva, Interharmony International Music Festival, Weston Playhouse, Des Moines Metro Opera, Cedar Rapids Opera, Haymarket Summer Opera and Blooming Voce Opera Workshop.

Next year will be just as dynamic, with *Riders to the Sea* by Vaughn Williams in the fall, *Hansel and Gretel* in the Gallagher Bluedorn with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra (NISO), spring scenes, and a performance of scenes from *Jackie O* with NISO, with composer Michael Daugherty in residence. Opera is alive and well at UNI. Check out the new opera website at opera.uni.edu, connect on Facebook and Twitter, and please come join us!

*Editor’s note: thank you to Mitra Sadeghpour for her contribution of this article.*
The School of Music hosted the first-ever Midwest International Carillon Festival and Composers Forum on the UNI campus Oct. 12-14. Event performances were held at the UNI Campanile daily at noon and 6 p.m. throughout the festival.

The festival featured five exceptional carillonneurs from around the world presenting informational clinics and performances each day of the event. Performer-presenters included Karel Keldermans (St. Louis, Mo.), Richard Strauss (Oakland, Calif.), Stefano Colletti (Douai, France), Laura Ellis (Gainesville, Fla.) and Peter Langberg (Logumkloster, Denmark).

Keldermans, a frequent guest artist at UNI, served as artistic director for the festival in its inaugural year. Keldermans is one of the preeminent carillonneurs in North America and has been carillonneur for Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., since 2000. He retired in 2012 from the position of full-time carillonneur for the Springfield Park District in Springfield, Ill., where he also served as the director of the renowned International Carillon Festival for 36 years. He has given carillon concerts around the world for the past 40 years, and has released six solo carillon CDs and one of carillon and guitar duets with Belgian guitarist Wim Brioen.

Richard Strauss has held carillon positions at Washington Episcopal Cathedral, Washington, D.C., and Albany City Hall, Albany, N.Y. He began carillon study in 1965 at Washington Episcopal Cathedral with Ronald M. Barnes, cathedral carillonneur. Since 1983, Strauss has pursued improvements to carillon design and manufacture.

Stefano Colletti graduated from the Paris Conservatory in 1998 with degrees in harmony, counterpoint, fugue and orchestration. He studied carillon with Jacques Lannoy in Douai and obtained his final diploma as master carillonneur in 1994. He was appointed as the 35th consecutive carillonneur for the city of Douai in 1998, where he teaches carillon at the Music Conservatory. Additionally, he teaches harmony, counterpoint and orchestration at the Music Conservatory in Valenciennes. Colletti has played carillon concerts throughout France and every European country with a carillon culture. He has also played several tours of the United States.

Laura Ellis is an associate professor of music at the University of Florida where she teaches academic courses in sacred music and applied lessons in organ, harpsichord and carillon. A native of Minnesota, Dr. Ellis is a graduate of Luther College (Decorah, Iowa) and holds degrees in church music and organ performance from the University of Kansas. While in residence at KU, she studied carillon with Albert Gerken. Ellis is active in the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America and serves as director of the Music and Publications Committee. In addition to her regular performances in Century Tower on the University of Florida campus, she has performed solo carillon recitals throughout North America, the Netherlands, and Australia.

Peter Langberg was educated at the Royal Danish Conservatory of Music in Copenhagen, graduating with an organ degree in 1970. He studied carillon at the French Carillon School in Douai, France, earning the master carillonneur degree and a gold medal in 1981. He founded the Church Music School in Logumkloster, Denmark, in 1979 and served as its first director until his retirement in 2009. Presently, he is the carillonneur for Our Savior’s Church in Copenhagen and continues to give carillon concerts in both Europe and the United States. He privately teaches organ, carillon and music theory. Langberg has received many awards including one from the Danish Queen Margrethe II.

All performances throughout the festival were free and open to the public. The second festival will be held at UNI in September 2017. For more information on our visiting artists, the festival schedule or presentation topics, visit music.uni.edu/carillonfestival.
Each year, the UNI School of Music celebrates its rich history and honors the legacy built by outstanding individuals who have been a part of that history by inducting exceptional music educators, professional performers, arts advocates and business and community leaders into the UNI School of Music Hall of Fame. Recipients are nominated and voted on by the current School of Music faculty and inducted at the annual Scholarship Benefit Concert. In fall 2016, we were thrilled to announce the induction of Susan Rider and Therese Fetter into the UNI School of Music Hall of Fame.

Therese Fetter, a native of Dublin, Ireland, began her violin studies at the Irish College of Music. She started her professional career as a violinist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, and later, the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra. After moving to the United States, she became a member of the National Ballet Orchestra in Washington, D.C., the New Orleans Philharmonic Orchestra, and played with the Baltimore Symphony. Therese moved to Iowa in 1976 and became a member of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra, where she served as concertmaster for 10 years. She was an active chamber musician playing with a number of groups including the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Quartet and the UNI Faculty Quartet. For 28 summers, she was assistant concertmaster with the New Hampshire Music Festival Orchestra and performed regularly on their chamber music series.

Therese joined the faculty of the UNI Suzuki School in 1978 and served as director from 1986 to 2000. Under her leadership, the UNI Suzuki School initiated two youth orchestras, UNI Suzuki Summer Institute, and created Fiddlesticks, an outreach and performance group of advanced young violinists. In 1997, in collaboration with Center City Arts, she helped establish Music Works, a program that provides subsidized violin lessons for inner city children. After stepping down as director, she continued to teach, and in 2010, was named artistic advisor to the UNI Suzuki School. She retired in June 2016.

Therese has served as a role model and mentor for numerous musicians and teachers who now play and teach throughout the United States. Her students have gone on to study at UNI, Indiana University, Eastman School of Music, St. Olaf College, as well as virtually every college and university in Iowa. Therese was awarded the Leopold LaFosse Studio Teacher of the Year award in 1994. She holds a Master of Music degree in violin performance from the University of Northern Iowa.

Also appearing at the September concert, to accept her induction honor, was Susan Rider. Rider, originally from Cedar Falls, began playing the trumpet at the age of ten. She attended Malcolm Price Laboratory School, and graduated from Northern University High School in 1985. Susan went on to complete her Bachelor of Music in trumpet performance from the University of Northern Iowa (1989), where she studied with Keith Johnson and Randy Grabowski. During this time, she was a member of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Iowa, UNI Wind Symphony, and Carillon Brass Quintet.

Susan earned her Master of Music in trumpet performance (1991) and Doctor of Music in brass pedagogy and literature (2000) from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington. There, she studied trumpet under the tutelage of Charles Gorham and Edmund Cord. While living in Indiana, Susan performed as a member of the Owensboro Symphony, Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, Camerata Orchestra, and Evansville Philharmonic. Additionally, she performed with Indiana University’s Philharmonic Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, and served as an Associate Instructor for both the Brass and Music Education Departments. She also taught trumpet as an adjunct at Purdue University.
Be Our Guest: A look back at our visiting artists

2016-17 was another fantastic year in the School of Music, filled with exceptional guest artists and clinicians visiting and sharing their talent and experience with School of Music students and faculty. Through hands-on master classes, thrilling performances and interactive discussions, these inspiring guests and masters of music offered students a world of opportunity to find out why choosing music is truly an inspiring path.

Fall 2016

Zach Marley, tuba
Matt Wilson, drums
Andrew Dahlke, saxophone
Laurie Smukler, violin
Daniel Chapa, euphonium
Michele Gingras, clarinet
Covalence (trumpet and piano)
Tony Baker, trombone
Marcin Murawski and Michael Kimber, violists
Guest Carillonneurs (see pg. 8)
Michael Mermagen, cello
Mary Stolper, flute
Markus Burger, piano and Jan von Klewitz, saxophone
Anibal dos Santos, viola
Daniel Sheridan, clarinet
Amy Pfrimmer, soprano

Spring 2017

Pavel Sulyandziga, tenor
Trombones de Costa Rica
The Iowa Guitar Quartet
David Gompper, composer and pianist & Wolfgang David, violinist
Jiang Liu, guest conductor, Chang Qun Ao and Xiang Ao, featured composers
Margarita Shevchenko, piano
Annette Richards, organ
Trio 826
Conducting Symposium Guests (see pg. 14)
Geoff Durbin, euphonium
Adam Larson Quartet
IWO Flute Quartet
Anna Hersey, soprano, and Alan Johnson, piano
Elsa and Walter Verdehr
Toby Furr, euphonium
Anna Mattix, Debra Richtmeyer, Steve Vacchi, and Stephanie Zelnick, Reed Day artists
Tom Curry, tuba
Edisher Savitski, piano

Guest artist funds for 2016-2017 were supported in part or in full by the Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund, the Esther Bley Rinker Endowed Fund for Musical Excellence, the Mark C. Falb Endowed Fund for Applied Music, the Howard and Mary Easter Quasi-Endowment, Spotlight Series patrons, the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences and the UNI School of Music. The School of Music continues to extend its gratitude for these contributions.

