INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

» Panther Marching Band performs in London
» UNI Opera presents “Merry Wives of Windsor”
» Concert Chorale Tours Estonia
In this issue...

Concert Chorale Tour to Estonia .......................................................5

Panther Marching Band in London ................................................... 3

UNI Opera’s “Merry Wives of Windsor” .............................................. 6

Also...

From the Director ................................................................. 2
Autism and Arts Symposium ........................................................ 4
Hearst Visiting Artist Series ....................................................... 7
Hall of Fame and Honorary Doctorate ........................................... 9
Scholarship Benefit Concert ......................................................... 11
Community Outreach ................................................................. 12
Jazz Division News ................................................................. 13
Student Awards and Honors ....................................................... 14
Alumni Spotlight ................................................................. 16
Donor Spotlight ................................................................. 17
Guest Artists 2014-15 .............................................................. 18
Faculty News and Activities ....................................................... 21
Faculty Spotlight ................................................................. 24
Alumni News and Updates ....................................................... 25
Emeritus Faculty News .............................................................. 29
Dear friends,

As I begin my 25th year of teaching and administrative work at the University of Northern, my admiration and appreciation for our outstanding faculty members and students continues to grow. The School of Music is very much alive with outstanding music resonating from the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center and Russell Hall to international performance venues located around the globe. We continue to attract high quality students to enroll at UNI. Our long-standing veteran professional musicians, conductors and researchers have built leading-edge studios, classrooms and ensembles of the highest caliber. Our new hires are some of the best educators in the country who challenge our students to be motivated and to excel.

UNI is on the cutting edge of music education teaching, research and performance. Inside this newsletter you will read about our new Spectrum Project that meets the needs of children with autism, while offering leadership and teaching opportunities for our future teachers. Last year’s successful performance tours of Estonia and London gave students important learning experiences while traveling and performing abroad.

This year our students will perform in Costa Rica, Iceland, Norway, Ireland and Italy. Our international presence is a testament to the stature of the School of Music as the destination for Iowa’s students and those who matriculate here from around the nation and globe. Our guest artist program continues to bring expert professionals to UNI who work directly with our students to enhance their education.

Prospective students and parents often ask me questions regarding the career choices of our graduates after receiving their degrees. A recent compilation of our alumni data found graduates who chose careers in the following fields:

- **528** Teaching (UNI has the largest number of music educators teaching in Iowa’s Schools)
- **452** Corporate or business employees
- **284** Music-related business employees
- **125** University Professors
- **80** Private Studio Teachers
- **66** Graduate school students or employees at universities

These numbers are impressive because they showcase the success of our graduates in the careers of their choice. A music degree with a strong UNI liberal arts educational background, no matter the degree specialization achieved, allows for a diverse workforce. Inside, you will read about one of our successful graduates, Gayle Johns Rose, who recently received an honorary degree at UNI, which is the highest honor bestowed by the university.

We are proud of our continuing leadership role as the “music education” school in the state of Iowa and the United States. Our school’s quest to be a “national model of excellence” in the heartland of America is alive and thriving. Please join us for a visit or return trip to campus.

Sincerely,

John Vallentine  
Director & Professor

School of Music
The UNI Panther Marching Band spent fall 2014 preparing for their winter break tour to London, England. Conductor and band director Danny Galyen formally accepted the invitation to perform at the London New Year’s Day Parade last March after appearing on stage in the Great Hall at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center along with the Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster Councillor Duncan Sandys and Robert C. Bone, Executive Director of the London Parade Festival.

Supported by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and boasting a list of active patrons and supporters including the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, The Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster, the band’s performance in the London New Year’s Day Parade was the primary focus of the tour. In addition to their internationally televised performance at the parade, the students of the marching band filled their eight-day tour with a wide variety of activities including day trips and tours to the Tower of London, Windsor Castle, Stonehenge, Hampton Court and London’s historic West End.

Senior communication major and drum major in the marching band, Sierra Ackman shared her favorite aspect of the tour. “The best memory I have from London was the day of the New Year’s Day parade. Typically that’s the least favorite part of a marching band trip and everyone enjoys the free days, however, this was one of the most unifying experiences I’ve ever had the privilege of participating in. The energy that the members of the band had before, during, and after performing on the streets of London is something I’ll never forget. Performing in London and walking in the heart of so much history and culture really offered us something that isn’t available in the U.S.”

Sarah Baker, a junior from Ames majoring in saxophone performance, loved the
sightseeing and adventure. Her favorite aspects of the trip? “Walking around London, the Harry Potter tour, riding the Underground, riding a double decker bus, marching in the parade and watching the fireworks for New Year’s by the London Bridge!”

Every participant in the tour to London returned home with stories and memories to last a lifetime.

The University of Northern Iowa Panther Marching Band is the largest student organization on campus, and is currently the largest band in university history with over 300 members, after experiencing seven straight years of growth in enrollment.

For more information on the Panther Marching Band, visit www.uni.edu/music/marchingband.

Editor’s note: thank you to Danny Galyen, Sierra Ackman and Sarah Baker for their contributions to and assistance with this article.

Spectrum Project hosts first-ever Arts and Autism Symposium at UNI

The University of Northern Iowa School of Music and Spectrum Project hosted the first-ever Autism and Arts Symposium April 24-25, in Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall. The symposium, which hosted over 150 participants from around the United States, was a two-day conference that featured research, practice and showcases in the arts and autism.

The purpose of the symposium was to bring together researchers, practitioners, teachers, therapists and parents who specialize in arts education for children with autism, with the purpose of sharing ideas and learning more about the benefits of the arts for children with autism.

Three keynote speakers were featured, including Ryan Hourigan, director of the Ball State Prism Project; Beverly Gerber, co-editor of “Understanding Students with Autism through Art” and “Reaching and Teaching Students with Special Needs through Art”; and Jacqueline Russell, founder and artistic director of Chicago Children’s Theatre and the Red Kite Project.

Attendees were able to choose between sessions about music, art or drama and move from different exhibits and speakers throughout the day in Russell Hall, Kamerick Art Building and Schindler Education Center.

“At UNI, we’re wanting to bring more awareness to autism and how the arts benefit those on the autism spectrum,” said Kevin Droe, Associate Professor of Music Education in the UNI School of Music, and coordinator of the Spectrum Project. “This symposium is the first of its kind to bring together so many fantastic professionals who are passionate about autism and the various areas related to arts education.”

The University of Northern Iowa

CONCERT CHORALE

The UNI Concert Chorale embarked on an international tour over the winter break, traveling for the first time to Estonia. Over the course of six days the 36 members of Concert Chorale performed three concerts in Tallinn and one concert in Tartu to standing-room-only, enthusiastic audiences. Performance locations included the University of Tartu as well as Kaarli Church, White Hall and Kadriog Palace in Tallinn.

In addition to their performances, the students of Concert Chorale were also submerged in Estonian culture through exploration of restaurants and pubs, participating in guided sight-seeing tours and ringing in the New Year with fireworks in Pärnu.

The trip was hugely impactful and memorable for Concert Chorale’s conductor and tour leader John Len Wiles. “I feel confident saying that Concert Chorale’s tour to Estonia was monumental for our students,” Wiles said. “In particular, I believe our students reached a new understanding regarding the concept of a community that supports the arts as well as the tangible, visceral power of music.”

Wiles continued, “in each of our concerts we sang Mu isaama on minu arm as an encore. Upon Concert Chorale singing the first three notes, the audience would gasp, stand up and sing along, or hold hands, or simply listen. The university community would have been so proud of our students as they sang and wept, watching grown men and women in the audience do likewise. It was unforgettable.”

UNI choirs will continue to travel and explore internationally in 2015-16. The UNI Women’s Chorus will travel to Ireland during spring break 2016, while the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club will launch a tour to Iceland and Norway in May 2016.

Editor’s note: Thank you to John Len Wiles for his contributions to this article.
In February, UNI opera presented three performances of “The Merry Wives of Windsor.” The production featured the UNI Opera Ensemble under the direction of Mitra Sadeghpour, director, and Korey Barrett, vocal coach, and featured the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra led by Rebecca Burkhardt. Written by Otto Nicolai, based on the play by Shakespeare, and adapted by Hermann von Mosenthal, this exciting and outrageous comedic production was a collaboration of theatre, dance and music students. These performances were also new UNI faculty artist Mitra Sadeghpour’s first full scale production at UNI.

“Opera requires an exhilarating and epic collaboration between music, drama, visual art, and dance and I couldn’t be more proud of the artists who have come together to create [this production],” Sadeghpour said.

The principle roles were double-cast; singers included Kayla Kjeldseth and Noelle Smith as Alice Ford, Megan Grey and JoAnna Geffert as Meg Page, and Sarah Draffen and Katherin Kneisley as Anne Page. The role of Sir John Falstaff was sung by faculty artist John Hines.

“I truly believe that anything is possible for Opera at UNI,” Sadeghpour continued. “A long history of talented and dedicated students and faculty exists here, and I am honored to be a part of the team.”

The School of Music opera program and orchestra will collaborate with the Gallagher-Bluedorn production crew in spring 2016 when they will offer a full production of “Susannah” by American composer Carlisle Floyd.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Mitra Sadeghpour for her contribution to this article.
The School of Music was proud to host the 2014-15 Meryl Norton Hearst Visiting Artist Series. We were honored to have three highly distinguished and exceptionally talented artists and ensembles in residency this year.

From September 30 through October 2, the School of Music was thrilled to host percussionist and author Robert Lawrence Friedman. For over 30 years, Robert Lawrence Friedman, M.A., author, professional speaker and trainer, corporate coach, and psychotherapist, has provided his stress management training programs, workshops and coaching programs to Fortune 500 corporations, universities, and health care organizations throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

Friedman’s residency featured interactive visits with classes at UNI, as well as two drum circles held in the lobby of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. The drum circles were designed to reduce stress and involve students, faculty and the community in an interactive and engaging musical experience.

