Fall 2009

Rhythms: Music at the University of Northern Iowa, v28, Fall 2009

University of Northern Iowa. School of Music.

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Greetings from the new Russell Hall!

I am pleased to be writing to you from our $10.2 million recently renovated and expanded facility. Our history at ISTC, SCI and UNI continues to be written and our program has been noted for consistent accomplishments and achievements for more than a century. While the official designation of the “UNI School of Music” just celebrated its 30th year of its organization by name, the music department dates back to 1896. The Band and Orchestra divisions, which began in 1909, turn 100 years old this year! We value those students and faculty that walked our hallways in developing this school into one of the top comprehensive music institutions in the nation. We appreciate the continuing support of our students, faculty, staff, administration, citizens of the State of Iowa, friends, audience members and donors.

I am proud to announce our most recent student and faculty achievements as we celebrate the 10th anniversary season of the opening of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. The arts are flourishing and continue to be an integral part of our curriculum offerings at the University of Northern Iowa. Our educational and performance efforts, locally, nationally and internationally, continue to expand. The success of our students is validated by their recognition in obtaining employment in the best public schools, national performance and leadership awards, assistantships to top graduate programs, and appointments as professional musicians.

Students from the UNI Opera program participated in Opera America Auditions in Chicago this past fall. Brian Dickie, general director of Chicago Opera Theatre, responded to the auditions by writing, “The feedback auditions that I participated in yesterday provided another new piece of information for me. A number of the singers were from the University of Northern Iowa School of Music. And they were terrific. There were some remarkable voices who are clearly in the hands of an outstanding singing teacher. This university is in Cedar Falls, Iowa and is clearly the place to be…Gianna Rolandi joined me in this session and we were both mightily impressed by the potential of these young people.” Dickie responded back to a thank you note from one of our students by adding, “I thought that next year I would put UNI on my itinerary in the fall in addition to Juilliard, Curtis, Yale and all those other places on the East Coast!”

Our UNI Jazz program continues to receive esteemed accolades. Jack Bowers, senior contributor for “All About Jazz,” wrote about UNI Jazz Band One describing their latest CD release as, “Homegrown music with a global perspective from the prolific University of Northern Iowa Jazz Band One, its sixteenth recording since 1993 and sixth under director Chris Merz. As on past occasions, there’s not much to say about the UNI ensemble except to repeat the phrase, “well done…” UNI has beyond any doubt one of the country’s finest undergraduate Jazz Studies programs, first with the renowned Bob Washut and now Merz at the helm, an opinion affirmed by its many awards over the years for big-band excellence. Thinking Globally, Acting Locally simply enhances its already enviable reputation.”

Individual awards and accomplishments continue to be garnered by instrumental students too, and Daniel Velasco received top honors this year by sweeping national competitions sponsored by the National Flute Association and the Minnesota Orchestra’s WAMSO competition. For more on Daniel’s achievements and many other exceptional student honors, see page 14.

We were fortunate this past year to induct two members into the Jazz Hall of Fame (Jim Coffin and Richard Francis), and we will have our first inductees into the School of Music Hall of Fame this fall. Our alumni continue to serve as excellent role models for our current students and we want to continue to celebrate the successes of our graduates.

John Vallentine, Director
Professor & Director

Sincerely,

John Vallentine,
Professor & Director

Dear Friends:

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Our future development planning involves the creation of a Jazz Visiting Artist fund (in honor of Jim Coffin), rebuilding our Noehren Organ Console in Bengston Auditorium, increasing Star Scholarships to attract the best and brightest undergraduate music students to UNI, and creating graduate assistantships for each studio specialty.

Our role as leaders in “music education” in the state of Iowa and the United States, as well as offering stellar performance and liberal arts core curriculum programs, will expand as the School proudly offers new programs and serves as a national model of excellence. While economic times are demanding in 2009, we will not rest due to a musical legacy that has overcome past challenges to bring a brighter future for UNI students.

As you can tell, I continue to be extremely proud of our student accomplishments and the excellent teaching they receive from UNI faculty members. I hope that when you’re in Cedar Falls you’ll take the time to visit the School of Music, enjoy the new facilities and exceptional talent, and celebrate the continued excellence of our program.

Sincerely,

John Vallentine
Professor & Director

Music at the University of Northern Iowa
Russell Hall Reopens!

The initial dedication ceremony for the former ISTC Music Building was held on May 6, 1962. Forty six years later, on a sunny September afternoon the newly renovated, state-of-the-art building reopened to a standing-room only crowd of students, alumni, friends and supporters; and once again the UNI Alma Mater chorus resounded through the halls and hearts at Russell Hall.

The weekend’s events began on Friday, September 26, 2008 with the 3 p.m. rededication ceremony and opening of Bengtson Auditorium, Grahan Hall, the Jazz rehearsal room and Schultz Recording Studio. Representatives from the school, the state and the community were on hand to formally re-open the beautiful new space. UNI President Benjamin Allen, Director of the School of Music John Vallentine, Gayle Johns Rose, advisory board member, and other dignitaries welcomed the crowd. Vallentine noted the importance of the event, stating, “The renovation and new addition to Russell Hall is another milestone in the continued growth and development of the School of Music.”

After the ribbon cutting, guests were invited to the new Hinson Lobby for a reception and student-led tours throughout the new building.

The evening was electric with excitement as guests gathered at the School of Music’s second home, the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, for the 27th Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert. The concert featured outstanding alumna and world-renowned opera sensation Sheri Greenawald, soprano, as soloist with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra, along with combined choirs (UNI Singers, Concert Chorale, Chamber Singers and select men from the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club), mesmerized audiences with excerpts from Carl Orff’s lavish “Carmina Burana.” Other extraordinary acts included the Wind Symphony performing the works of Samuel Hazo and Leroy Anderson, featuring faculty artist Randy Grabowski, trumpet, the Northern Iowa Flute Choir, and stunning faculty pianists Sean Botkin and Genadi Zagor.

After the concert, the audience traveled back to the new Russell Hall for a post-concert reception and of course—more exceptional music! Jazz Band One featuring guest artist and stellar trombonist Nick Lane, Randy Hogancamp and the Taiko Drum Ensemble, the Northwind Quintet, the Tuba Quartet, the UNI Opera Ensemble and the Chamber Singers all performed in the new spaces at Russell Hall while guests discovered the new displays, rehearsal spaces, classrooms and corridors of the building.

Saturday morning was devoted to honoring the School of Music Emeritus Faculty at a breakfast reception held in their honor. Over a dozen emeritus faculty members, spouses, friends and current faculty members celebrated the reopening of the building by sharing...
memories and stories.

In the early evening, the School of Music hosted an Alumni and Friends banquet where the George Walker Society and UNI Flute Quartet offered outstanding musical performances while friends, colleagues, alumni and friends were able to reunite and celebrate the exciting success of the reopening of Russell Hall.

Exceptionally talented alumni, faculty and guest artists welcomed an eager audience into the new Bengtson Auditorium at Russell Hall on Saturday evening, September 27. The concert featured the Faculty String Quartet with exceptional pianist and guest artist Matthew Bengtson. Faculty artists Randy Grabowski, Chris Buckholz and Robert Washut performed the Paquito D’Rivera work *Preludio* and opera sensation Sheri Greenawald returned to join Marleta Matheson for a stunning interpretation of Fauré’s *Claire de Lune*. The second half of the concert featured an extraordinary set from the UNI Alumni Jazz Band featuring performers of all ages ranging from graduates of the class of 1951 to current Jazz Band One members. The audience was thrilled, the players were stellar and the weekend’s celebration was fast becoming a favorite moment for so many in the UNI School of Music.

For those of you who were here to celebrate with us, we thank you. We hope that you remember every elegant curve of the new hallways along with every student past, present and future who will benefit from these new facilities. We couldn’t have done this without you and your support.

For those of you who couldn’t make it to Cedar Falls to celebrate with us, please enjoy the photos from the weekend. We hope you’ll come visit our new facilities—and all of your friends at UNI School of Music—soon.

The School of Music would like to extend a special note of deepest gratitude to each member of the School of Music National Advisory Board and all of our special donors. Without your passion, dedication, support and leadership the renovation of Russell Hall would not have become a reality.

The Faculty String Quartet featuring guest artist Matthew Bengtson.

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The 2008-2009 academic year proved to be one of outstanding musical achievement in the UNI School of Music Jazz Division and a celebration of firsts.

Fall began with excitement as the Jazz Division performance season opened with a Jazz Combos concert on October 7, followed by the Jazz Panthers and Jazz Band III shared concert on November 6. The Jazz Band One Spotlight Series Concert followed on November 14. The fall concerts had a new sense of energy and excitement as the bands returned to the newly renovated Bengtson Auditorium at Russell Hall for performances and enjoyed the new jazz rehearsal studio for weekly combo and big band rehearsals.

The spring 2009 jazz concert season opened with the always stellar Tallcorn Jazz Festival, including the 58th Annual Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz concerts. New York based trombonist, composer and ENJA Records recording artist Josh Roseman performed as special guest artist for the weekend’s performances. Roseman's electric quintet, the JRU, has headlined at the Berlin Jazztage, the Zurich Jazz festival, the Nijmegen festival and elsewhere, and Roseman himself has performed alongside other notable acts such as Me'Shell NdegeOcello, Medeski, Martin & Wood and the Roots.

As UNI’s Jazz Band One and Jazz Panthers prepared for their spring tours and another round of outstanding performances, the School of Music prepared to honor two outstanding supporters of the program in a first-ever event. On April 3 at the Jazz Band One Concert, the UNI School of Music inducted Jim Coffin as the first-ever member of the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame. Coffin, who took the stage on both drum set and vocals at the very first Jazz at the Commons concert in 1951, was inducted into the Iowa Jazz Educators Hall of Fame in 1997. Jim serves on the UNI School of Music National Advisory Board and was a leader and proponent in advocating for the renovation of Russell Hall.

The celebration of this new honor for jazz supporters, educators and advocates continued on April 14 when Richard Francis was inducted as the second member inducted into the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame. Francis, outstanding alumnus of the Jazz program at UNI and noted jazz educator, has devoted his life to public school teaching, combo performances, and church choir singing and directing. He started the jazz program in the Marshalltown, Iowa school system in 1965 at the junior high level.

Under the direction of Bob Washut, and with funding provided by the Mayme Ward Olson Music Enrichment Endowment Fund, the Jazz Panthers toured to the Des Moines area April 20 and 21 for a performance with the Des Moines Big Band at the Adventureland Inn, as well as concerts at Ankeny High School and West Des Moines High School.

Jazz Band One also took a turn at touring, again with funding provided by the Mayme Ward Olson Music Enrichment Endowment Fund. Under the direction of Chris Merz, the band offered performances at several Cedar Rapids area high schools, and returned at the end of the spring semester to begin work recording in May.