Want to join us for our guest artist series performances in 2017-18? Visit music.uni.edu/guestartists

In 1997, Susan successfully auditioned for a position with “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, Chamber Orchestra, and Chamber Ensembles in Washington, D.C. Currently, she serves at the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. With this ensemble, Susan performs regularly for presidential White House events, in ceremonies and concerts in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area, and around the country on national concert tours and special performances. With the band, she has performed in many of the finest concert halls including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., Boston Symphony Hall, Lincoln Center in New York City, Severance Hall in Cleveland and the Cultural and Convention Center in Lucerne, Switzerland. She has also played with the Harrisburg Symphony, Alexandria Symphony, and the Concert Artists of Baltimore.

Susan has taught at Shenandoah University, presented master classes nationally and internationally, and currently maintains a private teaching studio in Northern Virginia. She was co-editor of the International Women’s Brass Conference (IWBC) Newsletter from 2000 to 2010, and is currently the IWBC web site content manager. In addition, she is a featured writer and contributor to the international publication, The Brass Herald. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the UNI School of Music. Susan has given numerous recitals and performed as a featured soloist nationally and internationally with several ensembles including Toronto’s Hannaford Street Silver Brass Band, and the Volga Band of Saratov, Russia.

Congratulations and thank you for the legacy of excellence that you have built, Therese and Susan!
The UNI Community Music School (CMS) welcomed a new director in fall 2016. Heather Hamilton oversees all CMS programs. Welcome, Heather!

Heather Hamilton began working at UNI in 2016. Originally from Moline, Ill., music performance and education have always been an important part of Heather’s life. With two parents who worked as musicians and educators, she could not help but follow in their footsteps!

Heather holds a Master of Music Education degree with an emphasis in Clarinet Pedagogy from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. Her capstone project focused on how to utilize the National Standards of Music and Comprehensive Musicianship in beginning clarinet instruction. She graduated from Western Illinois University with a Clarinet Performance degree. Heather’s primary clarinet instructors include Andrea Splittberger-Rosen, Molly Paccione, Eric Ginsberg and Himie Voxman.

Heather has several years of experience working in music retail and managing various music lesson studios. As a clarinetist, Heather has had the pleasure of performing in a variety of groups, including with the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, the Quad City Opera Company, and the Quad City Symphony. She also performed with the Central Kentucky Concert Band, which is recognized as the premier adult concert band in the commonwealth. Heather has taught clarinet for several years in Illinois, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and now Iowa. She was an adjunct faculty member at Black Hawk College and was a faculty instructor at the UW-Stevens Point Arts and Culture Outreach program.

Successful Year for School of Music Outreach Programs

The year at the UNI Suzuki School has been a busy one. Besides solo recitals, honor recitals, and a large group concert, the Suzuki students performed in several outreach performances including playing the National Anthem at a Black Hawks Hockey game and appearing at My Waterloo Days and Artapalooza.

After 23 years, Tom Schilke retired as the director of the Northern Iowa Junior Orchestra. This year, Todd Williams and Erin Gaherty-Williams began their journey with these young musicians as co-directors. The Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra included winds, brass and percussion this year under the direction of John Chiles. Both orchestras toured northeast Iowa in April, performing at schools in Cedar Falls, Wellsburg, New Hartford, Clarksville and retirement home Friendship Village in Waterloo.

As the Suzuki School explores new ways to engage students, the Verismo Chamber Music program offered small ensemble opportunities. Ensembles this year included a string quartet, a piano quartet, a clarinet quintet and an adult quartet.

The School continues to engage UNI School of Music students. Graduate assistants Andrea Sanchez, Naima Burrs, Hannah Howland and Isaak Sund served as instructional assistants for group lessons and ensembles. Hannah and Isaak will join the staff next year as instructors.

The Community Music School’s program UNI Children’s Choir (UNICC) celebrated a success story as well. The choir, under the direction of Dr. Michelle Swanson, was invited to perform at the 14th Midwest Children’s Choir Festival on Friday, April 21, at Stephens Auditorium on Iowa State University’s campus for their largest audience ever. UNICC members also had the experience of working with renowned conductor Dr. Susan Brumfield in a mass choir of 400 singers. Community Music School Director Heather Hamilton noted, “this was a life-changing opportunity and one that they will never forget!”

Editor’s note: thank you to Cathy Craig and Heather Hamilton for their contributions to this article.
In 2015, the UNI Spectrum Project began as a music, drama, movement and art program for children with differing abilities. Supported by the School of Music, the program pairs children with differing abilities with college students from UNI, Allen College and Hawkeye Community College every Saturday from January through April to rehearse music, movement, drama and art.

**Spectrum Buddies**
Spectrum Project Buddies are volunteer college students who dedicate two hours of almost every Saturday from January through April to the project. Depending on the performer, a buddy can be a supportive adult, a comforting friend, or an interpreter of ideas. In order for the performers to feel comfortable performing on stage, it helps to have someone they trust who is there for them. This trusting relationship takes weeks and sometimes months to build between performers and buddies.

**Artistic Directors**
The UNI Spectrum Project employs eight artistic directors who help create the show and design the activities that students will perform in the show. There are two directors for each artistic area: movement, music, drama and art. All activities are based on ideas from performers, so artistic directors spend the first few weeks learning about the performers’ enthusiasms and then the rest of the project incorporating these into the show by way of music, dance, drama and art.

**Support Team**
To help facilitate and optimize participation of the performers, the UNI Spectrum Project employs a support team consisting of professional teachers, occupational therapy graduate students and music therapy students. The support team members provide assistance to buddies to help them assist their performers to the fullest extent possible. They also provide support to the directors so that lessons and activities are appropriate for each performer.

**Impact on College Students**
After three years of collecting data, buddies and staff in the UNI Spectrum Project report changes in their perspectives about people with disabilities, higher comfort levels in teaching students with disabilities, and an overall life-changing experience. Most importantly, many of the buddies in the UNI Spectrum Project report that building a relationship with a child with special needs was the most enjoyable aspect of their college experience.

**The Largest Goal of the UNI Spectrum Project**
The largest goal of the UNI Spectrum Project is to change the minds of the community and how they view children with special needs. Rather than focusing on their challenges, the UNI Spectrum Project embraces and rejoices in the performers’ enthusiasms and differences.

The UNI Spectrum Project is specifically designed to show the community and world how amazing our kids are. In a Facebook post the night before the 2017 show, Carrie Elser, a parent of a performer, wrote about the very few places in the world where her child is “enough.” She said what the world sees is “someone who jumps, flaps, makes noise instead of speaking, avoids eye contact, and touches people he doesn’t know. In the UNI Spectrum Project, he can be who he is. He’s enough.” Actually, he’s more than enough. He’s amazing! They all are.

*Editor’s note: thank you to Kevin Droe for his contribution of this article.*
On Nov. 5, Beta Nu hosted its first major reunion event in many years for the commemoration of the 85th anniversary of our chartering. The idea originated from our previous alumni relations officer, Malcolm Burke, and was coordinated by myself. Event planning was completed in the summertime and the invitations were sent out in early September. Since this was our first reunion, none of us really knew what the turnout was going to be or how the day was going to go. Thankfully, we had a solid turnout of alumni across the state and all of the day’s events went off without a hitch! The day began with the opening ceremonies in Russell Hall, which included introductions, a music rehearsal, and welcome from our faculty advisor, Christopher Merz. Following that, we went to the jazz studio and had a Beta Nu Big Band rehearsal with our alumni and active members. It was great for our active members to perform music with some of our exceptionally talented alumni. The last item on the agenda for the afternoon was a Mills Music Mission (MMM) at the Western Homes in Cedar Falls. For many of our alumni, it was the first MMM they had ever participated in. It was great to engage our alumni in what is now a regular occurrence in the Beta Nu chapter.