The second of three featured artists on the Hearst Series this year was the exceptional Fifth House Ensemble, artists-in-residence at UNI from October 13-17. The Chicago-based Fifth House Ensemble is a versatile and dynamic group praised by the New York Times for its “conviction, authority, and finesse.” Having pioneered the art of narrative chamber music with its signature series Black Violet, The Weaver’s Tales, and In Transit, Fifth House’s innovative programs engage audiences through their connective programming and unexpected performance venues.

The highly interactive and engaging residency included informal events like “Coffee and Conversation” and “Brown Bag Lunch Q&A” where UNI students had the opportunity to sit down and talk with the musicians of Fifth House. Additionally, members of the ensemble offered a remarkable five master classes and six workshops during their visit, including the topics “Music Can Tell a Story,” “Transitioning from College to Career” and “Putting Your Audience Center Stage.” A student composition reading session with the members of the ensemble was also held.

On Friday, Oct. 17, in Russell Hall’s Bengtson Auditorium, members of the ensemble offered a school-wide lecture, followed by a reception. That evening,
the ensemble concluded their visit with an inspiring and unique concert performance: BLACK VIOLET: Act II.

Spring brought another wave of inspiration and another tremendously talented guest to the School of Music. Composer and pianist Jake Heggie visited the School of Music March 26-27 as part of the Meryl Norton Hearst Visiting Artist Series, sponsored by the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.

Jake Heggie is the American composer of the operas Moby-Dick (libretto by Gene Scheer), Dead Man Walking (libretto by Terrence McNally), Three Decembers (Scheer), The End of the Affair (McDonald), Out of Darkness – A Holocaust Triptych (Scheer), To Hell and Back (Scheer), At the Statue of Venus (McNally), and The Radio Hour: A Choral Opera (Scheer). He is currently at work on two new stage works: Great Scott (McNally) for The Dallas Opera in 2015, and an opera based on “It’s A Wonderful Life” (Scheer) for the Houston Grand Opera in 2016. Heggie has also composed more than 250 art songs, as well as concerti, chamber music, choral and orchestral works, including his recent Ahab Symphony. Heggie was recently awarded the prestigious Eddie Medora King prize from the UT Austin Butler School of Music. A Guggenheim Fellow, he served for three years as a mentor for Washington National Opera’s American Opera Initiative.

Jake’s residency included two full days of events, beginning with a March 26 Great Hall concert at the GBPAC featuring exceptional student vocalists, faculty artists and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra performing Heggie’s works.

March 27 began with a school-wide guest lecture by Heggie at 10 a.m., followed by a reception and meet-and-greet where students, faculty and guests were able to meet Heggie and discuss his lecture, his compositions and his life.

Heggie’s residency concluded with an art songs recital in the evening on March 26, featured as part of the 2015 Iowa Composers Forum hosted by UNI School of Music. Faculty pianists Korey Barrett and Robin Guy were joined by sixteen student vocalists performing beautiful works by the visiting composer.

Friedman, Fifth House Ensemble and Heggie were all highly celebrated guests in the School of Music and throughout the University of Northern Iowa and students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends continue to communicate what a thrill it was to have such great artists here in our midst.

“I started writing songs with my own lyrics, because I didn’t realize you could set other people’s words. And it was Ernst Bacon who told me about Emily Dickenson and Walt Whitman and all these great poets and he said ‘You know, you can set these.’ So, he showed me a book of his songs and introduced me to recordings of singers doing great songs and I was like...wow! And he gave me assignments that really shifted my perspective and one of those – I was learning to write canons and...he would have me write a theme based on a name of someone that I loved. So, it wasn’t just a technical exercise, it was really working through something. What’s it about? It’s about someone. It was about something that mattered to me. It was storytelling. And that’s what I always loved from the beginning. It didn’t really make sense to me until much later in my life, but it was always about storytelling and it was mostly about solo voice.”

Heggie’s Words Inspire UNI School of Music Students

The following is an excerpt taken from Jake Heggie’s lecture, given Friday, March 27, 2015.
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/or business and community leaders into the UNI School of Music Hall of Fame and the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame. Recipients are nominated and voted on by the current School of Music faculty and inducted at the annual Scholarship Benefit Concert and/or Jazz Band concerts. In 2014-15, we were thrilled to announce the induction of Nicolle Foland into the UNI School of Music Hall of Fame and Thomas Capps into the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame.

Nicolle Foland

The San Francisco Chronicle has praised Nicolle Foland as “a singer who boasts a beautiful tone, accurate and clear from a lusty lower register up through the crystalline high notes—an eloquent way with a melodic phrase, and, to top it off, a stage presence both elegant and alluring.”

Nicolle Foland, a native of Des Moines, has received high acclaim for many of her opera roles ranging from those performed with the San Francisco Opera to the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Nicolle has been featured on a joint concert with Placido Domingo, sung under the direction of Pierre Boulez when opening Disney Hall in Los Angeles, and premiered works by composer, Jake Heggie. She has performed with Sacramento Opera, Opera Colorado, Utah Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Minnesota Opera, Arizona Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Houston Grand Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Thessaloniki in Greece, Opera Bilbao in Spain, Grand Rapids Opera, Seattle Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and New York City Opera. She has appeared with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, American Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, and Colorado Symphony; and she has sung at Alice Tully Hall in New York, among others.

Nicolle studied with Jean McDonald in the UNI School of Music, where she received her undergraduate degree in 1991 and a Master of Music degree in voice performance in 1993.

Nicolle continues to teach a voice studio, participates in philanthropic causes and development work in the Bay area, and offers educational outreach projects for children.

Thomas Capps

Thomas Capps was an athlete and band member at age 14 when he received a diagnosis of Ewing’s sarcoma, a teen bone cancer. He became more involved in band, jazz band, drum line and a small band that met in his basement. Neighbors sat outside to hear the music.

Tom chose UNI because of the strong reputation of the jazz program and music professors.

While at UNI, old skills were enhanced, new ones developed and friendships grew. His professors, friends and family encouraged him in many ways, and this campus became home. He loved performing in ensembles so much that he decided to pursue a career in jazz performance. Carrying drums around while wearing a prosthesis was difficult, but performing was exciting and well worth the inconvenience. He never counted how many instruments he learned to play, but among the favorites were drum set, vibraphone and flute.

After spending a summer in Chicago as one of Van Freeman’s Horses, he returned to Iowa and played in the Des Moines area. His desire was to establish a scholarship for students interested in jazz at UNI.

Students traveling from rehearsal to class in the main corridor of Russell Hall often stop to read the plaque in the glass case across from the main music office. Inside, a photo atop the plaque shows a young man joyfully smiling at each passerby, one arm slung around a drum with a cymbal like a halo over his right shoulder. Thomas Capps still has a lasting presence in the halls of the music building at UNI. This is due in large part to the Thomas Capps Memorial...
Jazz Endowed Fund, a scholarship endowment started in memory of Tom by his parents and long-time School of Music supporters Joyce and Richard Capps.

This year, in addition to honoring extraordinary individuals through Hall of Fame honors, one previous School of Music Hall of Fame inductee was honored by the entire University community. Alumnus Gayle S. Rose was nominated for the honor by Director of the School of Music, John Vallentine. Upon recommendation of the University Honorary Degrees Committee, the Faculty Senate and the president of the university, and with the unanimous consent of the Board of Regents, Rose received the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, and returned to Cedar Falls to accept the honorary degree in person at the May 2015 commencement ceremony.

Gayle S. (Johns) Rose is a visionary leader, community organizer, arts supporter, humanitarian and University of Northern Iowa School of Music alumna. Rose, a native of Charles City, Iowa, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and a minor in business (1977), a Master of Business Administration in Public Administration from Harvard University (1985) and was named a Harvard University Distinguished Littauer Fellow.

Rose is the founder, principal owner and currently the CEO of EVS (Electronic Vaulting Services) Corporation, an industry leader in the highly competitive cloud data backup and recovery market. She also serves as chairman of the Rose Family Foundation’s private charity and the Memphis Symphony Board. She was the first woman CEO to appear on the cover of Business Solutions Magazine. Prior to founding EVS, Rose served as managing director of Heritage Capital Advisors, LLC, a private equity, corporate advisory and asset firm with offices in Atlanta and Memphis. Rose co-founded and served as president and CEO of Dr. Deepak Chopra’s company from 1991 to 1999.

Rose is well known for bringing the NBA’s Memphis Grizzlies from Vancouver to Memphis as a member of the “Pursuit Team.” As a result of her efforts, the Public Relations Society of America named her the 2001 Communicator of the Year. In 2005, she was named one of Tennessee’s 100 Most Powerful People by Business Tennessee magazine. She also received the Economic Excellence and Equity Award from Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen. Rose is co-founder of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis and was internationally recognized in 2007 with the Changing Face of Philanthropy Award from the Women’s Funding Network. In 2008, she was named Humanitarian of the Year by Diversity Memphis. In 2012, she was among 10 named CEOs of the Year by MBQ Inside Memphis Business.

Rose served as a member of the UNI Foundation Board of Trustees from 1989 to 1997 and joined the President’s Club in 1992. She served for 10 years on the UNI School of Music National Advisory Board, which led a capital campaign for the $12.2 million renovation of Russell Hall. She headed the board’s successful strategic and fundraising planning, interviewed architects and developed a grass roots/matching gifts program to engage alumni. Due to Rose’s expertise, the state-of-the-art Russell Hall opened in 2008.

Most importantly, Rose founded “Team Max” in honor of her college-aged son, who was fatally injured in an automobile accident in 2009. Team Max, an organization serving the Mid-South, has honored his life through large-scale community action projects to serve the poor and homeless.