Another year wrapped up for the UNI School of Music Jazz Division with consistently excellent educational and musical pursuits, and with an eye to the future and more excitement to come.
UNI School of Music

2009-2010 Spotlight Series Performances

Experience thrilling music performed by UNI School of Music Students and Faculty

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

Wind Symphony and Concert Band
Ronald Johnson and S. Daniel Galyen, conductors
Friday, Oct. 2, 2009
Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Singers & Women’s Chorus
Dyan Meyer and Fred Kiser, conductors
Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009
Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Panthers
featuring Steve Owen, saxophone
Robert Washut, conductor
Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009
Bengston Auditorium, Russell Hall

Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals
Kevin Droe, coordinator
Monday, Nov. 9, 2009
Great Hall, GBPAC

Chimes of Christmas
featuring UNI choral ensembles
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009
Great Hall, GBPAC

Faculty Artist Music Showcase
Die Walküre, Act I
featuring Voice Faculty Artists
Wednesday, February 3, 2010
Great Hall, GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Friday, February 26, 2010
Great Hall, GBPAC

Concert Chorale
Dyan Meyer, conductor
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
Great Hall, GBPAC

Performance Competition Finals
Chris Buckholz, coordinator
Monday, March 29, 2010
Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One
Chris Merz, conductor
Friday, April 23, 2010
Bengston Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club
Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Great Hall, GBPAC

Tickets for individual concerts will be $9 – adults, $8 – senior citizens, $7 – 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 and additional information 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.
Pack your bags and join us on a musical journey to London town. On Saturday, September 26 at 7:30 p.m., come feel the rush of excitement as the Gallagher-Bluedorn lobby is transformed into Piccadilly Circus!

The concert will feature music by the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony with faculty artists Amanda McCandless, clarinet, and Chris Buckholz, trombone. Jazz Band One, the UNI Opera Ensemble, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, UNI Choral Ensembles 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 “street musicians” at the circus, as well as dancing with the Bill Shepherd Big Band in Davis Hall. You won’t want to miss it!

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.
Becoming a Special Donor
The Scholarship Benefit Concerts have been raising scholarship funds for exceptionally talented music students and students in need since 1982. In addition to the income from tickets sales for the concerts, we have developed a network of community, small business, corporate and university-related donors. The extent of this support has been most gratifying to the students and faculty at UNI’s School of Music.

To allow us to continue the support we have provided in the past, please consider becoming a special donor*. Donor categories are as follows:

President’s Circle—$2,500 or more (up to 40 complimentary tickets available at this level of giving)
Dean’s Circle—$2,000 to $2,499 (up to 32 complimentary tickets)
Director’s Circle—$1,500 to $1,999 (up to 24 complimentary tickets)
Underwriters—$1,000 to $1,499 (up to 16 complimentary tickets)
Guarantors—$500 to $999 (up to eight complimentary tickets)
Patrons—$250 to $499 (up to four complimentary tickets)
Benefactors—$100 to $249 (up to two complimentary tickets)

To become a special donor and receive complimentary tickets, contact the School of Music office #72 Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center by calling (319) 273-2025.

All seats for the benefit concert are reserved. The final date for adding names to the special donor section of the acknowledgement page of the benefit concert program is Friday, September 11, 2009.

*all contributions and ticket costs for the Scholarship Benefit Concert are tax deductible less $5 for each person receiving champagne and hors d’oeuvres.

Thank you to the “Special Donors” from the 2008 Scholarship Benefit Concert

**Director’s Circle - $1,500 or more**
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
- University Book & Supply

**Guarantors - $500 or more**
- Marilyn & Melvin Brown
- Randy A. Hogancamp & Jane Whitehead
- Gallagher Family Foundation
- Jeffrey & Jean Triplett
- John & Karen Miller
- Jon & Marilyn Hansen
- Patricia L. Geadelmann

**Patrons - $250 or more**
- Robert & Katherine Washut
- Joyce A. Gaul
- Maribeth Butters
- Angeleita Floyd & Scott Cawelti
- C. Hugh Petersen
- Dorothy & John Glascock
- Elly Leslie
- Franklin Sauer
- Fredrick Zellhart
- Glenn Boysen Trust
- Katherine & William Calhoun, Jr.
- Lee & Mango Nicholas
- Martha Holvik
- Mary & Bill Shepherd
- Marybeth A. Nelson
- Mr. Charles D. Matheson
- Mrs. Murtis M. Smith
- Myron W. Mueller
- Neysa Klepfer
- Richard Todd & Katherine Miller-Todd
- Rick & Mary Christ

**Benefactors - $100 or more**
- James Lubker & Karin Lubker Holmgren
- Susan & Jim Ohrt
- Virgie & Robert Granger
- Susan & John Nielsen
- Ackley Insurance
- Christine Whiteman
- Deanna Thursby
- Krystal & Douglas L. Randall
- Laurie Hayzell
- William & Cathy Craig
- Augusta L. Schurrer
- Ben & Pat Allen
- Elayne Blumhagen
- Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Group Inc.
- James & Kathryn Kealy
- Reinhold K. Bubser & Siegrun T. Wildner
- Roxney & Sara Lair
- Stacy & James Ingraham
- Ben & Pat Allen
- Elly Leslie
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- Rick & Mary Christ

- Denis & Julia Kuhlmann
- Donald & Ruth Keipp
- Douglas & Connie Bengtson
- Douglas & Connie Herbon
- Dr. Dale Gardner Phelps
- Earle W. Dickinson
- Edward & Dalila Amend
- Elizabeth Olson
- Frankee & James Olson
- George & Pam Schuh
- Greg Barnett
- Guy & Bebe Rosen
- Howard Aibel
- Howard V. Jones
- Jacolyn & Tom Burk
- Jeffrey & Barbara Robison
- Joel & Linda Haack
- John & Susie Hines
- John Moe
- Julia Bullard
- Katherine & Daniel Hoover
- Katherine Cota-Uyar & Bulent Uyar
- Kui-im Lee
- Leonard & Marion Karlin
- Lynn & Mary Nielsen
- M. Jeanene & James Robertson
- Marion & Margaret Carr
- Marlene & Ralph Baumhover
- Marlene & Robert Schmidt
- Martha & James McCutcheon
- Martin & Margaret Borchelt
- Mary Lou & John Miller
- Mary Schlicher
- Mr. Frederick W. Mast
- Noreen Hermansen
- Pat & Byron Kruse
- Richard & Patricia Sauer
- Robert & Mary Jane Shafer
- S. Joanne & Roger Lane
- Sandra & Richard Ward
- Smithey Investigations Inc.
- Sue Joseph
- Terry & Bernadette Tiede
- The Resale Store
- Theresa & Jack Guelff
- Theron R. Strike
- Timothy & Bonnie Noonan
- Valerie Luaders
- Veda Rasmussen
- William T. Jochumsen
The Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra toured the Chicago area March 14-18, 2009. The student ensemble tour, featuring over 50 student musicians, offered performances at York Community High School, Willowbrook High School, and Waubonsie Valley High School. Chris Buckholz performs with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra on tour.

Chris Buckholz performs with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra on tour.

The 2009 George Walker Society Ensemble

UNI School of Music’s George Walker Society (GWS) ushered in another year of successful and exciting musical programming in 2008-2009. The George Walker Society is the only branch in the state of Iowa belonging to the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc. (NANM, Inc.). The national organization is an historic society of music educators, scholars, performers and composers dedicated to the preservation and promotion of classical composition and Negro spirituals composed by African Americans for all to enjoy. GWS is a college branch and seeks to expose the wealth of musical literature to its fellow students.

This summer, the George Walker Society traveled to San Jose, Costa Rica from June 8 through June 16. The and Waubonsie Valley High School. Led by conductor Rebecca Burkhardt, the orchestra performed selections by Edvard Grieg and Igor Stravinsky. The performances also featured soloist and School of Music faculty artist Chris Buckholz, trombone, on Georg Christoph Wagenseil’s Concerto in E-flat for Trombone and Orchestra, as well as soloist and faculty artist Hunter Capoccioni, double bass, on Frank Proto’s A Carmen Fantasy for Double Bass and Orchestra.

“Anytime our ensembles have the opportunity to repeat performances, the students’ musical knowledge and performance abilities increase exponentially,” conductor Rebecca Burkhardt noted. “That is one of the benefits of a performance tour.”

High School students and orchestra directors were thrilled at the opportunity to enjoy the orchestra’s performance and also to engage with students and UNI faculty.

The UNI ensemble featured Eric Eichelberger, freshman majoring in choral music education; Terell Izzard, graduate student; Danny White, recent graduate with degrees in piano performance and music: theory-composition; Celeste Lea Bembry, alumna of the UNI School of Music (B.M. ’03; M.M. ’06) and current recruiting and retention coordinator for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts; and Esther Lavrenz, graduate student pursuing a master of music degree in vocal performance.

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George Walker Society tours to Costa Rica

The 2009 George Walker Society Ensemble

The group was selected to participate in the Promising Young Artists of the 21st Century program. Sandra Walden, UNI faculty member, directed the ensemble.

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Student Danny White looked back on the tour and noted, “Aside from the beautiful tropical climate and gorgeous people, the most fun and important part of the trip was the exchange of native music with another culture.”

Lavrenz remembers the trip as a life changing and growth experience, noting, “Meeting such wonderful people, experiencing their beautiful culture, their music, their food...made the trip an amazing adventure and an unforgettable experience that has made me a stronger musician and performer.”

While in San Jose, the group performed for the U.S. ambassador at the National Theater, Eugene O’Neill Theater and various other venues. The group’s tour repertoire consisted of Negro Spirituals, a jazz tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, American Urban Gospel and Gershwin’s excerpts of the American Opera “Porgy and Bess.” Reflecting on the experience Bembry acknowledged, “We were privileged to present such important American music literature by African Americans to Costa Rica.”

Manuel Arce, cultural director of the Centro Cultural Costarricense Norteamericano, acknowledged the group as spectacular, saying “Without any doubt this has been one of the most outstanding representations that UNI has sent to Costa Rica.”

Editor’s note: Thank you to the members of the George Walker Society for their contributions to this article.

Our students’ interaction with and performance for high school students is a plus for everyone,” Burkhardt said.

Enjoying the cultural and musical aspects of Chicago is also a great opportunity for an exciting new learning environment for UNI students. While in Chicago, UNI student musicians and faculty attended performances of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Chicago Lyric Opera. "The orchestra’s attendance at the Lyric Opera and the Chicago Symphony was exciting and inspirational. These are events that I wish the students and I could attend every month!” Burkhardt exclaimed.

Upon returning from tour, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra performed many of their tour selections for a thrilled Cedar Valley audience at their March 26 Spotlight Series concert.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Rebecca Burkhardt for her contributions to this article.
The Christmas Variety Shows have become a venerable holiday tradition at the University of Northern Iowa. Produced by the UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club since 1978, the Christmas Variety Shows have been described as a unique blend of excellent holiday music and collegiate fun.