The evening began in the Slife Ballroom at the UNI Commons. The reception and dinner were catered by UNI Catering, and music was provided by Beta Nu brothers Tanner O’Connor (guitar), Clayton Ryan (bass), and Patrick Cunningham (drums). Following the dinner, we honored 10 alumni brothers with alumni membership pins. Ten-year pins were given to Cory McBride and Dr. Jonathan Schwabe; 25-year pins were given to Les Aldrich, Al Naylor, Mark Sharp, Dr. Robert Washut, Dr. John Vallentine; and 50-year pins were given to Bob Wise, Erik Eriksen, Jim Oleson, and Dr. Ronald Johnson.

Following the dinner, we performed our initiation ceremony across the hall in the Georgian Lounge. The acoustics in the room were amazing and it was a first time for many brothers to experience the ritual in such a live room with so many brothers in attendance. We initiated 12 probationary members and two faculty initiates: Dr. Joel Haack and Dr. Jesse Orth.

I speak on behalf of the entire chapter when I say that the 85th reunion was one of the major highlights of the year for us. Seeing how the chapter has influenced our alumni in their post-college careers was emotional and motivating, and ideas are already being discussed so that we can make the 90th anniversary reunion event even better.

Fraternally,
Paul Lichty
ARO, Beta Nu
OAS AAS LLS

Editor's note: Thank you to guest writer Paul Lichty, alumni relations officer for Phi Mu Alpha, for his reflection on this year's celebration.
School of Music Hosts First Midwest International Conducting Symposium

The School of Music proudly launched the first-ever Midwest International Conducting Symposium in spring 2017. Five conductors traveled from Italy to Cedar Falls to study conducting hands-on with Dr. Ronald Johnson, visiting artist Claudia Re and numerous School of Music faculty and ensembles in a week-long intensive study. Visiting conductors included Erina Ferrarini, Stefano Giacomelli, Marta Lecchi, Marco Rampini and Davide Sottini.

Erina Ferrarini was born in 1984, and started her musical studies at age nine at the Music School of the Bagnatica Wind Band in Bergamo, Italy. She studied music theory with Angelo Magli, and later began saxophone lessons with Giuseppe Belotti and Fabio Morzenti. She continued her saxophone studies with Alfredo Caprotti and Luca Guerrini, and in 2011 received her diploma from the Luca Marenzio Conservatory of Music in Brescia. Erina works as a saxophonist in several municipal bands in the province of Bergamo, and teaches theory and saxophone lessons. Since 2008, she has been the conductor of the Wind Band of Gorlago (BG), and in 2013 was also appointed the conductor of the Wind Band of Montello (BG).

Stefano Giacomelli graduated with a diploma in clarinet from the Arrigo Pedrollo Conservatory of Music in Vicenza, Italy. After graduation, he continued studying bass clarinet in workshops and masterclass organized by the Josef Horack International Academy of Bass Clarinet, and studying with the soloist, Paolo De Gaspari. He has participated in numerous master classes and courses that are specifically dedicated to orchestral repertoire, clarinet and bass clarinet solo playing. He performs with several symphony orchestras and wind symphonies in northern Italy, and opera houses such as the Teatro Grande in Brescia and the Teatro Donizetti in Bergamo. He is presently the artistic director and conductor of the Wind Band and Youth Band of Corpo Musicale Lenese “Vincenzo Capirola”, in Leno (BS) and conductor of the Youth Band of Civico Corpo Musicale “Luigi Pezzana” in Rovato (BS).

Marta Lecchi earned her diploma in flute at the Luca Marenzio Conservatory of Music in Brescia, Italy, where she studied with Maestro Mauro Scappini. She continued her flute studies after graduation, attending several masterclasses with some of the most respected Italian flutists including Giampaolo Pretto, Marzo Zoni, Bruno Cavallo, Claudio Montafia, and Janos Balint (HU). Marta earned a degree (with honors) in primary education, with an emphasis in special needs education. From 2005 to 2012, she conducted the Calcino Youth Band, and since 2009 has also conducted the Montichiari Youth Band. Since 2010, she is the artistic director and conductor of the Elia Marini Wind Orchestra in Calcino. Additionally, she is the co-founder and co-director of The Women’s Wind Orchestra, a female-only ensemble from the Brescia and Bergamo provinces.

Marco Rampini, born in 1986, began his musical studies in 1994, taking clarinet lessons with Mariagrazia Panuccio. Marco is trained as a professional healthcare educator (2008), but also began teaching clarinet lessons at Lorenzo Manfredini Scuola di Musica in Manerbio in 2010. He began teaching chamber music and solfege at the school in 2011. He attended conducting courses with Maestro Arturo Andreoli, learning the fundamentals of conducting. He continued conducting studies in yearly courses with Maestro Denis Salvini, Arturo Andreoli, and a summer course with Maestro Lorenzo della Fonte. He also attended conducting seminars with international renowned conductors such as Ronald Johnson (USA), Felix Hauswirth (SUI), Lorenzo della Fonte (IT), and Rafael Pascual Vilaplana (ESP). Marco currently conducts the Capriano del Colle band in the province of Brescia.

Davide Sottini began his studies in the Borgosatollo Music School and municipal band, and later attended the Luca Marenzio Conservatory of Music in Brescia, graduating with a diploma in percussion and music education. Since 1995, he has been associated with several music schools in the province of Brescia, teaching percussion, ensembles, and introductory music classes. As a percussionist, he has performed with wind orchestras, symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, and choirs. He has participated in several conducting master classes offered by many of the prominent conductors of northern Italy.

The School of Music was thrilled to host these five incredibly talented and eager-to-grow conductors on campus in March, and look forward to them returning in the future.
JOIN US FOR
36th Annual SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT CONCERT

GET READY FOR A CELEBRATION AND JOIN US ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE GALLAGHER BLUEDORN.

The evening will be filled with exceptional performances by student and faculty musicians including UNI alumni flutists Rebecca Johnson and Nicole Molumby, the UNI Faculty Septet, student Patrick Cunningham (winner of the spring 2017 Performance Competition Finals), as well as the UNI Wind Ensemble, UNI Opera, Jazz Band One, and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra with combined choirs and more!

As always, the end of the concert is only the beginning of the festivities. Plan to stay for excellent hors d’oeuvres and champagne in the lobby with music provided by Bob Dunn, guitar, as well as post-show performances in Davis Hall including a PDQ Bach showcase featuring UNI faculty and student musicians.

Please join us for this exciting event and help to support student scholarships at UNI’s School of Music!
To become a special donor and receive complimentary tickets, contact the School of Music office #72 Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center by calling (319) 273-2025.
All seats for the benefit concert are reserved. The final date for adding names to the special donor section of the acknowledgement page of the benefit concert program is Friday, September 8, 2017.

Individual tickets* may be purchased in person at the Gallagher Bluedorn box office, by calling (319) 273-4TIX or (877) 549-SHOW (7469) or by visiting us online at unitix.uni.edu.

* all contributions and ticket costs for the Scholarship Benefit Concert are tax deductible less $10 for each person receiving champagne and hors d’oeuvres.

President’s Circle -- $2,500 or more (up to 40 complimentary tickets available at this level of giving)
Dean’s Circle -- $2,000 to $2,499 (up to 32 complimentary tickets)
Director’s Circle -- $1,500 to $1,999 (up to 24 complimentary tickets)
Underwriters -- $1,000 to $1,499 (up to 16 complimentary tickets)
Guarantors -- $500 to $999 (up to eight complimentary tickets)
Patrons -- $300 to $499 (up to four complimentary tickets)
Benefactors -- $150 to $299 (up to two complimentary tickets)

Thank you to the “Special Donors” from the 2016 Scholarship Benefit Concert

President’s Circle - $2,500 or more
Jennifer Rieck - Leonessa LLC

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Julia K. Bullard
R.B. Campbell
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Lisa & Michael Carlo
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Michael & Patricia Deters
Mary L. Franken
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Joel & Linda Haack

Jacqueline Halbloom & Scott Murphy
In honor of Nick Schumacher
Fred & Lorraine Hallberg
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Douglas & Connie Herndon
Noreen Hermansen
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University Book & Supply

School of Music
The UNI School of Music proudly recognizes last year’s competition winners and acknowledges the many honors and awards that our students have earned.