Rose’s alma mater was proud to recognize such a distinguished graduate as a professional business leader, entrepreneur, arts advocate and philanthropist, and applauds her diverse and exceptionally productive list of accomplishments.

Congratulations and thank you for the legacy of excellence that you have built, Nicolle, Thomas and Gayle!
GET READY FOR A MUSICAL ROMANCE

34TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT CONCERT

That’s Amore

Get ready for a celebration and join us on Friday, September 25 at 7:30 p.m.

The evening will be filled with exceptional performances by student and faculty musicians as well as guest conductor James Linahon (’73), the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony, Concert Chorale, Varsity Men’s Glee Club, UNI Singers, Opera UNI, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra 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 an amore-themed reception in the lobby, as well as post-show music featuring School of Music faculty artists in Davis and Jebe Hall. You won’t want to miss it!

The Scholarship Benefit Concerts have been raising scholarship funds for exceptionally talented music students and students in need since 1982. 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. 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 www.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.

THANK YOU TO THE “SPECIAL DONORS” FROM THE 2014 SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT CONCERT

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University of Northern Iowa
The UNI School of Music celebrated another wonderful year of helping to create and sustain a vibrant musical presence in the Cedar Valley community. Our ongoing outreach programs span all ages, all abilities and experiences and cater to many interests. Community members are always sure to find a musical opportunity to suit their lifestyle. The UNI Suzuki School, UNI New Horizons Band, UNI Children’s Choir and UNI Community Music School are bringing music to the lives of many eager community musicians.

UNI Community Music School (CMS) programs serve youth through senior citizens. CMS administrator Cindi Mason notes, “Certainly one of the ‘oldest’ and ‘liveliest’ programs is the UNI New Horizons Band!” The current band follows the model of the first New Horizons Band that was started in 1991 by Professor Roy Ernst at the Eastman School of Music, New York.

The New Horizons Band (NHB) began in 1999 with 17 members and has grown to its current size of over 90 members (all 50 years of age and over) who meet twice a week for their group lessons and full band rehearsals. Members travel from surrounding northeast Iowa communities to enjoy rehearsing, performing, and especially the camaraderie with fellow musicians. Carol Gordon joined NHB ten years ago and it has become her passion. She travels from Grundy Center and has influenced five others from Grundy Center to join the band. The Grundy members formed an “off-shoot” group called “New Horizons on the Loose” and perform in their local churches with an eye on other community venues. Carol adds, “through New Horizons Band, the passion to become good musicians again has been rekindled.” Chuck Rowe recently joined NHB and shared that “being a newcomer to the area, I was pleased to find a group that allowed me to continue playing music. Music has been an important part of my life. The New Horizons Band has been a wonderful musical experience.”

The band performs winter and spring concerts in the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center as well as a summer concert series in surrounding community venues. “As remarkable as the concerts are, the receptions following the performances are exceptional;” Mason notes, “the members bring their own homemade treats to share with concert-goers!” NHB also provides the opportunity for concert-goers to contribute to the “Fish Bowl Collection.” The funds collected are designated for scholarships for UNI School of Music students.

Diana Blake, NHB conductor, describes the group this way: “achievement and enjoyment of music is for a lifetime. Belonging to New Horizons Band is good for the mind, body and social life. There is something to achieve each day, something to look forward to; not dwelling in the past. It’s a way to make ‘I wish I had...’ or ‘If only I could...’ possible.”

Editor’s note: Thank you to Cathy Craig and Cindi Mason for their contributions to this article.
Every Time We Say Goodbye

While this year was another year filled with outstanding musical achievement in the UNI School of Music Jazz Division, jazz faculty, students and alumni are reflecting on the recent loss of two hugely impactful alumni and supporters: Sonia (Scholl) Wilson ('52) and Jim “Big Daddy” Coffin ('52).

**Sonia (Scholl) Wilson** was born on November 10, 1929 in Middleport, Ohio. She attended schools in Middleport and Pomeroy, Ohio as well as Hays, Kansas and Casper, Wyoming. She graduated from high school in Boone, Iowa in 1948. She was the Concert Mistress of the very first Iowa All State Orchestra in 1946 and Co-Concert Mistress in 1947. She continued her education at UNI (then Iowa State Teachers College), graduating with a B.A. in Music Education in 1952. She married Robert J. Wilson in December of 1952 in Boone, Iowa.

Sonia began her teaching career in the fall of 1952 in Toledo, Iowa where she taught K-12 vocal music. She continued her teaching career in Alexander, Iowa where she taught K-12 vocal and instrumental music until 1957. Following a twelve-year absence to raise her three boys, Sonia began teaching again in Belmond, Iowa in 1969. She taught middle school instrumental music there until her retirement in 1992. During her teaching tenure in Belmond, she also directed Belmond Methodist Church choir and the Belmond Community Chorus for several years.

The School of Music and the Wilson family wish to thank family and friends who made gifts in Sonia’s memory to the Music Scholarship Fund. Your gifts are a tribute to her and her passion for music education, to which she dedicated nearly 30 years of her life, teaching K-12 vocal and instrumental music.

**James (Jim “Big Daddy”) Coffin** was born on January 11, 1931 in Waterloo, Iowa. Jim had an exceptional and varied music career from performer to clinician, educator to business executive. He received his B.A. and M.A. from UNI, where he later, as a professor, started both the percussion and jazz programs. He also taught in three Iowa high schools. Prior to his tenure at UNI, Jim was a professional musician in California.

For more than twenty years, Jim was employed in the percussion industry, overseeing marketing, sales, education, artist activities, and product development for Premier Percussion then Yamaha Corporation. He served on the Board of Directors of the Percussive Arts Society and received the PAS President’s Industry Award and PAS Outstanding Supporter Award. As a clinician, soloist, conductor and adjudicator, Jim appeared in more than 40 states and five Canadian provinces.

“Jim was one of my most important mentors,” noted UNI School of Music percussion professor Randy Hogancamp. “[He] was undoubtedly one of the funniest and best story tellers I know – never a dull moment! I could go on and on about Jim.”

Bob Washut, professor of jazz studies, stated, “Jim Coffin was a very smart and charismatic guy who put UNI’s jazz program on the map, long before many other colleges and universities embraced jazz. Jim’s efforts laid a solid foundation for every jazz studies director who followed and for that I am very fortunate and grateful. Jim will always be a hero and mentor of mine. He left an enduring legacy.”

“Local alums share fond memories of Jim as one who had great charisma and humor along with animated talents as the campus jazz man,” School of Music alumna and Music Advisory Board member Berdena J. Beach noted. “My impression is that Jim became one among those historically significant academic game changers...who spiraled the School of Music to accolades of excellence.”

Jim was a charter member of the UNI School of Music Advisory Board and an integral supporter and advocate for both the building of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center and the expansion and renovation of Russell Hall. Included in Jim’s many honors was being noted as an outstanding jazz educator in Duke Ellington’s autobiography *Jazz is My Mistress* and being inducted into the Iowa Jazz Educator’s Hall of Fame. The Woodward-Grainger School named an event the Jim Coffin Foundations in Jazz Festival. In 2006, Iowa Bandmasters made him an Honorary Lifetime Member. He was one of the founding fathers of the jazz program at UNI and was inducted as the first-ever member into the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame.

Your support is vital to ensuring the ongoing success of the jazz studies program and the ability to continue to host exceptional guest artists at UNI.

If you would like to contribute to the James Coffin Visiting Artist Jazz Fund, the Sonia Wilson memorial fund, or if you would just like to learn more, please call Dan Breitbach in the UNI Foundation at (319) 273-7727 or visit www.uni.edu/music and click “give now.”
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 2015 Spotlight Series Performance Competition Finals, Megan Grey, soprano, was named the 2015 Presser Scholar and awarded the $4,200 Presser Foundation Award. Grey is a junior at UNI, where she is studying vocal performance. An active performer, Megan is a member of UNI Concert Chorale, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, and UNI Opera Ensemble. As a member of the Opera Ensemble she has appeared as the Secretary in scenes from Gian Carlo Menotti’s The Consul, the Sorceress and Spirit in Henry Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas, and Mrs. Page in the production of Otto Nicolai’s The Merry Wives of Windsor this past February. She has also been recognized for her academic excellence by Pi Kappa Lambda in being named Outstanding Freshman and Sophomore of the UNI School of Music for the 2012-2014 academic years. Apart from singing, Megan is also a cellist and is on faculty with the UNI Suzuki School. Grey also claimed the People’s Choice Award, voted on by the audience at the Concerto Competition Finals Concert.

The $2000 Charles and Marleta Matheson Award was awarded to Linnea Casey, flute. Casey is a junior Instrumental Music Education major. She is a Robert W. Dean Scholar, a Distinguished Scholar, and a Susan A. Ackerman Scholar. She is an active member of Sigma Alpha Iota International women’s music fraternity. Linnea has been involved with the Northern Iowa Flute choir, UNI Panther Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Symphony as well as flute quartets and chamber music performances throughout her time at UNI. Linnea is also active in music ministry at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic student center and is studying organ at UNI in addition to flute.

Vocalist Ben Owen was awarded the $1000 Myron and Ruth Russell Award for his performance. Owen is a senior vocal music education major and native of Clinton, Iowa. Most recently, he has been active in UNI ensembles such as Concert Chorale and Glee Club as a councilman. Along with his membership in collegiate ensembles, he acts as the director of music at Threehouse: A Wesley Foundation, directing the Hymn Festival Singers and Servants’ Chorus. Ben also serves as a collaborative pianist, church choir director, organist, student carillonneur, and composer.

Induction of newly elected members into the Pi Kappa Lambda national music honor society also took place at the Performance Competition Finals. Congratulations to inductees: Sarah Baker, Katherine Beane, Emily Bicknese, Adam Brown, Seth Butler, Hannah Carr-Murphy, Linnea Casey, Sarah Drafen, JoAnna Geffert, Hayley Graham, Janel Harms, Leia Lensing, Brent Mead, Mara Miller, Natalie Neshyba, Michael Prichard, Nichelle Probst and Laura Rodriguez. Michelle Meadows was nominated as Outstanding Sophomore.