The Glee Club has sold out every Christmas Variety Show since 1988. The shows are always performed on the first Friday and Saturday in December. Tickets go on sale to the general public in October.

A 32-year Holiday tradition

As former Glee Club director Bob Byrnes described it, Glee Club members begged people to come to the first Christmas Variety Show in 1978, offering free admission to the 600-seat Russell Hall auditorium. But it was an exciting show full of wonderful holiday music offered by the Glee Club and the university community.

Byrnes borrowed ideas and brainstormed new plans, and always made them the Glee Club's own, with such traditional favorites as the Glee Club Play and the hilarious Arthur Murder Dancers. Several Glee Club songs date back to that first show, such as “We Need A Little Christmas,” “Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming” and “The First Noel.”

Every year, the show got better.

Glee Club members took initiative and sold tickets, and serenaded co-eds outside the dorms the night before the show. Soon, a ticket to the Variety Show became the hottest ticket in town and a holiday tradition was born.

With assistance from Byrnes (and later Brad Barrett,) the Glee Club took the shows from those humble days in Russell Hall, to sell-out performances every year since 1988.

The move to the 1,550-seat Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center (GBPAC) in 2000 only broadened the show's appeal. To date, the Glee Club can boast more sold-out performances at the GBPAC than any other group, student or professional.

Variety is the Spice

Audiences like variety and the Glee Club delivers something for everyone. The Glee Club performances include traditional pieces such as Franz Biebl's “Ave Maria,” contemporary works such as “Lux Aurumque” by Eric Whitacre, as well as original compositions by Glee Club members and UNI School of Music students. Other acts, soloists and small groups from the School of Music and the university community feature jazz, gospel and traditional holiday favorites.

The Variety Shows would not be the same without the talents of Father Paul Peters, from Elkader, Iowa. Accompanying the Glee Club on the Great Hall organ, Fr. Peters has performed on every Variety Show but one. Glee Club council member Paul Marlow fondly recalls, “His version of ‘Good King Wenceslaus’ rocks the house and for the last several years he has closed the show with ‘God Bless America.’ You won't hear that at just any Christmas Variety Show!”

Since 1978, over 90,000 patrons have attended the Christmas Variety Shows at UNI. More than 41,800 patrons have attended the Christmas Variety Shows since 2000.

The Glee Club works diligently to put on an extraordinary show every year. The men begin rehearsing music for the Variety Shows in August. The shows have captured the hearts of family and friends from all across Iowa with John Carlson of the Des Moines Register noting, “It's one more Christmas tradition that's worth a trip across Iowa—even on a cold, snowy night.”

The 32nd Annual Christmas Variety Show will be held December 4 and 5, 2009 under the direction of faculty member Fred Kiser. Tickets will be available through the GBPAC box office or from any Glee Club member this fall.

Editor's note: Thank you to Paul Marlow for his contribution of this article.
Success Stories: Community Outreach Programs

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, Kindermusik, UNI Children’s Choir and UNI Community Music School are bringing music to the lives of many eager community musicians.

The UNI Suzuki School celebrated their 33rd year with their annual spring concert, numerous outreach performances and guest clinicians. The school continues to sponsor two community orchestras, the Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra and the Northern Iowa Junior Orchestra. Membership is by audition.

This year was a great year to celebrate Suzuki School students becoming UNI students! Since 1976, the Suzuki School has taught many area youth. During that time, seven students stayed with the program until their high school graduation and then enrolled at the University of Northern Iowa working as student teacher trainees. John Fetter (B.M. ’97) joined the program in 1978 and following high school graduation taught for the school. He currently serves as assistant professor at the Eastman School of Music. Saylar Craig (B.A. ’95; B.S. ’95; M.A. ’98) began his violin studies in 1979. He teaches math for Aramco in Saudi Arabia where he is a member of the Bahrain National Symphony. He recently conducted the All Kingdom Orchestra at the SAIK Music Festival.

Becky Baillie Deters (B.S. ’96) began in 1981 and now teaches violin for Crescendo Youth Orchestra in Minnesota. Mia Craig Hagarty (B.M. ’03) followed her brother into the Suzuki world in 1983. She currently teaches violin at Del Mar College and is a member of the Adagio String Quartet. Likewise Stephen Baillie (B.A. ’01) followed his sister into the Suzuki world in 1985 and teaches violin for the Lake Superior Suzuki Talent Education Program, plays in the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra and a gospel bluegrass band. Deborah Colvt Klemme (B.M. ’03) and Cara Keidel (B.M. ’08) began their Suzuki studies in 1989. Deborah teaches for the Santa Fe Youth Symphony, Cara is a recent UNI graduate and joined the staff as a senior. She will continue to work with the school next fall.

She is a member of the Waterloo Cedar Falls Symphony. In addition, Suzuki School grads Susan Funk (B.S. ’99) and Joel Agee (B.S. ’94) also enrolled at UNI and played in NISO. Susan is a member of the Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony. We continue to celebrate our successful Suzuki alumni! Please note: While many of the above have earned advanced degrees, only their UNI degrees are mentioned here.

The UNI Community Music School continues to experience growth in enrollment and program development. CMS enrollment has increased from the original 17 students (in Spring 2006) to over 300 participants. Commitment to the CMS mission, “Music Should Last a Lifetime,” is reflected in the current curriculum, which offers programs for ages three months through senior citizens. These programs include private lessons (woodwinds, brass, percussion and piano), Kindermusik, UNI Children’s Choir and UNI New Horizons Band. Each area also enjoyed several opportunities to share music with family and friends in 2008-2009.

Kindermusik classes are a new and exciting attraction, offering children the chance to enjoy dancing, tapping, and even blowing bubbles to music. The New Horizons Band performed two concerts in the Gallagher-Bluedorn Great Hall (with the traditional Receptions Extraordinaire!) as well as offering their Summer Concert Tour. The Spring 2009 New Horizons Band concert featured award winning UNI graduate student Matt Andreini as xylophone soloist.

CMS private lesson studios performed at semester recitals, the CMS Holiday Play-In and the Spring Festival Day.

During the summer session, UNI Community Music School hosted CAMP MUSICMANIA for area youth ages six through 13 years. Campers enjoyed activities in music history, music theory, and instrumental ensembles. In 2009, CMS also welcomed Aaron Hansen, from Waverly–Shell Rock Public Schools, to work with campers in the Orff based percussion performing group.

The UNI Children’s Choir experienced another successful year. The choral youth ensemble, under the direction of School of Music and Price Lab School instructor Michelle Swanson, had over 75 members and received many invitations to perform.

The choir performed at three different state music conferences and sang in Cedar Falls at the Iowa Choral Directors’ elementary workshop. The UNICC also performed with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Jason Weinberger, at the annual Holiday Pops concert.

The group continues to offer outstanding musical opportunities for
at UNI School of Music

Students in grades 2 through 8. It also provides practical and experiential learning opportunities for the pre-service music education students at UNI. “It is a win-win situation,” explained Swanson, “as both the young children and the college students experience quality learning.”

In addition to invitational performances, the choir performs regular concerts at the end of each fall and spring semester on the UNI campus. Auditions for the upcoming school year are open and can be scheduled by contacting Swanson at michelle.swanson@uni.edu.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Cathy Craig, Cindi Mason and Michelle Swanson for their contributions to this article.

Music Education Workshops: Celebrating Success!

Annual Music Education Workshops

Michelle Swanson, instructor of music education at the University of Northern Iowa, hosted several successful workshops for elementary music teachers in 2008-2009. In conjunction with the First Iowa Orff Chapter, Swanson offers three workshops per year for practicing music teachers on practical, hands-on music learning using the Orff Schulwerk approach to music education. Each year, two of the three workshops include invited presenters from across North America. Previous presenters have included Randy DeLelles, Denise Gagne, Esther D’Agrosa and many more. In April 2009, AOSA President Jo Ella Hug presented a session entitled “In the End, it’s all about PROCESS.” The presentation focused on students’ full engagement with hands-on learning that is developmentally appropriate and carefully guided, leading to sophisticated musical results. Swanson also offers graduate and license renewal credit to workshop participants annually.

“Music teachers throughout Iowa seem to very much appreciate this content-specific professional development,” stated Swanson. “They are learning excellent musical techniques and activities for their young students that are very doable in the classroom. At the same time, the music teachers are continuing their own professional growth as music teachers.”

Total Band Director Workshop

In July 2009, the UNI School of Music, in partnership with West Music and Hal Leonard, presented the second annual Total Band Director Workshop at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. The workshop focused on offering band directors new tools, materials and music for the 2009-2010 year. Kevin Droe, UNI Assistant Professor of Music in Music Education, helped to coordinate and plan this year’s event. UNI School of Music students Logan Vander Wiel, Jeff Waldschmitt, Nicole Vallentine, Jenny Peters, Sarah Kowal and Angela Staron assisted with the event, including offering a specialized Woodwind and Brass Pedagogy workshop, focused on sharpening teaching skills on non-primary instruments. The Total Band Directors Conference is planned an annual collaborative effort between West Music and UNI School of Music.

Editor’s Note: Special thanks to Michelle Swanson and Kevin Droe for their contributions to this article.
In April 2009, UNI School of Music faculty artists, students and alumni collaborated to offer a stellar presentation of scenes from opera classics. The first-ever UNI Opera Gala was held on Sunday, April 26 in the Great Hall, Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center on the UNI campus. The concert was presented by the UNI Opera Ensemble under the direction of Sandra Walden, director, and Korey Barrett, vocal coach, and featured the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra led by Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor.

The concert, an event created to benefit the scholarship and production funds of the UNI Opera Ensemble, featured some of opera's most memorable music. Featured works included Act I of Verdi's "La Traviata," the Habenera and Toreador songs from Bizet's "Carmen," ensembles from Mozart's "Don Giovanni," "Così fan tutte" and "Die Zauberflöte," and more. Undergraduate and graduate students in the UNI Opera Ensemble were joined on stage by School of Music alumni and voice faculty artists, as well as the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra.

"It was really exciting to have faculty, students and alumni all on the stage at the same time," director Sandra Walden exclaimed. Kyle Albertson (B.M. '02), Roxanne Rowedder (B.M. '97), Sarah Barber (B.M.E. '98) and Nicole Birkland (B.M.E. '01; M.M. '06) all returned to UNI to perform with the UNI Opera Ensemble and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra for the event.

A gala reception with the artists was held in the McElroy Lobby following the performance, making the day a truly spectacular event for concert-goers.

When asked why she felt it was important to create and direct the first-ever Opera Gala, Walden noted, "I wanted to do this because I felt like we were a well kept secret in the Cedar Valley. I knew how well our students sang and what great work the voice area as a whole was doing, so I kept telling my students all semester, 'Once they see this, we're going to knock their socks off!' And I think we did that. People are still talking about it and they've all got wonderful things to say."