At our 2017 Spotlight Series Performance Competition Finals, Patrick Cunningham, marimba, was named the 2017 Presser Scholar and awarded the $4,000 Presser Foundation Award. Cunningham is a junior, music composition and theory student with a double major in percussion performance. He has been heavily involved with many ensembles inside UNI and around Cedar Falls. While at UNI, he has studied with Randy Hogancamp, Matt Andreini, Chris Merz, and Dr. Robert Washut. Cunningham also claimed the People’s Choice Award, voted on by the audience at the Competition Finals Concert.

The $2,000 Charles and Marleta Matheson Award was awarded to Dan Benson, tuba. Benson is a junior music education major from Carroll, Iowa, studying tuba with Dr. Jesse Orth at UNI. Over the course of his time at UNI, Dan has been involved with ensembles such as the UNI Wind Symphony, the UNI Symphonic Band, the New Horizons Band, UNITUBA, the “Biscotti Brass” brass quintet and the Panther Marching Band. When Dan graduates from UNI he plans to work as an elementary/secondary school band director.

Michelle Meadows, flute, was awarded the $1,000 Myron and Ruth Russell Award for her performance. She has been a member of the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony, a member of NISO, and a member of the Northern Iowa Flute Choir. In addition to playing in ensembles, Michelle is involved in the UNI Spectrum Project and has taught flute lessons through the Community School of Music for the New Horizons Band flute section. Michelle was selected to perform in the National Collegiate Flute Choir in Washington, D.C., at the National Flute Association Convention (2015) and was selected as a performer for the William Bennett Summer Master Class held in Tennessee (2016). Michelle is a student of Dr. Angeleita Floyd.

In November 2016, Mariya Akhadjanova was awarded the top honor at the UNI School of Music Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals. Akhadjanova is a native of Uzbekistan and started playing piano at age six. She received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Uzbekistan State Conservatory in Tashkent. Mariya has performed with National Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan and throughout the world as a soloist and a chamber musician. Akhadjanova is pursuing her Master of Music degree in piano performance at the University of Northern Iowa.

Hannah Howland, violin, was the second-place winner at the November event, while Azeem Ward, flute, claimed third place. The “Audience Favorite” honor was a three-way tie, with Mariya Akhadjanova, Patrick Cunningham and Huajun Zhang all sharing the award.

In addition to our own performance competitions, UNI School of Music students earned numerous other honors throughout the year.

One School of Music student earned top honors at the 10th Annual UNI Graduate Student Symposium. Azeem Ward took first place in the creative performances category for his presentation Beatbox Partita a la Carte.

Student Lydia Raim won the Eastern Iowa Brass Band’s collegiate division at the 2017 Young Artists Competition. With this win, Lydia became the first two-time winner of the EIBB’s competition. Lydia previously won the High School division in the EIBB’s inaugural competition in 2012, when she was a junior in high school.

Jennifer LeGarde, MM Piano Performance and Pedagogy and master’s student in Music History, has been awarded an Eileen Southern Travel Fund grant from the American Musicological Society. The grant will support Jennifer’s travel to the national meeting of the AMS in Rochester, New York in November 2017.
School of Music Earns High Honors

With the long list of awards and honors that School of Music students earned this year, it may come as no surprise to learn that many of our students are part of the Honors Program at UNI. The Honors Program at UNI aims to offer a more challenging, rewarding and engaging experience to UNI students through advanced coursework in liberal arts and other Honors curriculum as well as a final senior thesis/project. The School of Music is proud to congratulate our Honors Program students and those who have earned a place on the Dean’s List or as a Presidential or Provost Scholar this year.

Scholars are as follow:

**Presidential Scholars**
- Sydney Atwood
- Emily Bicknese
- Adam Denner
- Kyle Geesey

**Alissandra Henkle**
- Coren Hucke
- Collin Krukow

**Brent Mead**
- Samuel Ogilvie
- Estefania Ravasio Corrales
- Anya Shorey

**Alissa Ortega**
- Ryan Garmoe
- Taylor Hicks
- Taryn Kroymann
- Anna Larson
- Kathleen Marston
- Ryan Miller
- Joseph Morris IV

**Andrew Adamec**
- Joel Andrews
- Bethany Brooks
- Cheyanne Chapin
- Seth Chronister
- Micayla Dawson
- Nicole Dupy

**The School of Music would also like to congratulate the School of Music students who appeared on the fall 2016 and spring 2017 Dean’s List. To be included on the list, a student must have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, while taking at least 12 hours of graded work during the semester. Thank you to Brenda Hackenmiller for help with gathering information for this article.**

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**Good News**

**James E. Croft Conductor Series Endowment Fund Announced**

The School of Music has received a $42,000 endowment fund from the James and Di Croft estate. Jim Croft received his MA degree from UNI and taught in the public schools in Traer, Iowa, (3 years) and Oshkosh, Wis., (18 years), and then 30 years in higher education as director of bands at the University of South Florida (8 years) followed by Florida State University (30 years). The James E. Croft Conductor Series Endowment Fund will be used to support guest/visiting artists in the School of Music and more specifically the band program, with a primary focus on wind band conductors who will work with conducting classes and conduct the ensembles.

**School of Music Receives Sturgis Falls Honor**

The School of Music was honored to be selected as the recipient of the 2017 Cornerstone Award at the Sturgis Falls celebration. The Cornerstone Award is presented annually to community organizations that contribute to the quality of life in the Cedar Valley. Interim Director Jeffrey Funderburk accepted the honor at the launch event for the 42nd annual celebration in June.
Student Spotlight

Micayla Dawson

Micayla Dawson is a senior at UNI majoring in Instrumental Music Education. Dawson is originally from Misawa, Japan, and Maryland, but has lived in Iowa for the last 12 years. Her primary instrument is the trumpet. Outside of school, Dawson enjoys rock-climbing, reading, spending time with friends and Netflix. In high school, Dawson decided that UNI was the right fit when she competed in the Tallcorn Jazz Festival as well as the Thespian Festival on campus. She was influenced to go to UNI because “it is one of the best music schools in the state as well as having a good Teacher Education program.” She, like many other students, found the size of UNI to fit her very well. “I appreciate that though it is a small university, UNI provides all of the same opportunities that a large university would have.” During Dawson’s time at UNI, she has been actively involved in many activities and organizations that relate to her music career. Dawson was a member of the Panther Marching Band for four years and held a leadership position for two of those years. She has participated in the pep band for three years and held a leadership position for two of those years. Other organizations she has been involved with include jazz band, symphonic band, concert band, winter drumline, UNI IBA, Tau Beta Sigma, and she has also served as a Recording Assistant and Music Ambassador for the School of Music. Not only have these organizations provided networking connections, leadership, and public speaking skills, but also an opportunity to grow as a more confident future educator. One of Dawson’s most notable highlights from her time in the music department was when she “earned a grant to research the use of pop music as a supplement to the traditional recorder sequence, and will be taking that research to the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Memphis.” She also gained valuable experience from coordinating LED lights for shows and traveling abroad to London. After graduating in May, Dawson hopes to teach middle or high school band, and have the opportunity to teach overseas. Acquiring a master’s degree in the future is also a possibility for Dawson. Her advice to any prospective students coming into the School of Music is that “there are endless opportunities available, and don’t be afraid to try new things!”

Congratulations on your outstanding achievements and best of luck in your future, Micayla!

Editor’s note: thank you to Derek Holt for his help with and contribution of this article.
SPOTLIGHT SERIES 2017-2018

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band
Danny Galyen and Justin Mertz, conductors
Friday, September 29, 2017
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One & Jazz Panthers
Christopher Merz and Robert Washut, conductors
Friday, October 6, 2017
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Opera presents: Fall Opera Scenes
Mitra Sadeghpour, director
Thursday-Friday, October 12-13, 2017
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Thursday, March 1, 2018
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Choirs Concert
Amy Kotsonis and John Len Wiles, conductors
Tuesday, March 6, 2018
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One
Christopher Merz, conductor
Friday, April 6, 2018
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Symphonic Band & Concert Band
Justin Mertz, conductor
Wednesday, April 18, 2018
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra,
UNI Opera & Wind Ensemble,
with guest Michael Daugherty
Rebecca Burkhardt and Danny Galyen, conductors
Mitra Sadeghpour, opera director
Thursday, April 19, 2018
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Tickets for individual concerts will be $11 – adults, $10 – senior citizens, $9 – non-UNI students. UNI School of Music is proud to offer free admission for UNI students with a current ID, thanks to the Panther Pass program.