In November 2014, Chad Schmertmann was awarded the top honor at the UNI School of Music Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals. Schmertmann is a senior instrumental music major. He is originally from Bettendorf, IA and plans to pursue a career as a band director. Chad is a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He studies piano with Professor Sean Botkin.

Brent Mead, junior music education major from Mason City, Iowa, was voted as the audience favorite at the November Instrumental Concerto Competition.

At the close of each academic year, the members of the Wind Symphony elect their choice for the year’s Outstanding Musician Award. The selection is based on the attributes of 1. Performing, Creative, and Scholarly Excellence; 2. Service and Support for Colleagues, and 3. Leadership. This year, the ensemble elected two players: Hayley Graham, clarinet, and Michael Prichard, trumpet. Hayley has completed her Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance degree, and will enter the Music Therapy Graduate Program at the University of Iowa in the fall. Michael has finished his Master of Arts degree, and has accepted the position as Director of Bands at West High School in Waterloo.

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

The University of Northern Iowa School of Music was pleased to host the National Association of Teachers of Singing district student auditions on UNI campus, November 7-8. Over the course of the two-day event, the School of Music hosted approximately 250 students, 40 adjudicators and 45 pianists from universities, colleges, high schools and private studios throughout the state. The event was coordinated by the UNI voice division faculty, with the assistance of over 90 student
organization and community volunteers and eight faculty and student pianists.

UNI students claimed five 1st place honors. Andrew Cutler of Waukee earned 1st place in Division II; Cutler is a student of John Hines. Megan Grey of Cedar Falls earned 1st place in Division VIB; Grey is a student of Jean McDonald. Leila Lensing of Solon earned 1st place in Division VII; Lensing is a student of Jean McDonald. Brandon Schneider of Antioch, IL earned 1st place in Division VIII; Schneider is a student of Leslie Morgan. Sarah Draffen of Reinbeck earned 1st place in Division IX; Draffen is a student of Jeffrey Brich.

Six UNI students claimed second and third place awards. Aaron DeSantiago of Council Bluffs earned 2nd place in Division IB; DeSantiago is a student of Jeffrey Brich. Adam Brown of Urbandale earned 2nd place in Division VI; Brown is a student of Jean McDonald. Kayla Kjeldseth of Sioux City shared a tie for 2nd place in Division IX with Katherine Kneisley of Rochester, NH; Kjeldseth is a student of Jean McDonald, while Kneisley is a student of John Hines. Lauren Soukup of Marion earned 3rd place in Division IB; Soukup is a student of Jean McDonald. Laurelin Berkley of La Claire earned 3rd place in Division III; Berkley is a student of Leslie Morgan.

Several School of Music students earned honors at the 8th Annual UNI Graduate Student Symposium. Michael Dickerson took 1st place in the Original Composition category, Michelle Monroe earned 1st place in the Performance category, Natalie Neshyba earned 2nd place in the Performance category and Mara Miller earned an honorable mention in the Performance category.

Holly Gaunitz was the winner of the Outstanding Master’s Research Paper Award competition conducted by the UNI Iowa Graduate College. Holly’s research paper, “Incorporation of Popular Music into Classical Piano” was written under the supervision of Dr. Camilli, faculty advisor. Tara Meade won the Outstanding Creative Master’s Thesis Award from the UNI Graduate College. Tara’s faculty advisor is Dr. Angeleita Floyd.

Graduate students Kate Meyer and Melody Kosobucki received the College Music Society’s 2014 Yamaha In-Residence Fellowship award. Under UNI faculty advisor Theresa Camilli, Meyer and Kosobucki will pursue their winning project “Discovering the Ivories: 2014” exploring new methods and approaches to teaching group piano.

Two School of Music students were honored with Purple and Gold Awards. Morgan Kramer was awarded the Meritorious Scholarship award, while Aaron Ottmar was awarded the Conspicuous Achievement award. Ottmar also recently was selected from more than 3,700 applicants to present his paper “Performing Solo Concerto with Wind Ensemble” at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Cheney, Washington.

Congratulations to all of our award-winning and honor-earning students!
Student Spotlight: Emily Bicknese

Emily Bicknese in Berlin

Studying abroad is one of the greatest opportunities presented to students when they are in college. Many come back with extraordinary tales of self-discovery and a newfound love of adventure. This year Emily Bicknese, a senior from Elgin, Iowa, majoring in Music Education, had the chance to travel for a semester abroad. Emily arrived in Klagenfurt, Austria on February 7, where her new host family greeted her. Bicknese says she was blessed to have such a caring and helpful host family. In Austria, she taught the family’s eight-year old son, Marlon, to play piano.

“He’s so eager to learn. It’s a challenge for me to teach with the correct vocabulary in German,” she said.

Her host family helped to immerse Bicknese into the Austrian culture. Nicole, Emily’s host mother, was very gracious – cooking homemade Austrian dishes that Bicknese now loves.

“Nicole generously offered for me to always eat with the family rather than buy my own food. I enjoyed her homemade dishes and fresh fruits and vegetables,” Emily said. Bicknese was also enrolled in three classes that were offered to her through the study abroad program. The classes were offered through Alpen-Adria-Universität, Klagenfurt for studies in German. Emily also enrolled in music courses through the Music Conservatory, Kärntner Landeskonservatorium. Through these classes Emily improved her German speaking skills, and through her church activities Emily was able to make several new friends.

Bicknese is extraordinarily grateful for the time she spent in Austria. She admires the country, people and culture that she was allowed to be a part of. While she missed her friends and family, the opportunity to learn more and explore during her time in Austria was priceless.

Congratulations on your exciting travels and study abroad experience, Emily!

Editor’s note: thank you to Brenda Hackenmiller, Emily Bicknese and the CHAS Promotions office for their help with and contributions to our student awards and Spotlight articles.

Alumni Spotlight: Dave Lisik

The School of Music is always proud to hear about the success and accomplishments of our alumni. We are especially proud of Dave Lisik for his remarkable achievements as composer, trumpeter and music educator.

Canadian composer and trumpeter, David Lisik teaches jazz composition, arranging, theory and pedagogy at the New Zealand School of Music, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Dave’s diverse portfolio of compositions and arrangements includes more than 400 works for jazz orchestra, small jazz groups, wind ensemble, orchestra, electro-acoustic combinations, chamber groups, and instrumental and vocal soloists. His Dave Lisik Orchestra featuring Tim Hagans released a debut CD in early 2010 entitled “Coming Through Slaughter.” The Orchestra has two new projects underway, “Origin of Species” and “Metropolis” featuring Alex Sipiagin, Bob Sheppard and Dick Oatts.

Dave’s music has been performed and/or recorded in the United States, Canada, Asia, Europe and Australasia by outstanding musicians including Tim Hagans, Donny McCaslin, Seamus Blake, The Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra (Australia), and many university, high school and middle school concert and jazz groups.

As a trumpeter, Dave has performed as a member of the Jazz Orchestra of the Delta, Rodger Fox Wellington Jazz Orchestra, New Zealand Jazz Orchestra, Ron Paley Big Band, Memphis Wellington Jazz Orchestra, Bill Shepherd Big Band, and jazz orchestras at the University of Northern Iowa, University of Memphis, and University of Manitoba. His other freelance trumpet work includes the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra, Bismarck Symphony Orchestra, the Metropolitan Brass Quintet, and many solo performances.

Dave is a trustee of the New Zealand Jazz Foundation, coordinates the annual National Jazz Workshops and co-directs the New Zealand Youth Jazz Orchestra with his NZSM colleague Rodger Fox. At NZSM he founded and produces the annual NZSM Jazz Festival and created and teaches the school’s first course in Jazz Pedagogy. In 2015, Dave and Rodger also hosted the first annual Jazz Ensemble Directors Workshops for NZ music educators and created the first Wellington Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Dave completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Composition with a Jazz Emphasis at the University of Memphis where he directed large and small jazz ensembles, and taught Jazz courses. He received a Master of Music degree in Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Northern Iowa in 1998 and was a performing member of UNI Jazz Band One which included performances at the Montreux and North Sea Jazz Festivals, two CD releases, two of Dr. Herb Wong’s IAJE Blue Chip Jazz CD Awards and a Downbeat Magazine Student Music Award for College Big Band.

All of Dave’s original work is published by Galloping Cow Music (ASCAP) and UNC Jazz Press and is available through the composer (www.davelisik.com).

UNI School of Music is proud to congratulate Dave on his continued success!
The UNI School of Music wishes to acknowledge two of our extraordinary donors this year. The Howard and Mary Easter trust bequeathed a substantial gift to the School of Music and Theatre Department at UNI, creating a world of new opportunities and a lasting legacy.

Music and theatre students and programs at the University of Northern Iowa will benefit hugely from a gift received from alumni Howard C. and Mary Easter.

Howard, who died in September 2011 at the age of 94, and Mary, who died in September 2014 at the age of 95, named UNI as the beneficiary of the remainder of their trust. The trust bequest will total nearly $1 million to be distributed equally between the UNI School of Music and the UNI Department of Theatre.

John Vallentine, director of the UNI School of Music, said the Easters’ gift will allow the School to continue to strengthen its reputation by supporting UNI students in their performances at the university, throughout the United States and abroad. “The Easters have made a transformational gift to the University,” Vallentine said. “The funds will be placed into an endowment that will support scholarships, purchase equipment (such as pianos) and meet programmatic needs for future generations of students. We are grateful for the generosity of Howard and Mary Easter.”