The accolades continued to come in when Iowa Public Radio chose to air the gala on their University Concert Series on June 14. "We're particularly proud that KUNI broadcast it statewide in June," Walden said, "I listened to it and was struck a number of times by the power of the performance. The announcer kept referring to it as 'stunning'—I think that's great!"

The UNI Opera Ensemble and voice division host several concerts and performance events throughout the year. We hope that you'll join us in 2009-2010 to see what all of the buzz is about!

Editor's Note: Thank you to Sandra Walden for her contributions to this article.

Student musicians set the scene at the 2009 Opera Gala.
Donor Spotlight: Pauline R. Barrett

A longtime Cedar Valley supporter has left her mark on the Russell Hall renovation project.

Pauline R. Barrett offered up the lead gift for the new addition to Russell Hall, UNI's hub for fine arts education. In Pauline's honor, university administrators requested approval for a wing of the building to be named in her honor. The Board of Regents approved the request.

"Her gift made it possible to complete this project," said President Benjamin Allen.

The building, which had undergone renovations since 2006, reopened in fall 2008. The Barrett Wing currently houses Graham Chamber Music Hall, a jazz rehearsal studio, jazz recording studio, restrooms and a kitchen.

Barrett has also donated to other university projects, including the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center and scholarship programs. She has provided substantial gifts to projects at Allen Hospital, Allen College, the YWCA and Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.

“She is a special person to the Cedar Valley. There are not many projects achieved in the Valley without her somehow being involved," said William Calhoun, vice president for marketing and advancement. “We are grateful to her for her continued support of UNI.”

Editor's note: Thank you to the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier for information used in this article.

Jvone Maxwell died on February 8, 2005

This year she awarded six music scholarships.

Your bequest to the UNI School of Music will impact students and may provide you with many benefits, including:

• Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime
• You can direct your bequest to a particular purpose or program
• You can modify your bequest at anytime

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

Voice area student accomplishments include: Kate Crist and Nicole Birkland were both selected as finalists in the Houston Grand Opera audition; Kate Crist also earned the first place honor at the Upper Midwest Regional Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in Minneapolis, Minn. and was awarded a second summer term at the Merola Opera Summer Program in San Francisco, Cal.; Cassandra McNally was accepted to the Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Artist program, summer 2009; Renée Rapier was accepted into the Studio Artist Program at Chautauqua Opera; Sarah Duvel, Aaron Plummer and Robert Williams were selected to participate in the American Choral Directors Association National Collegiate Honor Choir in March 2009; Senior choral music education major Robert Williams was selected as a finalist for the American Choral Directors National Student Conducting Competition;

Daniel Velasco, senior B.M., was awarded the $5000 first prize in the 36th Annual USA’s National Flute Association’s Young Artist Competition in August 2008. Velasco also claimed the top honor at the highly competitive WAMSO Young Artist Competition in Minneapolis, Minn. When commenting on Daniel’s recent success and his first place honors, UNI President Benjamin Allen commented, “This prestigious accomplishment is richly deserved. We are fortunate to have such talented students at the University of Northern Iowa.”

At our 2009 Spotlight Series Performance Competition finals, Michael Conrad, trombone, was named the 2009 Presser Scholar and awarded the $4,800 Presser Foundation Award. Conrad not only claimed the Presser Award with his exceptional performance of Eric Ewazen’s Sonata for Trombone and Piano, but was also selected for the People’s Choice Award, a $100 award voted on by the concert’s audience. A junior at the University of Northern Iowa with majors in Music Composition/Theory and Music Education with a Jazz Emphasis, Conrad graduated from Bettendorf High School in Bettendorf, Iowa. At UNI, he has played in several ensembles including Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band One and a number of Jazz Combos. Conrad also directs Independence High School’s Jazz Band III and has studied with Chris Buckholz on the trombone, as well as Chris Merz, Bob Washut, and Jon Schwabe in the applied areas of jazz studies and composition/theory.

The $1,500 Charles and Marleta Matheson Award was awarded to Aaron Plummer, tenor, who won the judge’s panel over with his performance of Allerseelen by Richard Strauss, Autumn Evening by Roger Quilter and E lucevan le stelle by Giacomo Puccini. Aaron Plummer is a senior Choral Music Education major from Monticello, Iowa and has studied voice at UNI with Jonathon Thull for eight semesters. While at UNI, Aaron has performed with the UNI Singers and Freshman Cantorei as well as six semesters in both Chamber Singers and Concert Chorale. This fall, Aaron will complete his student teaching in Castle Rock, Colorado and plans to pursue a Master’s Degree in performance or choral conducting.

Daniel Kleinheinz, trumpet, was awarded the $1,000 Myron and Ruth Russell Award for his stellar performance of Joseph Turrin’s Intrada for C Trumpet and Piano. Kleinheinz is a junior Music Education major at UNI, and a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. During his career at UNI, Danny has performed with a number of different ensembles including the Wind Symphony, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Bands II and III and the Panther Marching Band. He has also been an active member of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, having held the offices of vice president and collegiate province representative. Danny has studied with Jerry Young and Randy Grabowski.

In November 2008, Matthew Andreini, percussion, was awarded the top honor at the UNI School of Music Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals. Andreini of Des
Moines, Iowa, earned his Bachelor of Arts from UNI in 2007 and his Master of Music degree in 2009. Matthew teaches percussion with the UNI Community Music School as well as the New Horizons Band and has performed in multiple international tours throughout Europe, Central, and South America. In 2006, Matthew spent a semester studying percussion at the Liszt Conservatory in Debrecen, Hungary. He currently performs regularly with a variety of groups including the UNI Wind Symphony, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, UNI Percussion Ensembles, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, Waterloo and Cedar Falls Municipal Bands, Cedar Falls Community Theater and other various local ensembles.

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

Several of our students performed at the 2008 National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition. With many of our students placing, UNI student honors were as follows:

- **Kelly Hill**, second place in the Senior Women Division; **Reneé Rapier**, first place in Senior Women Division; **Valeria Kishkunas**, third place in Senior Women Division; **Marie Schmidt**, Honorable Mention in Graduate Women Division; **Jesse Geers**, third place in Senior Men Division; **Cassandra McNally**, Honorable Mention in Senior Women Division; **Sarah Duvel**, second place in Graduate Women Division; **Jeremiah Shobe**, Honorable Mention in Senior Men Division; **Mackenzie Whitney**, Honorable Mention in Junior Men Division; **Kelsey Ternes**, Honorable Mention in Sophomore Women Division; **Sean Ortgies**, Honorable Mention in Junior Men Division; **Sean Murphy**, Honorable Mention in Sophomore Men Division.

Several students represented the School of Music at the Graduate College’s Symposium for Creative Performance in April 2009. Top honors were awarded to: **Sarah Duvel**, first place; **Matthew Andreini**, second place; **Vladimir Tkachenki**, third place. Congratulations!

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

- **Dean’s Scholars:**
  - Stephanie Opsal
  - Amy Stellmaker
  - Nicole Vallentine
  - Spencer Walrath

- **Honor’s Students:**
  - William Beyer, Daniel Kleinheinz, Brian Lenz, Cassandra Naaktgeboren, Chelsea O’Donnell, Brooke Peters, Amber Smith, Kelsey Ternes, Nicole Vallentine, Jeffrey Waldschmitt, Spencer Walrath, Megan Wharff and Meredith Young.

The School of Music would also like to congratulate the 59 School of Music students who appeared on the Spring 2009 Dean’s List. To be included on the list, a student must have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, while taking at least 12 hours of graded work during the semester.

Congratulations to each of you on your excellent work!

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**School of Music earns high Honors**

UNI Alumni Association and the UNI Career Services office are excited to announce our new virtual career success center. We have partnered with CareerBeam®, LLC to bring you the best company and industry research tools, international databases and lead generation technology available in the market. Our success center also has a career development seminar series that has assessments, professional resume & cover letter builders and search strategy resources for you. The service is free to UNI alumni and students at [www.unialum.org/career](http://www.unialum.org/career).

The UNI Alumni career page has links to all UNI resources, as well as statewide resources for career assistance and job searches.
2008-2009 was another exciting year in the School of Music, filled with exceptional guest artists and clinicians visiting and sharing their talent and experience with students and faculty. Through hands-on master classes, thrilling performances and interactive discussions, these inspiring guests and masters of music offered students a world of opportunity to find out why choosing music is truly an inspiring path.

Many of our guest artists were able to join us thanks to the generosity of the Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund. The School of Music continues to extend its gratitude for the contributions of Dorothea Dean.

**August 2008**

Our fall performance season opened with a visit from percussionist Michelle Colton. Colton is currently working on her Master’s of Music in percussion performance at University of Michigan. He has presented concerts in France, Italy and Hungary, and has performed at Thomas Jefferson’s home in Monticello, as well as solo recitals at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall. Bengtson has performed with the Reading, Pottstown and Ridgefield Symphony Orchestras, and has appeared with violinist Joshua Bell on NPR’s “Performance Today” and XM Satellite Radio’s “Classical Confidential.”

**October 2008**

Guest artist Thomas Reed, organ, visited the School of Music in October in a recital performance. A native of Decatur, Ill., Reed began his organ studies in the studio of Dr. Huw Lewis at Hope College in Holland, Mich. and earned the Bachelor of Arts degree there. After a few years as a freelance musician in St. Louis, Thomas moved to Kansas City, Mo. to study with Dr. John Ditto at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he earned both Masters of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees under full scholarship. Thomas came to Waterloo, Iowa in August 2007 to assume duties as director of music ministries at First Presbyterian Church.

**November 2008**

Guest artist Thomas Reed, organ, visited the School of Music in October in a recital performance. A native of Decatur, Ill., Reed began his organ studies in the studio of Dr. Huw Lewis at Hope College in Holland, Mich. and earned the Bachelor of Arts degree there. After a few years as a freelance musician in St. Louis, Thomas moved to Kansas City, Mo. to study with Dr. John Ditto at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he earned both Masters of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees under full scholarship. Thomas came to Waterloo, Iowa in August 2007 to assume duties as director of music ministries at First Presbyterian Church.
presented papers at national meetings of the American Musicological Society, the Society for American Music, and the North American British Music Studies Association, and in Europe for the International Conference on Music Since 1900 (University of York), the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference (Durham University) and the International Congress on Musical Signification (Université de Paris).

**January 2009**

The spring semester began with guest artist Hsiaopei Lee, viola, offering a recital performance. Lee, Assistant Professor of Viola at the University of Southern Mississippi since 2005, has appeared as recitalist, chamber musician and orchestra musician spanning three continents. She has presented solo recitals throughout the United States and Asia and collaborated in chamber music in such cities as New York, Paris, and Taipei. Lee is currently the coordinator of the Mississippi Chamber Circle, a chamber music series to promote string chamber music around the Southern Mississippi area.