Tickets are available by calling (319) 273-4TIX or visiting www.unitix.uni.edu.
Tickets may also be purchased at the door. For more information, call (319) 273-2028.
Alison Altstatt, assistant professor of musicology/music history
• Offered a visiting artist presentation at University of Notre Dame (October 2016), and spotlight talk at Salisbury Cathedral in UK (August 2016).
• Published two articles in peer-reviewed journals.
• Presented six conference papers at Iowa Musicology Conference, AGFEM Conference (Germany), North American Academy of Liturgy (Washington, D.C.), National Meeting of the American Musicological Society (Calif.), Meeting of the Cantus Planus Study Group of the International Musicological Society (Ireland) and International Congress on Medieval Studies (Mich.).

Korey Barrett, associate professor of vocal coaching and collaborative piano
• Presented five recitals as guest in New Orleans, San Diego and Iowa.
• Served as Music Director and Vocal coach at his opera company in San Diego called Opera Neo. Visit operaneo.com.
• Spent spring 2017 on professional development assignment in Paris, France.

Cayla Bellamy, assistant professor of bassoon
• Appeared as guest artist in Wisconsin, Washington, Illinois and South Dakota, and was a featured performer at College Music Society Regional Conference and as presenter for the Iowa Bandmasters Association.
• Self-published an e-reference work titled “Progressive Scale and Chord Patterns” (January 2017).
• Performed in numerous local and UNI performances.

Sean Botkin, associate professor of piano
• Appeared in his second performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City.
• Performed one solo recital at UNI, as well as numerous local and regional solo and collaborative appearances including a solo appearance at the esteemed Salisbury House and Gardens in Des Moines, Iowa.
• Served as Co-Artistic Director for the 2016 Midwest International Piano Competition at UNI.

Melinda Boyd, associate professor of music history
• Collaborated with Dr. Jean McDonald and Dr. Robin Guy to present a lecture recital, “The Quest for Artistic Identity in Ingeborg von Bronsart’s Sechs Lieder des Mirza-Schaffy, Op. 8,” at UNI.
• Served as Chair of the Professional Assessment Committee, and as Chair of the Music History Division.

Ann Bradfield, assistant professor of saxophone
• Performed recitals and master classes at the University of South Dakota, Augustana University, University of Wisconsin-Platteville and the University of Northern Colorado.
• Appeared as featured performer at the North American Saxophone Alliance Regional Conference in South Dakota in March.
• Presented “Saxophone Tips and Tricks” for Band Directors at the Iowa Music Educators Association Conference in November.

Jeff Brich, instructor in applied voice
• Performed as guest artist at Grinnell College’s presentation of The Messiah.
• Appeared as featured soloist for the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival and at a spring concert at First Presbyterian Church in Waterloo.
• Served on numerous committees in the School of Music and as voice area coordinator for the 2016 Vocal Arts Festival.

Julia Bullard, associate director of graduate studies and associate professor of viola and theory
• With Trio 826, appeared as the 2016-17 Artists-in-Residence at the Hearst Center for the Arts in Cedar Falls.
• Performed with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra and violinist Ross Monroe Winter on Mozart’s “Sinfonia Concertante.”
• Presented a faculty/guest artist recital with Ross Winter, Sean Botkin and guest cellist Michael Mermagen (Aspen String Trio).

Rebecca Burkhardt, professor of music and conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
• Appeared as conductor for seven UNI performances including extensive work for Into the Woods and UNI Opera’s Senor Deluso.
• Appeared as guest conductor and clinician/lecturer at four events in Iowa and one in Texas, and as clinician for two UNI events.
• Continued revision and composition, including a fully staged production of her original musical JUST ANN.

Jonathan Chenoweth, associate professor of cello
• Published one professional review, and was an invited presenter at a conference in Lexington, Va.
• Spent spring 2017 on professional development assignment, researching and continuing writing on his work: Leonard Bernstein: “Two Answers to Everything.”
• Attended several course development workshops at UNI.

Kevin Droo, associate professor of music education
• Directed and coordinated the Spectrum Project at UNI, including a spring concert. See page 12 for more on the Spectrum Project.
• Developed the UNI Ukulele Club, including a grant written to purchase new instruments to be used in School of Music courses and the club.
• Continued extensive ongoing research on development of music teacher empathy scale, effect of score on conductor behavior, and 1-to-1 device singing assessment.
**Angeleita Floyd**, professor of flute
- Appeared as guest artist in Sweden, and directed the Iowa Flute Festival Flute Choir Reading Session.
- Coordinated UNI Flute Day, Northern Festival of Bands and All State workshops at UNI, Passion Flute VIII in Boise, Idaho, and more.
- Conducted and coached Northern Iowa Flute Choir, and celebrated numerous student and former student achievements.

**Ryan Frost**, instructor of percussion
- Presented one solo faculty recital at UNI, and appeared as performer/collaborator in eleven more.
- Inducted into the Don Bosco High School Hall of Fame, May 2017.
- Appeared as collaborative artist at the Iowa Flute Festival, and presented four master classes throughout Iowa.

**Danny Galyen**, associate professor of music education and director of bands,
- Led the Panther Marching Band on a tour to Rome, Italy, for an international performance in the city’s New Year’s Day parade.
- Appeared as conductor and served as drill designer for numerous Symphonic Band concerts and Panther Marching Band performances.
- Invited to appear as clinician with the Brevard Concert Band and at the Cedar Valley Middle School Band Festival.

**Randy Grabowski**, professor of trumpet
- Presented two faculty recitals at UNI.
- Appeared as principal trumpet in the wcfsymphony.
- Performed in concerts with the Northern Brass Quintet (faculty brass chamber ensemble), with a faculty chamber septet, and a number of jazz/commercial gigs.

**Robin Guy**, professor of piano
- Spent her 44th summer working at Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan, where she taught high school piano classes in Preparing Collaborative Performance.
- Performed two 21st century trios in collaboration with flute, cello, and composition faculty from Oberlin College, Missouri State University, Texas Tech University and Akron University.
- Adjudicated master classes and judged piano auditions for the Iowa Music Teachers Association in Ames and Mason City.

**Randall Harlow**, assistant professor of organ and music theory
- Presented his research on the science of music performance at a conference at Oxford University.
- Released a CD on the Pro Organo label featuring Liszt’s Transcendental Etudes transcribed for organ, pushing the limits of virtuoso organ technique.

**John Hines**, professor of voice
- Performed three collaborative guest recitals in Louisiana, one guest recital in New Mexico, one guest recital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and two UNI recitals.
- Appeared as featured soloist on two performances – one in Peoria, Ill, the other in Waterloo, Iowa.
- Received School of Music and UNI support for promotion to rank of professor.

**Amy Kotsonis**, assistant professor of choral ensembles and music education
- Presented “Appalachian Folksongs: High—Lonesome Mountain Voice” at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association.
- Served as Artistic Director and conductor of the Metropolitan Chorale.
- Conducted the UNI Women’s Chorus and UNI Singers in several concerts, and hosted the “Women Sing!” Festival at UNI in April 2017.

**Amanda McCandless**, associate professor of clarinet
- Performed with the Kairos Trio in residence at Washington State University, and at conventions in New Mexico and Nebraska.
- Presented a solo performance at the International Clarinet Association’s ClarinetFest in Lawrence, Kan.
- Organized and hosted UNI Clarinet Choir Day and co-organized UNI Reed Day 2017.

**Jean McDonald**, professor of voice
- Performed on a lecture-recital with Dr. Melinda Boyd and Dr. Robin Guy at UNI in April.
- Appeared as featured soloist at the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival.
- Served as chair of the UNI voice division, and as member of two ongoing School of Music committees.

**Christopher Merz**, professor of jazz
- Directed UNI Jazz Band One on their spring tour to Cuba. For more on the tour, see page 3.
- Performed numerous times with the Hands of Time Quartet, Christopher’s Very Happy. Band, and more, including a guest appearance in Amherst, Mass., and a performance as featured soloist in Des Moines, Iowa.
- Released the Jazz Band One CD “Where the Paths Meet” (independent release).