Eric Lange, Head of the Department of Theatre, states that, “this funding will have a significant impact on departmental programming and will benefit new groups of students into the future. This funding will support the hiring of professional guest artists who will share current practice with our students, will help support enhancements to our production resources, and will also help support travel by students to see professional theatre or attend discipline-specific conferences. The Easters’ generosity is very much appreciated.”

The funds perpetuate their passion for the performing arts. Mary taught English in Illinois and Iowa. Howard taught band and played jazz piano in the Howy Curtis Trio Band. They are both graduates of Iowa State Teachers College, now University of Northern Iowa.

The Easters’ generosity is very much appreciated. The Easter gift will be managed by the UNI Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to support the University of Northern Iowa by leveraging private and public resources through strategic engagement of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. For more information about the Foundation, visit uni-foundation.org

The UNI School of Music wishes to extend our deepest gratitude by celebrating the legacy of the Easters and their remarkable gift of support.

Have You Heard?

A simple, flexible way to continue your passion for music in the future is to make a gift in your will or living trust to the UNI Foundation. Simply contact us for language to share with your attorney to complete your gift to benefit the UNI School of Music.

Contact Helene Benitez, director of planned giving, at 319-273-6078 or helene.benitez@uni.edu for more information.

Explore uni.planmylegacy.com for additional gift and estate planning tips.
2014-15 was another fantastic year in the School of Music, filled with exceptional guest artists and clinicians offering 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.

September 2014

September was a very busy month in the school of music, kicked off with a visit from Michael Suttle, trumpet. Visiting artist Suttle presented a lecture-concert titled “Business Principles - Demonstrating Mentorship” that featured both trumpet performance and lecture. Suttle collaborated with UNI faculty artist Polina Khatsko, piano. Suttle is a software executive and orchestral trumpet player/soloist. Repertoire included pieces by John Williams, V. Berdiev and more.

UNI School of Music faculty artist Christopher Merz, saxophone, collaborated with fellow members of his group Christopher’s Very Happy, Band. to present a concert in September at UNI. Merz was joined by guest artists Mike Conrad, piano, Drew Morton, bass, and Dave Tiede, drums and offered a concert featuring bright jazz compositions.

Visiting artist Ronald Chioldi, piano, traveled to Cedar Falls to present a recital. Chioldi is Professor of Music at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma where he teaches piano, class piano, and music theory.

Mid-September welcomed visiting artist Karel Keldermans. Keldermans offered a recital performance from the campanile carillon at noon on both September 19 and 20. Karel is one of the preeminent carillonneurs in North America. Over the past thirty years, he has given carillon concerts around the world. He has released six solo carillon CDs as well as a duet CD with Belgian guitarist Wim Brioen. Karel has composed a dozen original works for carillon, and has a Master’s degree from the University of Illinois in Carillon Performance and Campanology.

Guest artist Robert Lawrence Friedman, percussion, joined the School of Music for a multi-day residency as part of the Meryl Norton Hearst Visiting Artist Series. For more on Friedman’s visit, see page 7.

October 2014

As fall began to sweep through Cedar Falls, guest artists Carla Thelen Hanson, soprano, and Ainhoa Urkijo, piano, arrived to present a recital. American soprano Carla Thelen Hanson is garnering attention for exciting and vocally thrilling performances of opera’s leading heroines throughout the country. Hanson collaborated with Urkijo, a native of Bilbao, Spain, and internationally celebrated performer and educator.

A busy weekend in October welcomed participants to UNI Flute Day on October 11, where guest Greg Pattillo appeared as master class leader and featured artist. Greg Pattillo is recognized throughout the world for his redefinition of flute sound. His groundbreaking performance videos on YouTube showcasing “beatbox flute” have been viewed more than 40 million times.

The UNI Piano and Organ Festival also welcomed an exceptional guest artist, Alexander Korsantia. Korsantia, on faculty at New England Conservatory, has won great critical acclaim for his versatility, power and the unique sincerity of his playing. He can be heard performing in many of the world’s foremost concert halls collaborating with renowned artists such as Valery Gergiev, Christoph Eschenbach, the Jerusalem Quartet and Sakari Oramo, among others.

The second, exciting installment of the 2014-15 Meryl Norton Hearst Visiting Artist series featured guest Fifth House Ensemble. For more on Fifth House Ensemble’s visit, see page 7.

The final guest artist of October was clarinetist Michael Dean. Dean is an active clarinet performer, teacher, and consultant based in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Metroplex. He has given more than 200 clinics, master classes, and performances at high schools, junior high schools, colleges, universities, and conferences across the United States and abroad.

November 2014

In November, guest ensemble New Third Stream Quartet presented a saxophone recital for our UNI audience. The ensemble features world-renowned musicians and educators Rick VanMatre, James Bunte, Peter Sommer and James Romain. New Third Stream Quartet was formed in the interest of combining the rhythmic and improvisatory language of contemporary jazz with elements of modern chamber composition. The saxophonists in the quartet are all accomplished jazz and classical saxophonists, and performances focus on achieving the same level of precision and communication that can be found in traditional saxophone quartets.

Guest artist Deanna Hahn-Little visited the School of Music in November to offer both a master class and recital. Deanna, professor of flute at Middle Tennessee State University, holds a Bachelor of Music degree in education from the University of Northern Iowa, a Master of Music degree in flute performance and the Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University. As an active performer, Little is a member of the Stones River Chamber Players, the MTSU Faculty Wind Quartet and the F4 Winds Flute Quartet. She has performed with the Nashville Symphony, the Nashville Opera, the Nashville Ballet, and Evansville Philharmonic (IN).
Be Our Guest: A look back at our visiting artists

Featuring UNI School of Music faculty artist Julia Bullard and guest artists violinist Susanna Klein, and cellist Hannah Holman, Trio 826 presented a recital on November 14.

December 2014

The UNI Viola Festival welcomed guest artist Victoria Chiang, viola. Chiang has performed as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician across North America, Europe and Asia. Her most recent recording of the viola concertos of Stamitz and Hoffmeister was released by Naxos to critical acclaim, and she is a founding member of The Aspen String Trio.

January 2015

A new semester brought visiting artist Anibal Dos Santos, viola, to UNI. Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Dos Santos has appeared as the principal violist of the Bogota Philharmonic Orchestra and professor at the National University of Colombia.

Visiting artist David Cutler presented a piano recital. Cutler balances a varied career as a jazz and classical composer, pianist, educator, arranger, conductor, collaborator, concert producer, author, blogger, consultant, speaker, advocate and entrepreneur. Cutler’s recital at UNI featured Robin Guy, piano, the Northern Brass Quintet (featuring Randy Grabowski, Jim Sherry, Yu-Ting Su, Anthony Williams) and Todd Williams, violin. Repertoire included Suzuki’s first book for violin and piano, American Music Roads Scholar by David Cutler and Rhapsody in Blue for piano and brass quintet.

The Travis Reuter Quartet also visited UNI in January to offer a concert. This group featured Travis Reuter, guitar, Peter Schlamb, vibraphone, Karl McComas-Reichl, bass, and Danny Sher, drums.

January also saw a visit from cellist Heidi Hoffman. Hoffman has toured the United States, South America, Europe, and Japan, with such groups as the American Symphony, Jupiter Symphony and Tchaikovsky Chamber Orchestra. She has also performed with such diverse ensembles as the Tanglewood Music Center Fellowship Orchestra, Northwest Sinfonietta, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Jimmy Page and Robert Plant, and Heart.

Heidi received her DMA and MM degrees from Stony Brook University, as well as her BM and Performer’s Certificate from the Eastman School of Music.

Our final event of January was a thrilling event for reed enthusiasts, featuring many exceptionally talented guest artists. The first-ever UNI Reed Day featured performances and master classes by guest artists Richard Faria (Ithaca College), Rhonda Taylor (New Mexico State University), Jan Eberle (Michigan State University) and Amy Pollard (University of Georgia). For more on UNI Reed day, visit www.uni.edu/music/reedday.

February 2015

As February began, the Air Force Woodwind Quintet presented a concert. The United States Air Force Woodwind Quintet is a component unit of the United States Air force Band, a 65-piece wind ensemble in Washington, DC.

Guest conductors Andrew Mast (Lawrence University Conservatory of Music) and Daniel Bukvich (University of Idaho) led the festival concert band and symphony band, respectively, at the 2015 Northern Festival of Bands. Both conductors worked in hands-on workshops and rehearsals with Iowa high school students visiting UNI, before leading the finale concert.

The Beta Nu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the UNI School of Music held the 60th Annual Tallcorn Jazz Festival and 64th Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concert on February 20 and 21 on the UNI campus.

Dave Douglas was the featured guest artist at this year’s event. Douglas is a prolific trumpeter, composer and educator from New York City. His unique contributions to improvised music have garnered distinguished recognition, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Aaron Copland award and two Grammy nominations.

March 2015

On March 10, UNI choir members participated in a once-in-a-lifetime, highly interactive choral music event: THE BIG SING. This event, which even allowed the audience to interact and participate, featured the exceptionally talented and inspiring guest artist Alice Parker. Alice is the Artistic Director of Melodious Accord, and has over fifty years of teaching experience. Parker received professional training successively as a composer, conductor and teacher. Her work is founded on the interaction of these fields, and their extension into writing, theorizing and mentoring.

Our trombone students especially enjoyed a recital given by visiting artist Ed Morse. Morse routinely performs throughout the southeast on trombone, euphonium and tuba and is Visiting Assistant Professor of Trombone and Euphonium at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He is also Instructor of Trombone, Euphonium and Chamber Music at Daytona State College. Morse currently serves as second trombone in the Jackson (TN) Symphony and has performed with the Memphis Symphony, Waco Symphony and Knoxville Symphony.