January also welcomed guest artists Yulia Savrasova, soprano, with pianist Irina Bystrova. Yulia Savrasova, born in Murmansk, Russia, has been a soloist of the Mariinsky Theatre Academy of Young Opera Singers and teaches voice in the College of Music at the Herzen State Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 2006, Yulia won a series of vocal competitions in Russia that took place in Ekaterinburg, Moscow, Nogorod and Saint Petersburg. Savrasova is also an active concert performer.

**February 2009**

The chilly Iowa winter heated up with the arrival of guest artist Josh Roseman, trombone. Roseman joined the UNI jazz bands for the 58th Annual Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz concerts during the Tallcorn Jazz Festival.

Josh Roseman is a New York based trombonist, project organizer, composer and producer. He has worked with a wide range of improvising artists, including John Zorn, Dave Douglas’ Sextet, Dave Holland’s Grammy-winning Big Band, the SFJAZZ Collective, Steve Turre, Ron Blake and Oliver Lake. Roseman has recorded three solo albums in cooperation with ENJA records and is also known for his work with creative electric artists Mc’Shell NdgeOcello, Medeski, Martin & Wood, the Roots and the Groove Collective & Brooklyn Funk Essentials, of which he was a founding member.

**March 2009**

March was a very full month with three individual guest artists visiting for recitals, and dozens of guests and ensembles joining us for the Iowa Days of Percussion. Guest artist Marek Kudlicki, organ, began the month with full recital. Kudlicki tours the world constantly and has performed on every continent achieving great acclaim. Born in Tomaszów Lubelski, Poland, Kudlicki studied organ (under Joachim Grubich) and conducting (under Krzysztof Missona) at the Academy of Music in Cracow. He completed his diploma with distinction.

**Dennis Whittaker**, double bass, visited the School of Music March 25-27 to offer a master class and recital during UNI’s “Bass Month” celebration. Whittaker wears many hats as a professional bassist and educator. He is the principal double bassist for the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, a member of the Houston Ballet Orchestra, Mercury Baroque and Ars Lyrica Houston, the bass teacher and String Area Coordinator for the Moores School of Music, University of Houston, has a full private teaching studio, and is a bass pedagogy consultant. He has appeared on six world premiere compact discs with the Houston Grand Opera, various recordings with Houston artists, and on recordings as principal Bass with the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy.

Celebrated pianist and former UNI School of Music faculty artist Jeongwan Ham visited on March 25 to offer a recital. Pianist Jeongwon Ham has won numerous piano competitions, including the Bartók/Kabalevsky International Piano Competition, Epinal International Piano Competition, Paul Hindemith Piano Competition and the Simone Belsky Piano Competition. The New York Concert Review referred to her recital in Merkin Hall as “an admirable piano recital.” The German newspaper Frankfurter Rundschau has written, “Jeongwon Ham possessed astonishing and effortless technique. She plays not only with incredible warmth, but also with great power.” In addition to performing, Ham is also Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Oklahoma where she received the Junior Faculty Research Program award and was twice nominated for the Regent’s Award for Research and Creative Activities.

The Iowa Percussive Arts Society 2009 Days of Percussion were held at UNI March 27 and 28. Guest artists John Riley, Taylor Jim Dreier and the Drumslingers made the event truly exceptional! Riley, who earned his B.M. from the University of North Texas and M.M. from the Manhattan School of Music, has performed with such jazz greats as Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, Toot Thielemans and Jack DeJohnette. Riley has done extensive touring with the John Scofield Quartet, the Woody Herman Big Band, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, the Red Rodney Quintet, the Mingus Big Band and Bob Mintzer. Taylor is a Tam Tam Mandingue Certified Professor, a percussionist, entrepreneur, educator, recording artist, performer, and composer specializing in the West African djembe and dunun drums. He is also the producer of two instructional djembe DVDs titled “Remembering How to Drum” and “Akarin Iko Alko.” Jim Dreier is a drumset educator, clinician and performer. He received his Bachelor of Music from Berklee college of Music. He has studied with master drummers such as Horacio “El
Negro” Hernandez, Bobby Sanabria, and Giovanni Hidalgo among others. For four years, Jim performed and traveled with Brazilian pianist Rafael Dos Santos, including a residency at the Conservatorio Pernambucano do Musica in Recife, Brazil. Jim is also a founding member of Orquesta Alto Maiz. **The Drumslingers** are a group of drum corps style drummers who are dedicated to perfecting and performing the time-honored art of traditional and contemporary field drumming. This drum corps background has given them the benefit of training with notable instructors of the golden age of drum corps in the 1970s. These teachers include DCI (Drum Corps International) Hall Of Fame members Larry McCormick and Fred Sanford. They write most of their material, embracing the latest sticking techniques as well as incorporating traditional Scotch, Swiss, and American styles.

**April 2009**

Our final month of the 2008-2009 performance season was jam-packed with exciting guest artist performances and presentations. April 2 welcomed guest flutist Phillipa Davies to Davis Hall. Davies, who also offered a master class at UNI on March 31, has established an international reputation as one of the finest flautists currently performing. A first-rate virtuoso with exceptional eloquence, she has been noted for an “almost electrical response to technique.” As a recitalist, she plays and broadcasts throughout the world at international festivals, while performing concertos and giving master classes from China to the USA. She has performed concertos with the New York Philharmonic, the BBC Symphony, the BBC Philharmonic and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the English Chamber Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia and the London Mozart Players.

Englishman Steven Mead needs no introduction to brass enthusiasts around the world as his playing and teaching have become known to virtually all who have a love for the euphonium. As a soloist, his career as a professional performer continues to break new ground. With over 75 solo performances a year, his relentless schedule sees him touring almost constantly as Mead travels and performs regularly with some of the finest brass, wind and symphonic ensembles in the world.

Mead has played solo concerti with symphony orchestras in Norway (Trondheim Symphony Orchestra), Finland (Lahti Symphony Orchestra cond. Osmo Vänskä, and Helsinki Philharmonic cond. Elgar Howarth) and the U.S.A. (Minneapolis Pops Orchestra). As a soloist, he has played with most of the leading brass and military bands in the world including Band of the Garde Republicaine (Paris, France) The Central Band of the RAF (London, U.K.) The Italian Police Band (Rome, Italy) and The U.S. Army Band (Washington D.C., U.S.A.). Mead has been described as one of the world’s most recorded solo brass artists with nearly 50 CDs produced since 1990. He is the owner of a music label, Bocchino Music which now produces and distributes his albums.

The weekend of April 24 and 25 was a feast for music lovers, as the School of Music welcomed three guest artists to campus. In the evening on April 24, the carillon bells at UNI rang once more as visiting artist Karel Keldermans offered a recital performance from the campanile carillon. Karel Keldermans is one of the preeminent carillonneurs in North America. Over the past thirty years, he has given carillon concerts around the world. He was President of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America for five years and served on the Board of Directors for nine. In 1998, Karel and his wife Linda were jointly honored with the Berkeley Medal for “Distinguished Service to the Carillon.” They are co-authors of the book, “Carillon: The Evolution of a Concert Instrument,” which has received critical acclaim both in the U.S. and abroad. For 12 years they were owners/publishers of American Carillon Music Editions (ACME), the largest publishing house of carillon music in the world. Karel has been the full-time carillonneur for the Springfield Park District in Springfield, Illinois, for over 30 years, where he is the Director of the International Carillon Festival. 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, as well as arranged numerous pieces for the instrument and has a Master’s degree from the University of Illinois in Carillon Performance and Campanology.

In the evening on April 24, guest artist Matthew Bengtson, piano, returned to UNI for a duo recital with faculty artist Sean Botkin, piano. Botkin and Bengtson thrilled the audience with Five Pieces for Piano Four Hands by György Ligeti, as well as works by Bizet and Schubert.

Our final visiting artist for the academic year joined us for the first ever Conducting Symposium at UNI. Michael Haithcock, conductor, was featured at the April 25 concert in Davis Hall. A graduate of East Carolina University, where he received the 1996 Outstanding Alumni Award from the School of Music, and Baylor University, Haithcock has done additional study at a variety of conducting workshops including the Herbert Blomstedt Orchestral Conducting Institute. The Instrumentalist, the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, the School Musician, the Southwest Music Educator, and WINDS magazine have published his articles on conducting and wind literature. Haithcock currently serves as Director of Bands and Professor of Music (Conducting) at the University of Michigan.

Support of these artist visits was provided by: The Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the UNI School of Music.
Joining the School of Music faculty this year is Dmitri Vorobiev, D.M.A., assistant professor of piano. We are pleased to introduce him to you and welcome him to the UNI School of Music.

Dmitri Vorobiev first came to international attention after winning the Casagrande International Piano Competition in Italy in 1994. As the result of this prize, he was invited to perform at the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto as well as in numerous recital series throughout Italy. He has performed with various orchestras including the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra, the Pretoria Chamber Orchestra, the Durban Symphony, the Terni Philharmonic, the Manhattan School of Music Symphony, the Winston-Salem Symphony, and Western Piedmont Symphony, and has appeared in solo recitals throughout the United States, Israel, Russia, South Africa, and Ireland. Vorobiev has been a major prize-winner in the Busoni, Cincinnati World, Ibla Grand Prize, A.M.A. Calabria, Iowa and Alabama international piano competitions. In January 2000, he placed first and also took three special prizes at the UNISA International Piano Competition in Pretoria, South Africa, and in July 2003, Dmitri won the first prize in the New Orleans International Piano Competition.

A native of Moscow, Russia, Vorobiev began his piano studies when he was 5. He attended the School of Music and the Music College of the Moscow State Conservatory where he studied with Nina Levitzkaya and Victor Bunin. In 1992, he was invited by Eric Larsen to study at the North Carolina School of the Arts where he was the recipient of the First Baptist Church and Giannini scholarships. He received his Bachelor of Music from the North Carolina School of the Arts in 1996 and in 1998 completed his Master of Music at the Manhattan School of Music, where he was a full scholarship student of Marc Silverman. In 2007, he completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance at the University of Michigan School of Music where he was working with Arthur Greene.

Professor of Flute in UNI's School of Music, Angeleita Floyd has celebrated the passion of performance and the success of her students in 2008-2009. Floyd, a highly respected educator, has served on the UNI faculty for 23 years and has presented master classes, performed as a guest artist in concert and conducted flute choirs at Flute Festivals throughout the United States, Europe and South America. She is a contributing author to Flute Talk Magazine, The Flutist Quarterly, the Emerson Flute Forum and the National Flute Association Pedagogy Anthology. Floyd has served as a member of the National Flute Association's Board of Directors, as NFA Competition Coordinator and as Coordinator for the National High School Soloist Competition and Young Artist Competition.

In 2009, Angeleita offered master classes in Iowa at Washington High School and Pleasant Valley High School. Sharing her talents both close to home and abroad, Floyd also presented master classes and served as director of the advanced flute choir in San José, Costa Rica at the V Festival de Flautas de Costa Rica, an event she has been involved in for several years.