**Jesse Orth**, instructor of tuba and euphonium
- Presented guest recitals and master classes in Ohio, Wisconsin and the Quad Cities.
- Presented a panel for Official Standard Literature List and directed UNITUBA at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference in May 2016.
- Directed the Iowa All-Stars ensemble, directed UNITUBA, presented a solo recital and appeared as featured soloist with ISU Orchestra, all at the Great Plains Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference (GPRTEC) (March 2017).

**Katherine Osborne**, instructor of voice
- Performed in several appearances at the Härnösands Summer Opera Festival in Sweden.
Served as editor for the Inside View Press publication “Great Teachers on Great Singing.”

Performed in four School of Music concerts including the Scholarship Benefit Concert and in several regional and national events.

**Alexander Pershounin**, instructor of string bass
- Conducted Jazz Band II in four concerts throughout spring 2017.
- Performed throughout Cuba with Jazz Band One on their spring tour.
- Adjudicated the Iowa Jazz Championships and performed a guest recital at Iowa State University in April.

**Heather Peyton**, assistant professor of oboe and music theory
- Appeared as visiting artist at Washington State University, presenting a recital, master class and instrument repair session.
- Continued current research on writing an oboe workbook for group instruction, a reed-making textbook and a series of oboe fingering flashcards.

**Mitra Sadeghpour**, associate professor of opera
- Co-presented with Dr. Tanya Kruse (UW-Milwaukee) at the Musical Theatre Educators Alliance International Conference in Oslo, Norway.
- Led numerous performances as UNI Opera Director, including fall Spotlight Series concert, and spring’s “Death by Ariad” concert.
- Appeared at the National Opera Association Conference presenting her work “Using the Reggio Emilia Approach to Update Opera Outreach Pedagogy for the 21st Century”.

**Jonathan Schwabe**, professor of composition/theory
- Premiered three new original compositions in UNI performances.
- Served the School of Music on four ongoing committees, and as member on a master of music composition recital committee.
- Coordinated two Student Composer Concerts at UNI.

**Yu-Ting (Tina) Su**, associate professor of horn
- Performed in 16 appearances with regional symphonies and orchestras, as well as in solo and collaborative recitals at UNI and throughout Iowa.
- Appeared in several national and international performances in Taiwan, California and Colorado.
- Coordinated and hosted UNI Horn Choir Day.

**Michelle Swanson**, instructor of music education
- Awarded the 2016-17 MidWestOne UNiQue Academic Advising Award for the University of Northern Iowa, April 2017.
- Accepted two new service assignments: Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Council (Faculty representative) and UNI Advising Network (Co-Chair).
- Researched with undergraduate student (Micayla Dawson) and graduate student (Laura Grotte) on Recorder Re-Arrangements for the Music Classroom. Presented at NCUR National Conference, with article pending publication.

**Robert Washut**, professor of jazz studies
- Performed twenty-five jazz piano performances, including guest soloist/composer with UNI Jazz Band One in Havana, Cuba.
- Composed four commissioned compositions and arrangements, including pieces for Anthony Williams, Oconomowoc High School (WI) jazz band, and the University of Iowa Latin Jazz Ensemble.
- Awarded professional development assignment awarded for spring 2017 to compose original music for a 12-piece jazz ensemble. A recording session of the new music is scheduled for September in Colorado.

**Anthony Williams**, assistant professor of trombone
- Appeared as guest soloist with Jazz Band One on their tour to Cuba.
- Wrote three reviews for *International Trombone Journal* (one published in October 2016, two more to be published this year).
- Appeared as guest performer and presenter at the College Music Society Pacific Northwest Conference, the North Dakota State Jazz Festival, and at Molloy College in New York, N.Y.

**Ross Winter**, assistant professor of violin
- Performed double violin concerto with Milwaukee Symphony Concertmaster, Frank Almond, and in eight performances at the Wintergreen Festival.
- Appeared as concertmaster or associate concertmaster in eight performances with the Quad City Symphony.
- Created, organized and hosted the first-ever Midwest Violin Caucus at UNI.

**Lynn Worcester**, instructor of piano performance and pedagogy
- Published article in *Piano Pedagogy Forum* (April 2017), published article in the MTNA e-journal (November 2016), and article accepted for publication in *Clavier Companion*.
- Presented Conference presentations at the Georgia Music Teachers Association State Conference (November 2016), the College Music Society’s Great Plains Regional Conference (March 2017), and the Iowa Music Teachers Association state conference (June 2017).
Julia Bullard
Professor of Viola and Music Theory, Associate Director of Graduate Studies

Julia Bullard teaches viola, string pedagogy, and string methods and techniques at the University of Northern Iowa. Bullard is the associate director for graduate studies in the School of Music. From 2003-2010, Bullard also served as director of the UNI Suzuki School. She is an active solo, chamber and orchestral performer both in the United States and abroad. Her many solo and chamber engagements include performances in France, Russia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, New York and Iowa. She has also presented master classes at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, Brazil; Herzen Pedagogical Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia; the University of Costa Rica in San José, Costa Rica; Facultad de Musica, Universidad Juan N. Corpas in Bogota, Colombia; the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana; Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa; and the State University of New York at Fredonia. A committed pedagogue, Dr. Bullard has served on the board of the Iowa Viola Society and as president of the Iowa String Teachers’ Association. In 2011-2012, ISTA named her Studio Teacher of the Year. She is also a frequent clinician and adjudicator at various string festivals and competitions in Iowa and throughout the Midwest.

Bullard received the D.M.A. degree from the University of Georgia, where she was the director of the Pre-College String Program. She received her M.M. (string pedagogy and music history) and B.M. (performance) degrees from Temple University in Philadelphia, Penn., and her principal teachers have included Sidney Curtiss, Emanuel Vardi, Joseph dePasquale, Mark Cedel, and Levon Ambartsumian. She has also coached with Robert Mann (formerly of the Juilliard String Quartet), Jeffrey Solow (Amadeus Trio), Roger Chase (Nash Ensemble), and Evelina Chao (St. Paul Chamber Orchestra).

Prior to joining the UNI faculty, Bullard taught at the University of Georgia’s Pre-College Program; Toccoa Falls College (Ga.); Clarke Middle School (Ga.); Settlement Music School (Pa.); Temple University’s Music Preparatory Division; and the Brenau (Ga.) Suzuki School. She has performed with various orchestras, including the Greenville (S.C.), Trenton (N.J.), South Jersey, Macon (Ga.), Schenectady (N.Y.), and Utica (N.Y.) symphonies, as well as at several summer festivals including the Madeline Island Music Camp, Luzerne Music Center, Camp Encore-Coda, Ash Lawn-Highland Opera Festival, and the Virginia Waterfront International Arts Festival.
New Hires and Retirements in the School of Music

This year the School of Music celebrated the influential careers of two faculty members, Alan Schmitz and Ronald Johnson, as they celebrated their retirement.

Alan Schmitz served as professor of theory and composition and associate director of the School of Music (Undergraduate Programs) for many years. An active composer, Alan’s music is widely performed in the United States and has also been presented in western Europe, Romania and Russia. He has received awards, commissions and grants for composition from several agencies including the Alaska Council of the Arts, the Iowa Arts Council, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls (Iowa) Symphony Orchestra, the University of Northern Iowa and the Lila Wallace/Readers Digest Foundation. Schmitz has also published articles on composing for guitar. Alan recently released his third album “ACE Composers” a collaborative work with two of his sons, Christopher and Eric. His impact on hundreds of music students and their families will continue to be felt for years to come.

Another legendary School of Music professor and conductor announced his official retirement in 2016, but continued to teach and conduct throughout 2016-17.

Ronald Johnson has led the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony and taught conducting and music history for more than 30 years at UNI. During this time, Ron led the Wind Symphony on international tours of Hungary and Italy, and launched the Northern Iowa Band Invitational and Iowa Conductors Symposium. Though officially retired in 2016, Johnson continued to lead the Wind Symphony during the 2016-17 academic year, before leaving UNI to fully enjoy all aspects of retirement.

While we say goodbye to these remarkable pillars of the music program, we are excited to welcome new faculty and staff who begin their UNI journey this year.

Dr. Nancy Hill Cobb joins the School of Music faculty as professor of music in fall 2017. Nancy received her D.M.A in composition at the University of Oklahoma, M.M. in composition at Michigan State University, and a Bachelor of Music (theory and composition) from Oklahoma Baptist University. She completed post-doctoral study in choral music at the Eastman School of Music. She previously taught at Mercer University, Oklahoma Baptist University and Dallas Baptist University. Nancy served as the founding director of the School of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University and director of the School of Music at Indiana State University before being appointed as associate provost and professor at UNI. Dr. Cobb’s compositions have been performed worldwide and she is an accomplished conductor at the national level.