The third and final artist on the Meryl Norton Hearst Visiting Artist Series appeared at UNI in March. Composer and pianist Jake Heggie visited the School of Music for a four-day residency. For more on Heggie’s visit, see page 7.
Visiting artists Frank Almond, violin, and Marian Lee, piano, collaborated to present our final guest recital in March. Almond holds the Charles and Marie Caestecker Concertmaster Chair at the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. He returned to the MSO after holding positions as Concertmaster of the Rotterdam Philharmonic with Valery Gergiev, and Guest Concertmaster of the London Philharmonic with Kurt Masur. Lee is assistant professor of piano at St. Ambrose University and has performed as soloist and chamber performer in Italy, France, Austria, Thailand, Hong Kong, and major cities throughout the United States.

Our final month of the 2014-15 performance season was a busy one, starting on April 3 with visiting artist Richard Steinbach who presented a piano recital. Steinbach teaches applied piano, class piano, and courses in music theory, piano pedagogy, and American music at Briar Cliff University. He has performed extensively as both soloist and collaborative artist in concerts throughout the U.S., Canada, South America, France, Italy, Great Britain, New Zealand, Japan, and China.

April 2015

Visiting artist Tom Brantley presented a trombone recital. Brantley, professor of trombone at University of South Florida, is a third-generation trombonist, Yamaha soloist, clinician, and recording artist. Brantley performs with the USF Faculty Brass Quintet, the Jack Wilkins Jazz Group, and Chuck Owen’s Jazz SURGE.

Libby Larsen, composer, visited the School of Music for a two-day residency in April. Larsen presented a lecture titled “Inspiration: finding your musical voice when it’s all around you” to UNI students. During her residency, Larsen also interacted with students during rehearsals and celebrated two performances: a chamber works recital featuring student and faculty performers, and a collaborative concert featuring the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Band. Larsen is one of America’s most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 500 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over 15 operas. Grammy award-winning and widely recorded, including over 50 CD’s of her work, she is constantly sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles, and orchestras around the world.

Carillonneur Karel Keldermans returned to the UNI Campanile in the spring semester to offer two more concerts on April 23 and 24. Keldermans’s lunchtime concerts rang out through the campus as the final guest performance of 2014-15.

Guest artist funds for 2014-2015 were supported in part or in full by the Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund, the Esther Bley Rinker Endowment for Musical Excellence, the Mark Falb Tuba Endowment, the Meryl Norton Hearst Visiting Artist Series fund, 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.

Alice Parker and conductor John Wiles taking a bow at THE BIG SING
**Faculty Activities**

**Alison Altstatt**, assistant professor of musicology/music history  
- Appeared as workshop leader at the Ninth Annual Colloquium of the Gregorian Institute of Canada.  
- Presented the paper “Singing the Saints in Medieval Eichstätt: the Case of the Office for Saint Walburga” at the Cantus Planus Study Group of the International Musicological Society in Venice, Italy.  
- Submitted several works for publication in major journals.  

**Korey Barrett**, associate professor of vocal coaching and collaborative piano  
- Served as Music Director and Vocal coach at his opera company in San Diego called Opera Neo. Visit operaneo.com.  
- Collaborated in nine UNI recitals and served as vocal coach for Opera UNI.  
- Served as Chair of the UNI Voice Division and President of the UNI chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society.  

**Sean Botkin**, associate professor of piano  
- Performed at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall in New York in April. Sean will give a solo recital at Weill Recital Hall in February 2016.  
- Recorded a CD last summer entitled “Versatility” with former trombone professor, Chris Buckholz. The album will be released in September 2015.  
- Commissioned a piano piece called "Pasióñata" from UNI’s jazz piano professor Robert Washut and performed it at Scholarship Benefit Concert 2014, as well as Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall in New York and IMTA’s State Conference at St. Ambrose University.  

**Melinda Boyd**, associate professor of music history  
- Presented research papers at the annual national meeting of the American Musicological Society (Milwaukee, WI), and at an international symposium on Women and the Lied (Victoria, Canada).  
- Wrote a commissioned article on Swedish-German composer Ingeborg von Bronsart for the Royal Swedish Academy of Music.  
- Completed Professional Development Assignment (spring semester) for research/writing monograph on the music of Dolly Parton.  

**Ann Bradfield**, assistant professor of saxophone  
- Presented recitals as guest artist in Texas, Oklahoma, Minnesota and South Dakota.  
- Appeared as soloist at the North American Saxophone Alliance Regional Conference.  
- Organized and co-hosted UNI Reed Day and served as an alternate on the UNI Faculty Senate.  

**Jeff Brich**, instructor in applied voice  
- Appeared as tenor soloist at the Music of Jake Heggie concert at UNI, spring 2015.  
- Served as chair and on-site coordinator for NATS regional competition at UNI.  
- Performed as UNI commencement soloist and soloist/section leader for several community events.  

**Julia Bullard**, associate director of graduate studies and associate professor of viola and theory  
- Performed throughout Iowa with the group Trio 826.  
- Organized and hosted Fifth House Ensemble residency as part of the Meryl Norton Hearst Visiting Artist Series. For more on this, see pg. 7.  
- Offered numerous performances at UNI and coordinated the UNI Viola Festival.  

**Rebecca Burkhardt**, professor of music and conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra  
- Directed a reading of her original musical “JUST ANN” in Santa Fe, NM.  
- Organized and implemented the first-ever UNI Orchestra Invitational in April 2015.  
- Appeared as conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra in nine concerts at UNI, and served as conductor and music director for Opera UNI fall and spring productions.  

**Theresa Camilli**, assistant professor of piano pedagogy and music education  
- Presented at the national Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum held at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and had an article accepted in Music Teachers National Association’s “American Music Teacher”.  
- Received “Yamaha In-Residence” grant (College Music Society) to continue funding Service-Learning portion of UNI’s graduate Piano Pedagogy curriculum.  
- Elected as Northeast Area Music Teacher Association’s President and continues to serve as Editor of Iowa Music Teachers Magazine and Grant Writer for the Midwest International Piano Competition.  

**Jonathan Chenoweth**, associate professor of cello  
- Appeared as cellist and guest conductor at several events throughout Iowa.  
- Served as clinician and facilitator for several School of Music events, and served as Chair of the LAC committee.  

**Kevin Droe**, associate professor of music education  
- Organized and implemented the first-ever Autism and Arts Symposium at UNI. For more on the symposium, see pg. 4.  
- Published three articles in professional journals including Contributions to Music Education and Iowa Music Educator.  
- Appeared as guest conductor and clinician for numerous events throughout Iowa and in Greeley, CO.
Angeleita Floyd, professor of flute
- Invited to conduct the Collegiate Flute Choir at the 43rd Annual National Flute Association Convention in Louisiana.
- Appeared as a guest artist at music festivals in Ecuador and Costa Rica
- Celebrated an outstanding number of student awards and achievements.

Jeffery Funderburk, professor of tuba/euphonium
- Served as Interim Associate Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.
- Received the CHAS Dean’s Service Award.
- Presented a recital at UNI, composed three new works and was invited to appear as adjudicator at the 2014 Nebraska All-State competition.

Danny Galyen, associate professor of music education
- Led the Panther Marching Band on a tour to London to perform in the London New Year’s Day Parade. For more on the London tour, see pg. 3.
- Designed, directed and conducted numerous Symphonic Band concerts, Marching Band performances and the first Great Hall (GBPAC) concert of the Panther Marching Band.
- Presented results and suggestions for advocacy related to “The Pullout Band Lesson Program in Iowa” at the Iowa Bandmasters Association Conference.

Randy Grabowski, professor of trumpet
- Invited to perform with the Britt Festival Orchestra in Jacksonville, OR.
- Performed faculty recitals, collaborated with brass area colleagues, and played Principal trumpet in the wcfsymphony and the wcfsymphony Brass Quintet.
- Played lead trumpet for local/regional big bands and shows such as the Sandy Hackett Rat Pack Show, the Cedar Walton Project, the American Vintage Orchestra, the salsa band and others.

Robin Guy, professor of piano
- Taught and coached high school piano majors preparing collaborative performance at Interlochen Arts Camp (IAC) in Michigan.
- Collaborated with IAC colleagues from North Carolina and Washington to perform Gandolfi Line Drawings, a trio for clarinet, violin, and piano.
- Collaborated with three UNI colleagues performing two new works at the Iowa Composers Festival, four students in performing for Libby Larsen and Jake Heggie, 18 faculty and students in recitals, and many others in separate events.

Randall Harlow, assistant professor of organ and music theory
- Presented papers at three professional conferences in South Korea (in absentia), the Netherlands and Massachusetts (USA).
- Published two articles in leading journals, including Orgelpark Research Reports and Keyboard Perspectives.
- Appeared as guest artist at Harvard University (MA), University of Chicago (IL) and Indiana University (IN).

John Hines, associate professor of voice
- Appeared as guest soloist in Haydn’s “Creation” in Findlay, OH.
- Elected to serve as Vice-President for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (2015-2017).
- Served as adjudicator at the Minnesota Music Guild’s Scholarship Competition, and at the NATS regional district auditions.

Amanda McCandless, associate professor of clarinet
- Organized and co-hosted UNI Reed Day and began recording her second solo album.
- Performed at the College Music Society National Convention, and in numerous UNI and Cedar Valley events including two solo faculty recitals at UNI and eight appearances with the wcfsymphony.
- Served as Chair of the Woodwind/Percussion Division and Chair of the newly-formed Guest Artist Committee.

Ronald Johnson, professor of instrumental music
- Appeared as conductor of the Wind Symphony and led the ensemble in several concert performances through 2014-15.
- Served as Chair of the Division of Large Ensembles and Conducting and as member of several other School of Music committees.
- Directed the 3rd annual Northern Iowa Band Invitational and the Northern Festival of Bands.