In the community, Floyd serves on the Board of Directors for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony and continues to be highly involved in UNI campus activities and committees.

In 2008-2009, Floyd's students took top honors in over a dozen competitions. Floyd's student Angela Reynolds performed as a finalist in the Coeur d'Alene Symphony Young Artist Competition, College Division at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Daniel Velasco, another exceptional student in Floyd's studio, took first prize at the 2009 WAMSO Minnesota Symphony, Young Artist Competition and was featured as an exceptional young artist in The Flutist Quarterly. Floyd's students have received generous scholarships, have been featured artists on KUNI radio and have been requested to perform at UNI President Ben Allen's home on several occasions. Her students continue to excel as performers, competitors and educators—a true testament to Floyd's passion, devotion and excellence in performance and education.

For more on Floyd's award-winning students, see the Student Awards section on page 14. To see Floyd in action in 2009-2010, visit the UNI School of Music and join us for a Flute Choir or Flute Studio concert.
Faculty Activities

Brad Barrett, assistant professor of choral conducting and music education and conductor of the UNI Chamber Singers, UNI Singers and UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club, served as guest conductor/adjudicator at nine engagements including the Iowa Opus All-State Honor Choir and the Sioux City Diocesan Choral Festival.

Korey Barrett, assistant professor of vocal coaching and collaborative piano, appeared as a featured performer at several engagements in 2008-2009 including several faculty recitals at UNI and the Ohio State University Guest Artist Recital and Residency. Barrett also gave a pre-performance lecture for the Cedar Rapids Opera production of Madama Butterfly.

Tom Barry, assistant professor of oboe and saxophone, performed as principal oboist for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and with the Northwind Quartet. Barry was featured as saxophone soloist with the Jazz Panthers performance at the Hub, March 2008. Barry, once again, was a major contributor to School of Music performances, coordinating audio recordings and sound reinforcement as sound engineer for many faculty and student performances.

Sean Botkin, assistant professor of piano, performed in over 25 concerts as a solo artist and collaborative pianist at UNI and throughout Iowa. In February, Botkin served as Adjudicator for the WCFSO Youth Concerto Competition and in October he participated in the Powerful Pianists Recital at the 22nd Northern Iowa Piano and Organ Festival.

Jeff Brich, instructor in applied voice, celebrated several honors and achievements earned by students in his studio. Brich also appeared as soloist at the Peoria Bach Festival in Peoria, IL, at the Mendocino Music Festival in Mendocino, CA and in Handel's Messiah with Cedar Rapids Symphony. Brich currently serves as President of the Iowa Chapter of National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Melinda Boyd, assistant professor of music history, published the article “Have You Met Miss Jones?: The Politics of Color in Oscar Hammerstein's Carmen Jones,” in the collection of essays Moors, Militants, and Minstrels: Representing Blackness on the Operatic Stage. She also created and coordinated the new Musically Speaking lecture series.

Christopher Buckholz, assistant professor of trombone, performed with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra as principal trombonist. Buckholz also appeared as trombonist with the Northern Jazz Sextet, Iowa Bandmasters Association Conference in May 2008 and as principal trombonist with the Cedar Rapids Symphony on Schubert's Symphony No. 9.

Julia Bullard, associate professor of viola and theory, served as Chair of the ISTA Solo Competition, and was a featured performer at the 2009 Faculty Artist Showcase. Bullard also performed with the UNI Faculty String Quartet and at the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival. Additionally, Bullard served as Adjudicator at the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Young Artist Competition.

Rebecca Burkhardt, associate director of graduate studies, professor of music and conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, served as 2008-2009 president of the College Orchestra Directors Association. She coordinated the Northern Iowa All State Clinic for Strings and acted as both clinician and conductor at the October 2008 event. In March 2009, Burkhardt organized the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra's tour to Chicago. For more on the tour, see page 2.

Jonathan Chenoweth, associate professor of cello, performed in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra as principal cellist and was again featured as cello soloist in the Spotlight Series Concert Chimes of Christmas. Chenoweth was a fellow of the 2008 Carver Graduate Education Institute. Visualizing Research: An Interdisciplinary Workshop on Image Creation and Exhibition in summer of 2008, with activities and research continuing throughout the 2008-2009 academic year.

Kevin Droe, assistant professor of music education, was selected to offer the presentation “The Effect of College Music Education Experiences on Music Education Majors’ Perception of ‘Teacher Effectiveness’” at the MENC/SMRE Research Symposium in Washington D.C., June 2009. Droe also presented, “An Examination of Pre-rehearsal and Post-Rehearsal Tuning Tendencies of College String and Wind Musicians,” co-authored with fellow UNI faculty artists S. Daniel Galyen and Jonathan Chenoweth, at the Iowa Music Educators Association Conference in Ames, Iowa, November 2008.

Angeleita Floyd, professor of flute, had several of her students take honors and awards in performance competitions including the 2009 WAMSO Minnesota Symphony Young Artist Competition and the UNI Instrumental Concerto Competition (see pg. 14 for more on her students). Floyd served as a guest artist, clinician and conductor at the 2009 Iowa Flute Festival and at V Festival de Flautas de Costa Rica. For more on Floyd’s achievements, see page 19.

Jeffrey Funderburk, professor of tuba/euphonium, directed UNITUBA and had several students take honors and awards in local and regional competitions. In April 2009, Funderburk organized a master class, recital and webcast featuring British euphonium virtuoso, Steven Mead. He served as principal tubist in Cedar Rapids Symphony and appeared as soloist with the UNI Symphonic Band on the Gregson Tuba Concerto, March 2009.

Danny Galyen, assistant professor of music education and director of the UNI Marching and Symphonic Bands, designed, directed and conducted over
two dozen performances in 2008-2009. He also served as faculty advisor to the Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma music organizations, and presented “Conducting to Make Rehearsals More Musical,” at the Midwest District KKY/TBS conference in Manhattan, Kan.

**Randy Grabowski**, professor of trumpet, appeared as a trumpet soloist and principal trumpeter with the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra. Grabowski also performed with the Rod Pierson Big Band and offered weekly master classes for UNI trumpet majors as well as a master class for the visiting Pleasant Valley High School trumpet section in March 2009.

**Robin Guy**, professor of piano, performed in over 40 recitals, concerts and festivals at UNI and across Iowa including appearances at the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival and Interlochen Arts Camp. Guy also acted as chair of the Keyboard Division and Piano Pedagogy program at UNI and served as adjudicator at the Luther College Concerto Competition Finals as well as the IMTA District Piano Audition in Mason City, Iowa.

**Frederick Halgedahl**, assistant professor of violin, served as clinician for the UNI Iowa All State Workshops held October 2008, and performed several recitals and concerts with the UNI Faculty String Quartet including a performance at the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival.

**John Hines**, assistant professor of voice, performed as vocal soloist in several UNI School of Music concerts as well as appearing as Bonze in Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly*, with the Cedar Rapids Opera. Hines was also a featured soloist appearing with artists from the Kirov Opera, in St. Petersburg, Russia, in the opening concert celebrating the inaugural Boris Shpotokol International Vocal Competition, at Shremetiev Palace in November 2008.

**Randy Hogancamp**, assistant professor of percussion and director of Percussion/ Mariniba and West African Drum Ensembles, was featured as percussionist with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra, and launched the new Kaji-Daiko Taiko Drum Ensemble at UNI in 2008-2009. Hogancamp attended the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Austin, TX, and coordinated the 2009 Iowa Percussive Arts Society Days of Percussion at UNI, hosting dozens of students, ensembles, guest performers and clinicians in a two-day education and performance driven event.

**Ronald Johnson**, professor of instrumental music, served as conductor of the Wind Symphony and director of the Northern Festival of Bands. Johnson conducted the Wind Symphony in six performances at UNI in 2008-2009. Johnson also participated in the 2008 Total Band Conference sponsored by West Music and offered clinics to Pleasant Valley and Urbandale High Schools.

**Kui-Im Lee**, associate professor of music theory and organ, offered an organ performance and demonstration at the 22nd Organists of Iowa Series at Iowa State University in October 2008, which was aired on Iowa Public Radio in March 2009. Lee presented a research paper “Golden Ratio as a Musical Coherence: Mathematical Proportion and Its Application to Performance Practice” and performed the organ at the Iowa Music Teachers Association (IMTA) Conference at UNI in June 2008.

**Amanda McCandless**, assistant professor of clarinet, performed as soloist, collaborator and as a member of the Northwind Quintet in over a dozen performances in her first year at UNI. McCandless also presented master classes throughout Iowa and received a grant from the Buffet Corporation in support of the UNI Clarinet Symposium, which McCandless designed and coordinated in January 2009.

**Jean McDonald**, associate professor of voice, has had numerous students receive outstanding honors and awards this year. McDonald presented *Des Torches et des Truffes*, a full length recital featuring art songs by French composers, in collaboration with faculty pianist Korey Barrett. McDonald also appeared as soloist in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 at the Mendocino Music Festival in Mendocino, Cal., July 2009.

**Christopher Merz**, associate professor of Jazz and director of UNI Jazz Band One, again performed with numerous ensembles across Iowa including the Hands of Time quartet, the Paul Kresowik Group, Equilateral and the Washut/Merz Duo in 2008-2009. Merz served as clinician/adjudicator at over a dozen events in Iowa, including the SCIIBA Jazz Festival in Waukee. He also served as host to guest Josh Rosenman (Tallcorn Jazz Festival/Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz concerts), and he premiered one original composition and recorded several others with ensembles this year.

**Dyan Meyer**, visiting professor and conductor of choral ensembles, led the Women’s Chorus and Concert Chorale in 2008-2009. She also served as pianist for the National ACDA Convention College/University Reading Session as well as several Iowa junior high band festivals and the UNI Children’s Choir. Meyer also attended the National American Choral Directors Association Convention in Oklahoma City, Okla.

**Leslie Morgan**, assistant professor of voice, served on several professional committees in the School of Music. Morgan has had numerous students receive outstanding honors and awards and has helped students in their preparation for the NATS Competition and other auditions in 2008-2009.

**David Rachor**, professor of bassoon and saxophone, presented a modern bassoon master class and lesson in Durango to bassoonists of UJED Orchestra, Mexico in March 2009. He also offered a concert with period instrument group “Les Grand Hautbois” in Parthenay, France in July 2008. In fall 2008, Rachor served as principal bassoonist with the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra and performed with the Northwind Quintet.

**Alan Schmitz**, professor of music theory and composition and associate director of the School of Music, celebrated numerous performances of his compositions in 2008-2009. His piece *Bassoon Trio* was performed by David Rachor et al in Durango.
Another composition of Schmitz’ *Dodecaccata* for solo organ, was premiered by Kui-Im Lee in Jebe Hall at UNI in September 2008. Schmitz also devoted time to several committees in the School of Music including those devoted to curriculum planning and progress reporting.