Dr. Vakhtang Kodanashvili has accepted our offer to join the piano faculty on a two-year term appointment, beginning fall 2017. Dr. Kodanashvili completed his doctorate at Michigan State University and holds master’s and bachelor degrees from Indiana University South Bend. Since 2013, Dr. Kodanashvili has been teaching at DePaul University and has served as principal piano with the South Bend Symphony Orchestra since 2001. He has been a prizewinner at numerous competitions including the CCC Toronto International Piano Competition, the New Orleans International Piano Competition and the International Piano Competition “Spanish Composers” in Madrid, Spain.

Mr. Justin Mertz has accepted our associate director of bands position and will direct the UNI Panther Marching and Concert bands in fall 2017. Mr. Mertz previously served as assistant director, university bands; and director, athletic bands at Syracuse University. He served as a faculty member at Syracuse since 2005. While at Syracuse, Mertz taught conducting, instrumental techniques and band courses, and also led performances at National Football League games (including Super Bowl XLVIII) and in the Carrier Dome for the SU Marching Band. Justin has held public school teaching positions in Houston, Texas, and Westmoreland, N.Y. He also served as the co-conductor of the Honors Youth Wind Ensembles for Onondaga and Oswego counties in New York, and served as director of band activities for the Eastern U.S. Music Camp in Hamilton, N.Y., since 2010. Professor Mertz is completing his D.M.A from Boston University and has both M.M. and B.M. degrees from Syracuse University.

Gayl Pakala accepted a secretary II position in the School of Music and began work in fall 2016. After earning a degree in horticulture, she worked for Jordan’s Nursery and the City of Cedar Falls, and went on to homeschool and nurture four Suzuki kids. Gayl has also enjoyed baking bread and scones for the Cedar Falls Farmer’s market. She currently lives on an acreage near Dike with her husband, Lynn.

Dr. Ross Monroe Winter has accepted a full-time position, moving from visiting violin instructor to assistant professor of violin in fall 2017. Dr. Winter recently completed his D.M.A at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He also earned an M.M. from the State University of New York Purchase Conservatory and a B.M. from the New England Conservatory of Music. Most recently, Ross served as adjunct professor of violin at George Mason University and instructor of violin and viola at University of Mary Washington. He has performed with the IRIS Orchestra in Tennessee and is a founding member of the Atlantic Chamber Ensemble. Ross has served as chair of Violin Studies and director for admissions and artistic planning at the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival and Academy.

The School of Music wishes to congratulate Alan and Ron on their retirements, and to welcome our new faculty and staff.
The School of Music is always excited to hear from our exceptional retired professors. We continue to see the lasting effect of their years of dedication and service to our students, and are happy to bring you news on their current projects and travels.

David Buch – David wrote to us detailing another busy year of musical activity. He presented 11 pre-opera talks for Mozart’s The Magic Flute at the Lyric Opera of Chicago in December 2016 and January 2017, hosted and lectured the nine-session series “Opera Insider” at the Lyric Opera of Chicago during the 2016–2017 season, delivered the opening remarks and wrote the program notes for the concert “An Afternoon of Chamber Music,” presented by the Lyric Opera of Chicago at St. James Cathedral in Chicago and celebrated numerous new publications this year. David noted, “I would like to invite all my UNI colleagues to visit when in Chicago.”

Bruce Chidester – Bruce checked in with a warm update on his busy year, noting “This year has been more eventful than past years with everything from a heart attack to relocating back to the Denton, Texas, area. While playing the ‘All Hands On Deck’ show in Branson this past year, I had a heart attack without knowing it. It was only after notifying my family physician that I had lost half of my vital capacity of air did we finally discover that I had an attack. After a few months of cardiac therapy and the implant of two stents, I continue to improve and feel better than I had in many years. Our second event was that Karen and I have returned to the Denton, Texas area where we lived while I was working on an advanced degree. Our draw to this area was because of our desire to be closer to our children and grand kids. Karen is fully retired now and my web sites (trumpetensemblemusic.com, thetrumpetblog.com and trumpetlessonsonline.com) take up most of my time these days. We have moved into a 55+ community known as Robson Ranch, just ten minutes south of Denton, which gives us the opportunity to have easy access to all that the University of North Texas has to offer. Limited retirement has been wonderful for us, and we wish all of our friends, faculty and students the very best.”

Randy Hogancamp – recently retired and seemingly loving it, Randy wrote to say, “Greetings to the School of Music faculty, staff, students and alumni! I am just finishing my first year of retirement from the SoM and enjoying every minute! While my ‘retirement’ schedule is still evolving, most of my time has been spent working at home, both inside and outside. Highlights of my week include spending one day a week with our granddaughter, Sadie Mae, serving as the unofficial ‘librarian’ for Jane’s sixth-grade classroom (cataloging over 2,200 new books), reading and exercising. We still spend about every other weekend at our Chicago condo, as well as holidays and school breaks. This summer, I plan to continue writing new arrangements for marimba ensemble as well as swimming and biking along the lakefront. I have also enjoyed attending School of Music concerts, in particular watching the growth of my former students under the new percussion faculty Dr. Ryan Frost and Prof. Matt Andreini!”

Marilou Kratzenstein – Marilou said hello and updated us with the following: “In December 2016, I finally had to retire from organ playing due to arthritis in my fingers. My last church position had been particularly rewarding because the choir director was the legendary Bill Hatcher, a former director of choral activities at the University of Iowa. What a great team we were! While I miss making music, I now have more time for travel with my husband, Frank De Haan. Summer plans include a Road Scholar trip to Eastern Canada, a three-month stay at our cottage in Michigan, plus attendance at an organ conference at the University of Notre Dame. Lucky for me, my husband is a devoted fan of organ music!”

Marleta Matheson – While Marleta did not share an update this year, the School of Music is proud to celebrate her. Matheson recently received the UNI 2016 Faculty and Staff Distinguished Award. The award recognizes an individual employed by or retired from the University of Northern Iowa for philanthropic support, dedicated long-term service and creative leadership to the university. Congratulations, Marleta!

Bill Shepherd – though officially retired, Bill wrote to update us on how he is keeping busy and the current climate in our public schools: “I have spent the last academic year observing our music education student teachers. Actually, I’ve been observing student teachers since my friend and colleague, Bob Dean, passed away. These observations also allow me to observe what is happening in Iowa’s public schools and to observe challenges that our public school teachers are facing. As a representative of UNI, when I check in, I am always welcomed by secretaries, teachers and administrators. The comment I hear most often from the cooperating teacher is, ‘UNI students are the best prepared for their student teacher placement.’ These comments are a direct result, I believe, of the fantastic faculty in the UNI School of Music. Public school music teachers are facing ever more constraints finding time to teach their students. Through dedication and perseverance, each teacher finds ways to meet the needs of their students, most of the time. It is a pleasure and honor to represent UNI as I observe our excellent student teachers.”
The School of Music always loves to hear from our graduates. Success stories, new projects and career or performance highlights are all welcome and celebrated. Please take a moment to check out what your former classmates and fellow alumni have been up to recently!

1940s

'48 Rosie Irene (Maiden) Bolstad, BA, Bremerton, Wash., is continuing work on her upcoming release “Remembering Bernie” in honor of her late husband, as well as several other recording projects.

'49 Elinor (Engelhorn) Meyer, BA, Lake Hills, Texas, retired from teaching high school choral music, teaching piano and 40 years of directing Lutheran church choirs. She is now enjoying retirement in southern Texas and would love to hear from old college friends when they visit San Antonio.

1960s

'68 Edward McMahon, BA, Clinton, Iowa, retired in 2014 after 42 years as band director at Central DeWitt High School and St. Joseph K-8 school. He also retired in 2016 from the Clinton Symphony Orchestra after 29 years.

'69 John Steffa, BA, MM '78, Mars Hill, N.C., presented a recital of new, original chamber music on Sept. 30, 2016, for the students of the department of music at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. A second recital was hosted at the Strathmore Mansion in Bethesda, Md. The program included music for violin, viola, flute, oboe, trumpet, piano and electronics. Additional recitals are being planned for Kentucky and Florida.