Amy Kotsonis, assistant professor of choral ensembles and music education
- Served as Artistic Director and conductor of the Metropolitan Chorale.
- Presented her paper “The Effect of Body Movement on Expressivity in Choral Performance” at the American Choral Directors Association National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT.
- Conducted the UNI Women’s Chorus and UNI Singers in several concerts, and hosted the first-ever Women’s Chorus Festival at UNI in April 2015.

Percussion Alumni
A reunion of UNI percussion alumni will be held April 23-24, 2016. Contact Randy.Hogancamp@uni.edu for more information!
Jean McDonald, professor of voice
• Selected as winner of the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. Award recipients are individuals who have been deemed to have a sustained record of excellence across the spectrum of faculty endeavors (teaching, scholarship, and service) or such outstanding accomplishments in one or more of the areas as to justify their selection.
• Celebrated numerous student awards, roles and achievements.
• Served as Chair of the Large Grant Committee, College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences, and as member of several School of Music and university committees.

Christopher Merz, professor of jazz studies
• Directed UNI Jazz Band One and combos in many performances, and serves as Chair of the Jazz Studies Division.
• Performed numerous times with the Hands of Time Quartet, Christopher’s Very Happy Band., Colossus Central and more.
• Published five new original compositions, and served as President of the Jazz Educators of Iowa.

Alexander Pershounin, instructor of string bass
• Performed in numerous concerts in the School of Music and the Cedar Valley, including two solo recitals at UNI and three appearances with the wcfsymphony.
• Offered master classes for UNI festivals and workshops.
• Served as jury member for the Instrumental Concerto Competition finals.

Heather Peyton, assistant professor of oboe and music theory
• Presented her paper “Simple Ways to Make Big Improvements in Young Oboists” at the Ohio Collegiate Music Education Association conference.
• Appeared in concert with the wcfsymphony, the Metropolitan Chorale and in numerous collaborative recitals at UNI

Mitra Sadeghpour, associate professor of opera
• Directed Opera UNI in a full scale production of “The Merry Wives of Windsor” as well as directing a fall scenes performance and a spring opera workshop.
• Performed in five School of Music events and presented her paper “Kurt Weill and the Making of Street Scene” at the National Opera Association conference in North Carolina.
• Served as National Vice President: Field Activities, NATS, and as Iowa Governor for the National Opera Association.

Alan Schmitz, associate director of undergraduate studies and professor of music theory and composition
• Served as coordinator and co-host for the 2015 Iowa Composer Forum, hosted at UNI in March.
• Directed undergraduate advising activities for music majors and minors.
• Offered a presentation and master class on his original compositions at the Townsend School of Music of Mercer University in Macon, Georgia.

Jonathan Schwabe, professor of composition/theory
• Served as co-host for the 2015 Iowa Composer Forum, hosted at UNI in March.
• Completed six string arrangements for national recording artist Brandi Carlile which were used on her Pin Drop Tour.
• Performed at the Des Moines Jazz Festival with the Hands of Time Jazz Quartet.

Yu-Ting (Tina) Su, associate professor of horn
• Released her new CD “Watercolors: Art Songs for Horn and Piano” in October 2014.
• Performed numerous times with the Dubuque Symphony, Metropolitan Chorale and the wcfsymphony, as well as in solo and collaborative recitals at UNI and throughout Iowa.
• Appeared in several international performances in Thailand, China and Taiwan.

Michelle Swanson, instructor of music education
• Appeared as guest conductor for the Iowa ACDA Elementary Honor Choir.
• Conducted the UNI Children’s Choir in three concerts and one recording project.
• Presented her paper, “Assessment in Elementary General Music” at the Iowa Music Educators’ Professional Development Conference.

Diane Vallentine, instructor of music theory
• Collaborated with best-selling children’s book author, Debbie Dadey, to compose a theme song for her current book series “Mermaid Tales.”
• Collaborated with the UNI Children’s Choir in creating an audio and video recording of the “The Mermaid Song.”

John Vallentine, professor and director of the School of Music
• Served on the Administrative Team for the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Regents and United Faculty.
• Appeared as Commencement Marshal for the fall and spring Commencement Exercises at UNI, and produced the 33rd Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert.
• Served as a National Association of Schools of Music Experienced Accreditation Evaluator in Florida and Maine.

Dmitri Vorobiev, assistant professor of piano
• Performed two solo recitals at UNI, as well as on numerous local and regional concerts, and continued his ongoing Beethoven performance project.
• Organized and chaired the fall Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals.
• Served as a member of the CHAS Faculty Senate.

Robert Washut, professor of jazz studies
• Appeared in guest composer
Randy Grabowski, professor of trumpet at UNI, teaches applied trumpet and related classes, directs the UNI Trumpet Ensemble, and collaborates with colleagues in numerous faculty ensembles, while maintaining an exceptionally busy professional performing career. Randy will begin his 30th year at UNI in 2016.

Currently Principal Trumpet of the WCF Symphony, Grabowski has been an active soloist and clinician as well as a dedicated educator and accomplished performer. He has been principal trumpet with the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the Chestnut Brass Company and the Britt, Spoleto, Bear Lake, Great Music West, and Five Seasons Music Festivals. In addition, he has performed with the Indianapolis Symphony and Indiana University Faculty Brass Quintet and has presented masterclasses in the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Hungary.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Grabowski continues to be active as a commercial musician, and has been involved in recording several commercials and compact discs. He has performed with recording artists Ray Charles, the Manhattan Transfer, Aretha Franklin, Moody Blues, Mannheim Steamroller, and the Jimmy Dorsey, Nelson Riddle, Harry James, and Benny Goodman orchestras. Prior to settling in Iowa, Randy also performed with numerous television and recording artists such as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Dionne Warwick, Shirley MacLaine, and Sammy Davis Jr. In addition, he was Principal Trumpet of the Reno Philharmonic, the show orchestras of Reno and Lake Tahoe, was a member of the Great Basin Brass Quintet, and performed with a potpourri of musical organizations.

Grabowski received his B.M.E. and D.M. degrees from Indiana University, and his M.M. degree from the University of Nevada-Reno.

“Throughout it all, music has been there—not an obsession, but a love nonetheless,” Grabowski notes. “Although I teach my students to play the trumpet and be better musicians (hopefully) than when they first step through my door, my hope is that I also teach them about life…about how to respect themselves and each other, about how to value the effort and dedication they put into their work as much as the end result, and about how life is not in the label they may affix to themselves and their playing but in the whole person they become through the experiences.”
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, WA, wrote in with a “hello!” for all music alumni and reported that she is continuing work on her upcoming release “Remembering Bernie” in honor of her late husband, as well as two other recording projects.

1950s
’53 Shirley (Anfinson) Collins, BA, Decorah, IA, is excited to have the third generation in their family attending UNI!

1960s
’69 John Steffa, BA, MM ’78, Mars Hill, NC, climbed to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2000 and to base camp of Mt. Everest in 2003. Other adventures have included skydiving in 2015, which was on his bucket list! Steffa has also celebrated numerous musical achievements in recent years including chamber music concerts at Carnegie Hall and Merkin Concert Hall, and a new music premiere in 2015 at Columbus State University.

1970s
’70 Linda Bayliss, BA, Iowa City, IA, is Guidance Counselor at Tri-County School in Thornburg. Linda also serves as organist at Geneso (Illinois) Congregational Church.

’71 Steven Ainsworth, BA, MA ’75, Resaca, FL, retired after 44 years of Band directing.

’72 Tom Sandholm, BA, Grinnell, IA, retired in 2012 following 40 years of teaching instrumental music at Bennett, Montezuma and Grinnell.

’74 Mary (Heffner) Oelmann, BA, MA ’91, Greene, IA, retired from North Butler CSD as elementary principal. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her grandchildren.

’75 David Poggenklass, BA, Guttenberg, IA, currently entertains at 35-40 retirement homes, assisted living facilities and care centers each month. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family (including five grandchildren), golfing and fishing.

1980s
’80 Russell Alexander, BM, Fairview Heights, IL, is now Reverend Alexander and has been a pastor since July 2014.

’81 Ellen Dostal, BM, Los Angeles, CA, is the director of arts and communication for Mount Wilson FM Broadcasters in Los Angeles.

’82 Les Aldrich, BM, MM ’89, Cedar Rapids, IA, was named the 2015 Karl L. King Distinguished Service Award recipient from Cuyahoga Community College, where he currently serves as Assistant Dean, and was a winner of the Buckeye Chamber Music Competition with the Black Swamp Trio.

’83 Randy Atkinson, BM, MM ’89, Cedar Rapids, IA, was named the 2015 Karl L. King Distinguished Service Award recipient by the Iowa Bandmasters Association.

’83 Bret Lee, BM, Marshalltown, IA, recently completed his 32nd year as a band director.

University of Northern Iowa
‘84 Anne Healy, BFA, Mansfield, TX, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Texas at Arlington. Healy is the Director of the new BFA Musical Theatre program and has served as stage director and music director for multiple full-scale productions at University of Texas and for the Dallas Theatre Center.

‘85 Debra Hedden, MA, EdD ‘97, Lawrence, KS, is Professor and Director of Music Education at the University of Kansas. She received the prestigious Byron T. Shutz Excellence in Teaching Award at the University of Kansas in 2011, was promoted to full professor in 2014 and published “Threading the Concept,” a text for general music methods courses (2010).

‘85 Wanda Reece, BA, Waterloo, IA, has taught piano lessons since 1962. She has recently reduced her private piano studio roster to allow more time for travel with her husband.

‘85 Melody (Turnquist) Steed, BM, Lindsborg, KS, recently completed her first year as the assistant academic dean of Bethany College. In addition, she continues to serve as the college organist and director of the hand bell ensembles.

‘88 Janelle Kimpston, BA, Waterloo, IA, received the 2015 Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching.

1990s

‘90 Jody (Ploeger) Ingwersen, BM, Spirit Lake, IA, currently serves as middle school band director for grades 5-8 at Spirit Lake Community Schools.