**John Vallentine**, professor and director of the School of Music, completed major work relating to many aspects of the design, construction, planning and implementation of the Russell Hall Renovation Project in 2008-2009. He also continued to lead initiatives in Iowa and Minnesota to expand the exposure for the UNI School of Music. Vallentine produced the Russell Hall re-dedication ceremony and the Scholarship Benefit Concert. He served on several university committees, as a member of the Council of Academic Department Heads, and as a participant on the University Council. Vallentine also represented UNI at the National Association of Schools of Music meetings in Seattle.

**Sandra Walden**, assistant professor of opera and musical theatre direction, directed the School of Music/Theatre UNI production of *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine* and also served as director and designer for the UNI Opera Ensemble. Walden also appeared as soprano soloist for the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra’s performance of *Dona Nobis Pacem* in April 2008.

**Robert Washut**, professor of jazz studies, is also director of the Jazz Panthers. Washut performed as pianist at over a dozen concerts in 2008-2009, and served as guest conductor and adjudicator at 13 festivals and band conferences throughout Iowa, Minnesota and Washington. Washut appeared as conductor for the Minnesota All-State Band and the SEIBA Honors Jazz Ensemble. Washut was again commissioned to compose the Iowa IAJE All-State Jazz Audition Etudes in 2008, and his original compositions were performed by UNI Jazz Band One, the Jazz Panthers and the Drake University Jazz Ensemble One.

**Jonathan Schwabe**, associate professor of composition/theory, premiered several compositions and arrangements this year. His composition *End of Act One* for Viola and Piano was premiered at the Iowa Composers Forum Fall Festival at Luther College in Decorah, IA. Schwabe appeared as bassist with the Jazz Corridor Project, the Bill Shepherd Big Band and the Rod Pierson/Craig Boche Big Band. He also served as guest faculty and adjudicator once again at the Indian Hills Jazz Festival in Ottumwa, Iowa and participated in several committees at UNI.

**William Shepherd**, associate professor and coordinator of music in general studies, performed as trombonist with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and continued as director and conductor of the Waterloo Municipal Band. Shepherd also performed on many occasions with his Bill Shepherd Big Band and Dixieland Band, and again coordinated the annual Iowa Trombone Day, sponsored by UNI School of Music.

**Yu-Ting (Tina) Su**, assistant professor of horn, performed with the Northwind Quintet, the Cedar Rapids Symphony and the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra. She offered one recital at UNI as well as a recital at Queens Library in Flushing, NY. Su also offered several master classes in Iowa as well as a class at Chung Hsin Junior High School in Taoyuan, Taiwan.

**Michelle Swanson**, assistant professor of music education, served as the director of the UNI Children’s Choir in 2008-2009. She also serves as president of the First Iowa Orff Schulwerk Chapter and on many committees for music education. Swanson organized several music education workshops and was host to visiting clinician Jo Ella Hug in April 2009.


**Emeritus Faculty Activities**

The School of Music is always excited to hear from our exceptional retired professors. We continue to see the lasting effect of their years of dedication and service to our students and are happy to bring you news on their current projects and travels.

**Bruce Chidester** – Bruce dropped us a note stating, “This past year has been busy with music in the Branson area. I formed a trumpet group called the Branson Trumpet Ensemble and have been very busy arranging and performing with the group. Our library now consists of over 500 arrangements, which cover musical styles from Bach to rock.” Bruce noted that the ensemble’s first CD, *The Many Colors of the Branson Trumpet Ensemble*, went on sale in July 2009. Bruce and his wife Karen continue to enjoy life in the Ozarks and look forward to travel in the upcoming year.

**Don Wendt** – Don and his wife Dorothy reported that they were excited to visit Virginia to see family in November 2008. Don performed with the New Horizons Band in 2008 and both he and his wife continue to look forward to seeing friends at future School of Music events.
Alumni Update

The School of Music always loves to bear 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!

Imogene (Anderson) Darrah (B.A. ’31) wrote in to report that, “in August 2008 my son and daughter hosted an open house for 100 guests to celebrate my 100th birthday. A festive affair. I have retired from all active musical events, other than listening.”

Catherine Dycus (B.A. ’42) is a member of the Lifelong Teaching Society of Christopher Newport University and attends their writing and poetry classes.

Valara Minear (B.A. ’47) is keeping busy with Kitsap County School Retirees and politics. She lives in Manchester, WA.

Rosie Irene Bolstad (B.A. ’48) released her second holiday album in December 2008. Rosie wrote, “Hope it’s a happy new year in that newly renovated Russell Hall. How fortunate for your music majors. Mr. Russell would agree!”

Berdena Beach (B.A. ’51, M.A. ’75), outstanding member of the UNI School of Music National Advisory Board and long time School of Music supporter, was recently awarded the Iowa Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award. Beach has been acknowledged as extraordinary in her field several times previously, including a 2007 award from the Iowa Mental Health Counselors Association acknowledging her, “outstanding service and devotion to the counseling profession.” Congratulations, Berdena!

Nadine Suck Wright (B.A. ’51), retired after 25 years of teaching music and 40 years of teaching private piano lessons. She has been active with all ages of choirs at her church.

James Coffin (B.A. ’52, M.A. ’64) was the first-ever inductee into the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame. He lives in Anaheim, CA. For more about Jim’s Hall of Fame induction, see page 4.

Shirley Collins (B.A. ’53) has moved to Decorah and is enjoying all the amenities the area has to offer.

Thank you to all who e-mailed or wrote to Alumni News. If you wish to contribute to the next issue, please refer to the form on the back page. We look forward to bearing from you!

Stephen Simons (B.A. ’62) retired from Texas Wesleyan University after 41 years of teaching and conducting.

Mary Statler (B.A. ’63, M.A. ’70) retired from teaching and works at the Steckelberg Veterinary Clinic in Conrad.

Gary Miller (B.A. ’67) after receiving his bachelor’s degree at UNI, Gary went on to receive his M.M. and D.M.A. from the University of Michigan, as well as an Artist’s Diploma from the Hochschule fuer Musik in Cologne, Germany. This year, Gary began his thirtieth year of teaching at Southeast Missouri State University, where he has served as chair of the Department of Music and currently serves as associate dean and director of the Holland School of Visual and Performing Arts. He continues to perform as an organist and harpsichordist.

Sandra (Schupfer) Hattermann (B.A. ’68, M.A. ’72), after being music supervisor and teaching first, third and sixth grade in Pekin, Ill. for 31 years, Sandra retired in 2002. She currently enjoys singing with the Bradley University Community Chorus and serves as vice president of the Peoria Symphony Guild. Sandra also enjoys her involvement with the Sigma Alpha Iota Alumnae Chapter, having served as both president and vice president in the past.

Richard Lee Stendel (B.A. ’70; M.A. ’81) recently retired after 31 years as a music educator and administrator. Richard is currently serving as director of chamber orchestra for the Round Rock United Methodist Church and is substitute teaching in Austin, Texas area music programs.

Steven Ainsworth (B.A. ’71, M.A. ’75) is the assistant administrator at Wilson Christian Academy in Wilson, N.C. He is also a band director at the school.

Dennis Cabalka (B.A. ’73) teaches music in the HLV Community School District. He lives in Ladora.

Neil Hansen (B.A. ’73) is director of bands at Northwest College in Powell, Wyo. He was honored by the Wyoming governor as a 2007 Governor’s Arts Award Winner.

Allan Jacobson (B.A. ’75) is instructor of percussion and director of “The Knightlifers” Jazz Band I at Wartburg College. He recently toured Brazil with Wartburg’s “Castle Singers” as a percussionist in May 2009.

David Poggenklass (B.A. ’75) retired from teaching at Guttenberg Schools. He taught music for 33 years.

Dixie (Davis) Walters (B.A. ’76) has been a music teacher in Marshalltown for 33 years.

Steve Cook (B.M. ’81) received the Karl King Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Bandmasters Association. He is the instrumental music director at Perry High School.

Mark Henderson (B.A. ’82) is an executive director of human resources for Time Warner’s corporate division in New York.

Doug Huey (B.M. ’83) reported that the Doug Huey Jazz Project, featuring UNI trombonist Mike Conrad, has recently started regular Tuesday night jazz and jam sessions at Toasts in downtown Mason City. Huey can also be heard with the Jazz Coalition Big Band at Mulligan’s in Mason City. Huey
has also served as judge at several jazz festivals in North and Central Iowa and will be returning to Ohio to perform as guest soloist and artist-in-residence at several appearances in the Cleveland/Akron area during the fall.

**Mike Will (B.M. ’85)** band director at Louisa-Muscatine in Letts, Iowa, shared, “I just wanted to let you know how impressed I was with the new and improved Russell Hall. Wow…what a state of the art facility it is now. Good job to you and all that were a part of that project!” Mike will be visiting the UNI campus again in Spring 2010 when he brings his students to the Northern Festival of Bands.

**John Alston (M.M. ’85)** organized a nonprofit foundation to create the Chester Upland School of the Arts in Chester, Pa. He is a music professor at Swarthmore College.

**Donald Bailey (M.A. ’85)** is an associate professor of music and a director of jazz studies at University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. He recently was honored with the Master Teacher Award.

**Debra (Gordon) Hedden (M.A. ’85, Ed.D. ’97)** is an associate professor of music at the University of Kansas. She also directs the KU Youth Chorus. She lives in Lawrence, Kan.

**William Richardson (B.M. ’87)** teaches 6th grade history in Alvin, Texas.

**Mark Walters (B.A. ’88)** received an M.M. in vocal performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and recently earned his D.M.A. in vocal performance from Florida State University. He performed with the Nevada Opera in their fall 2008 production of *Il barbiere di Seville* and was met with rave reviews. *Nevada Events* reviewer Jack Neal noted, “I don’t know where Borowitz found Mark Walters, the production’s Figaro, but I know where he’s going and that’s straight to the top.” Walters also appeared as Germont in *La Traviata* at the Florida Grand Opera and as Don Giovanni in *Don Giovanni* with the Osaka Kammar Orchestra in Osaka, Japan. For more on Mark and his performance schedule, visit www.markwaltersbaritone.com.

**Ann (Miller) Usher (B.M. ’89)** has served as director of the Cleveland Orchestra Children’s Choruses since 2000. Ann was a public school choral educator from 1990-2000 and choral education music professor at the University of Akron since 2000. She earned her M.M. in choral conducting in ’93 and Ph.D. in music education in ’05 – both from Kent State University. Ann wrote, “I got a chance to tour Russell Hall last spring and saw all of the renovations. It’s wonderful! Congrats and enjoy.”

**Jack Jean (B.M. ’89)** currently serves as assistant director of bands at Whitewater High School in Fayetteville, Ga. In January 2009, Jean invited fellow alum Susan Rider (B.M. ’89) to be a featured guest soloist with his high school band at the Georgia state GMEA Conference.