1980s

'87 Lisa (Pfiffner) Eaton, BM, Oregon, Ill., continues to be busy with teaching and leadership positions in the state. She currently serves as district chairperson for the Illinois Grad School Association and state wind and percussion chair for the Illinois Music Education Association. In March 2016, she received the Outstanding Music Educator of the Year award by the Rockford Symphony Orchestra.

'89 Susan Rider, BM, Lorton, Va., performed as trumpeter/cornetist at the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant with The President's Own United States Marine Band at the January inauguration of the President of the United States.

1990s

'91 Ann Osborne, BM, Traer, Iowa, started a new position as orchestra director for Cedar Falls Community Schools in August 2016. She’s happy to be back in the area and able to frequently see her daughter, who is a UNI student.

'95 Myron Peterson, BM, Windsor Heights, Iowa, serves as director of Urbandale Bands at Urbandale High School. Peterson recently received the prestigious University of Northern Iowa School of Music Distinguished Alumnus Award, acknowledging more than 22 years of involvement in teaching, leading and facilitating learning.

2000s

'00 Emily Neuendorf, BA, Waverly, Iowa, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier for 2016. She is currently the foundation director for the Waverly Health Center.

'03 Jill Brackett, BM, teaches 4-8th grade band, choir and general music in Sembach, Germany. Prior to that, Jill taught for seven years in Yokosuka, Japan.

'04 Benjamin Klemme, BM, Davenport, Iowa, was named music director by the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association effective July 1, 2017. More than 300 students in grades 1-12 from across Vermont and neighboring states participate in the VYOAs three orchestras, two choruses, beginning string ensemble, community engagement programs and summer camps, making the organization its region’s premier youth orchestra and chorus program. Klemme currently holds conducting positions at the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies and Augsburg College.

'08 Dan Black, BM, Red Oak, Iowa, is a member of the Iowa Fine Arts Standards Adoption Team, which was convened by the Iowa Department of Education.

'09 Renée Rapier, BM, MM ’11, Walnut Creek, Calif., celebrated continued success as a professional musician, receiving rave reviews for her performance as Rosina in “The Barber of Seville” at Opera San Jose. The Mercury News noted, “at the end of the day, it is Rapier that people should listen to. The mezzo has appeared with the San Francisco and Los Angeles opera companies, but as one knowledgeable audience member remarked, ‘she could sing this role on any stage in the world.’”
Thank you to all who e-mailed or wrote to Alumni News. If you wish to contribute to the next issue, please complete and return the form in the center of this magazine. We look forward to hearing from you!

2010s

‘11 Aaron Hynds, BA, Bowling Green, Ohio, is the sound production coordinator at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

‘12 Will Lopes, MM, St. Paul, Minn., received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Iowa Central Community College Hall of Fame at a ceremony in October 2016. Lopes currently serves on the faculty at University of Northwestern in St. Paul and is an active performer, composer and arranger.

‘12 Spencer Walrath, BA, Washington, D.C., does strategic communications for the energy industry and enjoys spending time in the D.C. area with his wife, EmilyAnn (a fellow Panther).

‘13 Sarah Draffen, BM, MM ‘15, Chicago, Ill., attended the Chicago Summer Opera program in 2015 and 2016. She also recently relocated to Chicago to pursue vocal opportunities.

‘13 Ellie Henson, BM, San Antonio, Texas, has taught in Iowa and Colorado. She is now the head band director at Highlands High School in San Antonio and a trombonist in the San Antonio Brass Band.

‘13 Stephanie Opsal, BM, Farmington, N.M., recently completed her MM degree at the University of New Mexico. She currently serves as assistant director of bands at Piedra Vista High School and teaches at Heights Middle School, as well.

‘14 Stacia Fortune, BA, MM ’16, recently won the Beethoven and Before Concerto and Aria Competition in Kansas City for the Classical Revolution Kansas City Ensemble.

‘14 Jon Snell, BA, New York City, N.Y., completed a master’s degree in jazz performance at Manhattan School of Music in May 2017. Snell was also the sole recipient of the school’s William H. Borden Award for Outstanding Achievement in Jazz.

‘14 Rhys Talbot, BM, was selected as a finalist for the Houston Grand Opera Studio 2017 Concert of Arias.

‘15 Benjamin Owen, BM, Cedar Falls, Iowa, accepted the position of director of music at First Congregational UCC in Waterloo.

‘16 Michael Gookin, BM, West Des Moines, Iowa, appeared as guest conductor of the Iowa Youth Chorus in Des Moines.

Marriages


‘40 Eleanor (Bowie) Sanders, B.A., died 10/24/16.

‘42 Dale Cosand, B.A., died 10/6/16.

‘50 Ramon Kuhns, B.A., died 2/23/17.


‘52 Richard Geuder, B.A., died 12/20/16.

‘53 Randall Stone, B.A., died 10/12/16.


‘76 George Curtis, M.A., died 10/6/16.

‘75 Janice (Kuhn) Stern, B.A., died 10/13/16.

‘78 Lester Thostenson, B.M., died 1/24/17.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Bonnie Farland and Amy Mohr for assistance in gathering information for this and the entire Alumni News article.
At the April 24 Wind Symphony concert, the School of Music announced an endowment pledge of $30,000 from Jenifer Rieck, UNI School of Music alumna, for the Leonessa Instrumentation Program Endowment. This fund will enhance scholarships for needed wind instruments for bands and orchestra. The endowment was gifted in honor of the career of Dr. Ronald Johnson, and Jenifer’s wish was to challenge her fellow alumni to step up and contribute to the fund to help to continue to build on the legacy of great music and growth at UNI.

Jenifer Rieck graduated from UNI with a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1989. She was an oboist for the wind symphony, orchestra and theatre productions. Jenifer has performed with several Iowa orchestras, as well as Mankato Symphony and Mankato Faculty Winds in Minnesota. She also was the first “tuba girl” for UNI panther marching band. Her parents met as undergraduates in the Commons Ballroom at a dance. Her father, Don, was traditionally “thrown into Prexy’s Pond” by his friends as celebration when he proposed to her mother, Jeanne. They later taught at the university and Jenifer was born in Cedar Falls. Jenifer considers her hometown to be Ames, where she graduated from Ames High School in 1985. Jenifer was recruited by Dr. Myron Welch in 1993 to be a conducting graduate assistant at The University of Iowa, and graduated with a Master of Arts in instrumental conducting in 1995. She taught for 20 years.

Mostly a high school director in Iowa and Minnesota, Jenifer’s bands and drumlines won competitive awards during their tours and bowl game travels. Her jazz bands opened for traveling artists at the Fairmont Opera House when she lived in Minnesota. Her last tenure was at Ames as a fifth- and sixth-grade instructor. Her sixth-grade band was selected to perform at Iowa Band Master’s Convention in 2007.

When she stepped off the podium, Jenifer decided it was time to explore a new career direction. She started working with Thrivent Financial in 2008 as a Financial Representative. She now owns her office in Story City. Currently, she is building a green, 5000-square-foot office complex next to her office and has plans to complete it in summer 2017, fully equipped with solar-generated electric. Her renters are all green companies and she has been developing a community-based support system for those businesses under her company, Leonessa LLC. After surviving a car accident in 2008, Jenifer’s goal has been to pay it forward.

“I always liked the movie Cinderella, but I wanted to be the fairy godmother and grant wishes,” Jenifer said. Working towards fulfilling that life goal, she started the Leonessa LLC Endowment for Wind Instruments this year in honor of Dr. Ronald Johnson’s service to UNI. Her favorite quote has been “plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” “UNI School of Music is a terrific place to ‘grow’ that sentiment,” Jenifer notes. Her children, Jillian and Josilyn, plan to attend UNI as the third generation of the family.

Editor’s note: thank you to Jenifer Rieck for her contribution to this article, and for her immensely generous gift and inspiration to the School of Music.
School of Music

SNAP SHOTS

The Varsity Men’s Glee Club performing during Family Weekend

Alumna Reneé Rapier with opera legend Placido Domingo

School of Music string studio students performing at the state capitol for UNI Day

ALUMNI, SAVE THE DATE!

Horn Choir 35-Year Alumni Reunion
November 3-5, 2017
Contact Yu-Ting.Su@uni.edu

Women’s Chorus 130th Anniversary Reunion
Fall 2018
Contact Amy.Kotsonis@uni.edu