‘92 Ann McAlley, BM, Denver, CO, earned a PhD in leadership for higher education and Noel Levitz Certificate in enrollment management from Capella University in August 2014.

‘94 Tim Crumley, BA, Marion, IA, is a freelance drummer and percussionist. He has recently performed with numerous ensembles throughout Iowa including an appearance with Sandy Hackett’s Rat Pack at the Gallagher Bluedorn.

‘94 Aaron Hansen, BM, MM ‘04, Cedar Falls, IA, has accepted a position at Cedar Heights Elementary teaching K-6 general music. This follows 16 years at Waverly-Shell Rock teaching K-6 music and elementary band.

‘96 Rae Myra Hilliard, MM, Deerfield, IL, sang in an improvised opera with Renee Baker and her Chicago Modern Orchestra Project at the Museum of Contemporary Art in May 2015. She also recorded her first CD, which will be all works by Black American composers and will be released 9/8/2015.

‘96, Jeffrey Dennis Smith, BM, New York, NY, celebrated a development workshop performance of his new one-act opera “Why is Eartha Kitt Trying to Kill Me?” at the American Lyric Theater in New York. The workshop was met with high praise and critical acclaim. For more on Smith, visit www.jeffreydennissmith.com.

‘97 Rakhee Kripfgans, BA, Ann Arbor, MI, was a 2015 LSO concerto competition winner and will perform Poulenc’s Organ Concerto at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, MI on 1/24/2016.

‘98 Linda (Reines) Ferjak, MM, Forest City, IA, was honored with the Outstanding High School Teacher award at the Warburg College commencement ceremony. She is currently with Bishop Garrigan Schools in Algona.

‘98 Brian Kiser, BM, Youngstown, OH, is the associate professor of Tuba at Youngstown State University and this marks his tenth year teaching there. He maintains an active performing schedule with the Mr. Jack Daniel’s Original Silver Cornet Band, River City Brass, and the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. As an active studio musician, Kiser regularly records diverse musical projects in Indianapolis and Cleveland area studios, including projects for the Hal Leonard Corporation, De Haske Music Publications, FJH Music Company and Ludwig Music Publishers. He can be heard performing on more than one thousand Hal Leonard demo recordings since 2002.

‘98 Dave Lisik, MM, Wellington, New Zealand, was promoted to senior lecturer (associate professor in U.S.) at the New Zealand School of Music, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. For more on Dave’s career and accomplishments, see page 18.

‘99 Kathleen (Sander) Bas, MM, Columbia, MO, published a collection of intermediate/advancing flute duets titled “Childhood: Six Progressive Duets for Flute.” This adds to three existing collections for flute and piano.

2000s

‘00 Amanda Schroder, BA, Minneapolis, MN, currently serves as Manager of Individual Giving for the Minnesota Orchestra.

‘01 Suzanne Hendrix, BM, MM ‘06, Overland Park, KS, performed with Wiener Staatsoper (Vienna State Opera) in April 2015, covering a variety of roles including, Suzuki in Madama Butterfly, Larina in Eugene Onegin, and Fenena in Nabucco. In fall 2015, she will return to Lyric Opera of Chicago to cover in Le Nozze di Figaro and Wozzeck.

‘02 Cory Mixdorf, BA, Fayetteville, AR, is an assistant professor of trombone at the University of Arkansas.

‘02 Amber (Seemann) Youngblut, BA, MBA ‘05, Jesup, IA, was named one of the Cedar Valley’s 20 under 40 by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for 2014. She is currently in executive development with Veridian Credit Union.

‘03 Jennifer Betts, BA ‘09, Des Moines, IA, opened Fresh Mediterranean Express in Waukee in May 2014 with husband Hassan Atarmal BA ‘09. The restaurant offers a variety of Mediterranean fare and nine homemade sauces and dressings.

www.uni.edu/music | 26
2010s

‘11 Jenny (Peters) Adam, BM, New Hampton, IA, is entering her fourth year of teaching. She is the band teacher at the beginning/middle school level and feels fortunate to be able to collaborate with her husband, who is the high school band teacher, and build a program from the ground up.

‘11 Michael Conrad, BM, Greeley, CO, is starting his doctorate in jazz studies at the University of Northern Colorado, and recently received the ASCAP’s 2015 Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award.

‘11 Jeremiah Landon, BM, Fort Madison, IA, is choir director at Fort Madison High School.

‘11 Hannah Leffler, MM, Denton, TX, and ‘12, Samantha Kantak, BM, MM ‘14, Webster City, IA, announced that they had both won the University of North Texas Concerto Competition. As competition winners, they both performed with the UNT Symphony Orchestra in the spring of 2015.

‘11 Allison Offerman, BA, Coralville, IA, completed her Master’s degree in oboe performance at the University of Nebraska Lincoln in 2013 and is now finishing her last year of DMA coursework at the University of Iowa. She has taught at the Five Season Chamber Music Festival in Cedar Rapids for two years, and teaches weekly woodwind lessons at the Marion Music Academy in addition to her private studio.

‘12 Isaac Brockshus, BM, Charlotte, NC, traveled to Maccagno, Italy in the summer of 2015 for the premiere of his piece “Cognates for Trumpet and Marimba.”

‘12 James Healy, BM, Jefferson, IA, currently serves as 9-12 Vocal Music Director at Waterloo West High School.

‘12 Spencer Walrath, BA, Arlington, VA, is now a consultant in the energy and natural resources practice of FTI Consulting’s strategic communications division.

‘13 Jordan Leckband, BM, Guthrie Center, IA, is choral director at Guthrie Center. He teaches high school choir, junior high choir, show choir, music theory, and K-6 general music. The GCHS Choir returned to Des Moines in December to perform the National Anthem at the Iowa Wild hockey game.

‘14 Claudia Restrepo, MM, Salt Lake City, UT, recently conducted the Utah Philharmonic in their spring 2015 performances of Prokofiev’s Cinderella. Restrepo is currently pursuing her doctorate of musical arts at University of Utah and was accepted into a competitive conducting competition in London, summer 2015.
Marriages
‘11 Jeremiah Landon, BM, married Reba (Jongeling) Landon on 6/7/2014.

Births
‘07 Dave Tiede, BA, and Jennifer (Nebraska) Tiede, BM ‘07, Marion, IA, daughter Isla Marie Tiede born 7/19/2014.

Final Cadence
We were sad to hear of the passing of our past graduates and friends. We send our sympathies to their families.


Editor’s note: Thank you to Bonnie Farland for assistance in gathering information for this article and our Alumni News.

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!

Remembering Jack Graham

Jack Graham, emeritus professor of music, passed away on March 14. Jack joined the UNI School of Music in 1967, and served as Professor of Clarinet until his retirement in 2003. During that time, Jack conducted many School of Music ensembles and also appeared as conductor for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra. As clarinetist, Jack was a founding member of the Northwind Quintet, long-time Principal Clarinetist for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and Principal Clarinetist of the New Hampshire Music Festival Orchestra.

Since retiring in 2003, he continued to teach at UNI as adjunct Emeritus Professor (2014-15 marked his 48th year in the School of Music) and was also a Senior Lecturer in Clarinet at Wartburg College.

Ron Ross, former Director of the UNI School of Music stated, “Jack was an exemplary, influential and dedicated teacher and performer, perhaps one of the best all-around college-university musicians I’ve ever encountered.”

We will all miss you, Jack.
Halgedahl Celebrates Retirement from UNI

Celebrating a forty-five-year career that has included performances with major orchestras in the US and Germany, arts management, and teaching, School of Music violin professor Frederick Halgedahl retired in 2015. “My successes here at UNI couldn’t have been made without the support and inspiration of my fine colleagues,” Halgedahl noted. Twenty-nine years of his career have been spent on the UNI campus, where Halgedahl made friendships that pulled him back after brief appointments with two other academic institutions and the Hamburg opera. “In the final analysis it doesn’t matter where you are,” Halgedahl stated, “friends matter—they help you get your work done. UNI has provided me with richly varied opportunities: published research with physics colleague Roger Hanson; a Presidential Seminar in British and American poetry; four trips to St. Petersburg, Russia; musical collaborations too numerous to count with faculty and guests; and all this besides the responsibility and good fortune to lead so many tremendously varied individuals in the studio. A full and satisfying three decades.”

To add to an already rich career, Halgedahl was awarded the 2015 Leopold LaFosse Studio Teacher Award by the Iowa String Teachers Association. More important to him than formal honors, though, are the words of former students. “Here’s an example,” Halgedahl said, referencing a note he recently received from a former student “Sometimes young people...decide to fight against themselves rather than fight to figure themselves out. Thank you for standing by me through the former and the latter.’ What could be more fulfilling than that?”

The School of Music wishes to congratulate Fred on his retirement!

Editor’s Note: thank you to Fred Halgedahl for his contribution to this article.

University of Northern Iowa
Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band
Ronald Johnson and Danny Galen, conductors
Friday, October 2, 2015
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

Opera Scenes Performance
Mitra Sadeghpour, director
Monday, October 19, 2015
7:30 p.m., Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Thursday, October 22, 2015
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals
Dmitri Vorobiev, coordinator
Monday, November 2, 2015
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Choirs Holiday Concert
(formerly Chimes of Christmas)
Tuesday, December 8, 2015
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

Duo Pianists Sean Botkin and Dmitri Vorobiev
UNI Midwest International Piano Competition
Artistic Directors and UNI Piano Faculty
Tuesday, January 26, 2016
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

Concert Chorale & UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club
John Len Wiles, conductor
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

Performance Competition Finals
Heather Peyton, coordinator
Monday, March 28, 2016
7:30 p.m., Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One
Chris Merz, conductor
Friday, April 8, 2016
7:30 p.m., Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Singers
Amy Kotsonis, conductor
Tuesday, April 19, 2016
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.