**Jennifer (Rieck) Leiding (B.M. ’89)** is a financial representative with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in the Greater Iowa Regional Financial Office.

**Laura (Sporer) Urich (B.M. ’91)** is principal at Waukee Middle School.

**Brian Burke (B.A. ’94)** is president of the Davenport Kiwanis Club and treasurer and board member for Volunteers for Symphony/Finance Committee, Quad City Symphony. He is a member of the Quad City Wind Ensemble. He recently received a $10,000 community service grant for the Quad City Symphony by the Northwestern Mutual Foundation.

**Amy Hawley (B.A. ’95)** is the commissioning editor for primary and secondary publishing in ELT at Cambridge University Press and received an advanced certificate in wines and spirits from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust in London.

**Mark Anderson (B.A. ’97)** is a cartoonist who has been featured in many publications, including Reader’s Digest, The Wall Street Journal, and Good Housekeeping. He lives in Schaumburg, Ill.

**Flora van Wormer (B.M. ’98)** earned an M.M. in cello performance from the University of Cincinnati in 2000. She currently serves as cello and bass teacher at the Monroe St. Fine Arts Center and hosts a weekly radio program titled “Other Voices” featuring women in classical music on Madison, Wisconsin’s WORT radio.

**Elaine Menke (B.M. ’99)** wrote to the School of Music updating us that she and her husband Nick were doing well and she has been enjoying teaching, going into her ninth year as a music educator. Elaine also serves as mentorship chair for the South Central Iowa Bandmasters Association. In 2007, Elaine and Nick welcomed their first son Carson into the family.

**Cathy (Anderson) Knutson (B.A. ’99)** is fine arts coordinator at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn.

**Kathy Cameron (M.M. ’01)** won first prize in the Arts Division of the Hayes Graduate Research Forum at Ohio State University for her presentation titled “The Effects of Vibrato Production Techniques and Use on Musical Collaborations among Woodwinds.” She is currently a candidate for the D.M.A. in Flute Performance and plays piccolo in the top Wind Symphony at Ohio State. She lives in Columbus, Ohio.

**Michael J. Jensen (M.M. ’01)** has served as professor of voice at Wartburg College for eight years. He also serves as worship and music director at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa and plans to continue pursuing his D.M.A.

**Austin Kness (B.A. ’02)**, a former student of Leslie Morgan in the voice division, was selected for an Adler Fellowship at the San Francisco Opera. An alumnus of the Merola Opera Program, Kness also performed the title role in Merola’s 2008 production of *Don Giovanni*.

**Scott Hagarty (B.M. ’02)** earned his D.M.A. from the University of Minnesota in December 2008. Hagarty has accepted the position of trumpet professor at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas and also appeared as a guest artist at UNI in January 2008.

**Allison (Hasselbrink) Griesel (B.M. ’03)** is a music teacher at Verrado Elementary School in Buckeye, Ariz.

*continued on page 26*
Alumni Spotlight: Susan Rider, B.M. ’89

The School of Music is always proud to hear about the success and accomplishments of our alumni, and sometimes a truly exceptional accomplishment stands out. In January 2009, notable alumni and long time School of Music supporter Susan Rider (B.M. ’89) performed for the world and took part in an historical event. In her own words, Rider describes what it was like to be a part of the President’s own marine band on the day of our forty-fourth President’s inauguration:

“When a member of “The President’s Own Marine Band” certainly gives us the possibility to be a witness to history in a way that can be more close and personal than most people will experience. This was especially brought to the forefront this year on January 20th, when the nation inaugurated Barack Obama, our forty-fourth president, on the west side of the United States Capitol.

The Marine Band plays an integral role on inauguration day by performing for the swearing-in ceremony, the parade in the afternoon, and certain inaugural balls later in the evening. Out of the three inaugurations I have taken part in (2001, 2005, 2009), I knew this particular one was going to be unique and “huge” because of its historic nature. A lot of the buzz around Washington, DC in the weeks leading up to it was trying to predict how many people would gather at the National Mall to witness this event. Those organizing the logistics of this day had their hands full trying to make sure things ran as smoothly as humanly possible, and to be ready for any unexpected situations (fortunately, things ran with minimal problems). I felt like the Marine Band’s day went as well as it could have which allowed us to do the work we needed to do within an extreme high visibility setting.

My most enduring memories about this day will be seeing with my own eyes close to two million people on the National Mall gather to celebrate a new beginning; looking up from my seat in our set up directly below the grandstand to watch our President speak to the world; and the absolute positive spirit and energy of everyone who was there. This last aspect was especially apparent during the swearing-in ceremony—being in the epicenter of things, it’s almost like one could physically feel the “electricity” of the crowd. It was very moving. This will be a day that will live long in my memory, and I feel so honored to have had the privilege to be a part of it.”

UNI School of Music is proud to celebrate this great honor and the continued success of notable alumna, Susan Rider.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Susan Rider for her contributions to this article and to Kristin Mergen for her contribution of photos.
Alumni and Faculty Deaths

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

Charles Matheson (Emeritus Faculty) of Cedar Falls, Iowa, d. December 18, 2008. Matheson, professor emeritus in the School of Music, was a lifelong music educator, researcher and supporter of the arts.

F. John Pylman, (B.A. '48) long time music educator in Iowa, New Mexico and California, passed away in September 2008. Pylman taught in Easton, Cal., for 25 years before becoming a substitute teacher, clinician and adjudicator in the state of California.


Erling Hanson (B.A. '38), Manchester, d. June 20, 2008.

Robert McCabe (B.A. '40), Woodstock, Ill., d. August 8, 2008.


Ramona Heffner Carthey (B.A. '47), Chambersburg, Pa., d. December 1, 2008.


The Thai-Chinese International School's Jazz Band, led by alumni Chris Hodge

Christopher Hodge (B.M. '04) is currently serving as head of performance/director of bands at the Thai-Chinese International School in Thailand. Hodge reported that the TCIS Jazz Band, which he founded, is in its second year now, and the Wind Ensemble is in its third year and has grown to 40 members. Please see photo of the TCIS Jazz Band above.

Anthony Williams (M.M. '06) recently launched a new website (www.antmanbone.com) and was featured as a trombonist on the Dave Lisik Jazz Orchestra album “Coming Through Slaughter,” due to be released in December 2009. Williams is also currently recording his own debut album, “The Killer Cross-Over” featuring all original music.

Kevin Hakes (B.M. '06), made the finals for the Quebec Symphony Orchestra in September 2008 and performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in October 2008. Hakes also celebrated his new marriage to Heather Leffelman in 2008.

Nicole (Stellmaker) Farley (B.M. '06) is currently serving as choral director at Webster City High School and is married to fellow UNI alum Chris Farley.

Jolene Frantzen (B.A. '06) teaches K-12 vocal music at Adair-Casey Community School. She lives in Exira.

Leslie Twite (B.M. '07) is music director at Adair-Casey High School.

Carissa Stout (B.M.E. '07) spent summer 2008 working at an academic camp through Leysin American School in Switzerland teaching voice and serving as accompanist and theater staff. In Fall 2009, she began work at Janesville and Valley Lutheran schools where she teaches fifth through eighth grade band as well as middle school and high school choirs.

John Oelrich (M.M. ’08) has been serving as interim director of instrumental music at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa and plans to pursue his D.M.A. in conducting this fall at Ohio State University. Oelrich will be teaching part time while studying for his D.M.A., overseeing the Collegiate Winds, undergraduate conducting and guest conducting the OSU Wind Symphony.

Alumni Marriages
The UNI School of Music sends congratulations out to our alumni celebrating marriages:


The School of Music is excited to join in celebrating 10 years of exceptional entertainment at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Congratulations!

Editor’s note: Thank you to Bonnie Farland and Holly Johnson for their assistance in gathering information for this article.
Farewell to Charles Matheson

“Charles Matheson died from complications of a stroke on December 18. He turned 96 last October, having retired at seventy in 1982 after 27 years on the UNI vocal music faculty.

He was a lion of a man, with a mane of hair that never left, though at 96 it was as white and billowy as a snowdrift.

When I first met him in 1961, I was just out of high school, auditioning as a singer. His hair made as much of a first impression as his personality. Back then it was black with a center streak of peppery-white. Any man would have paid serious money for such a swept-back wonder and it became his natural trademark.

However, his personality quickly made far more of an impression. He dominated a crowded room, and he either scared off or drew in reticent Midwestern singers. Opinionated, outspoken, downright annoying at times, he could infuriate as much as illuminate. I did argue with him occasionally, but we always ended up shrugging off disagreements as unimportant. Mostly he taught and I listened and learned.

Over the decades we grew into colleagues and friends, and he became a role model for how to live and age well.

It wasn’t so much that he loved music. After all, most of us love music on some level. It was that he lived it, made it, breathed it, took solace from it and loved it to the depths of his being. Few of us ever love anything so passionately for so long, and we couldn’t help but admire his unabashed enthusiasm.

One day when I was still an undergraduate music major, he revealed the emotional power of music. During a long choir rehearsal before an upcoming concert, Mr. Matheson (I didn’t call him “Charles” until much later) was directing a difficult eight-part Russian vocal cantata. We hadn’t yet sung it well. Not much energy, not much attention.

It involved complex harmonies, a soaring soprano line hanging over bass, tenor and alto each split into two sections. It was potentially a transcendent musical experience—if all seventy-five of us could sing it right.

That afternoon in the practice room, after Mr. Matheson had urged us along for a solid hour, we finally did it. For the first time, in a burst of energy, all of us entered the zone, singing it right and true.

The rehearsal hall echoed with our effort. Charles Matheson paused and looked up at us with gratitude. Then he quietly began weeping.

We watched, dumbfounded. He wasn’t the least ashamed. Through his tears, he spoke up, “I’m sorry if music doesn’t do this for you. This is why we make music.” And he walked out, leaving us to ponder his words and that moment.

I’ve never forgotten it. And I’ve certainly never forgotten Charles Matheson’s willingness to show his love of music in the most nakedly vulnerable manner.

Music does do that, at times to everyone. Few of us admit it and fewer still show it. This man did, to the very end.

Fans, admirers and friends of Charles Matheson can’t help but feel a mix of gratitude and awe for his long presence among us.

And now, at his passing, bereft.”

Editor’s note: Thank you to author Scott Cawlalti for permission to reprint portions of this article; originally published in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier on December 28, 2008.
Alumni Response Form

To keep us and your UNI colleagues informed of your activities, please complete the form below and return to “Music at Northern Iowa,” School of Music, UNI, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0246, or send an e-mail to music@uni.edu. We are particularly interested in the current career paths of our alumni.

last name     first     middle/maiden name     UNI degree(s)-year(s)

address

city     state     zip code

Is this a new address? Yes No

E-mail address __________________________

spouse’s name     Is spouse a UNI alum? Yes No

Your position and employer

News items of interest:

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