

# RITORNELLO

## Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University

Volume 30, Number 1

Fall 2006



**ELSA PORTER 1920-2006**

Miss Elsa Porter, voice faculty 1956-1989, passed away on Wednesday, September 27, 2006. Her memorial service was held at Polk Street Methodist Church and she was laid to rest in Dreamland Cemetery, Canyon.

Miss Porter was born in Spearman in 1920. She graduated from Texas Christian University with a degree in English Literature and History. Later, she obtained both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Oklahoma. While at OU, she studied voice with the famous soprano Dame Eva Turner.

Miss Porter joined the music faculty at WTAMU in 1956. Many of her students have gone on to successful careers in teaching, music ministry, music therapy, performance, and other facets of the business of music. Miss Porter was always a generous benefactor to the music department and in particular, the vocal department at WTAMU. While teaching at WTAMU, she established the Elsa Porter Continuing Voice Scholarship for vocal performance majors. This scholarship has since been endowed and is awarded to several students each year. Miss Porter retired from WTAMU in 1989 and received the rank of Professor Emeritus at WTAMU in 1992.

Other awards and achievements included the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Golden Nail Touch Teacher of the Year, the Amarillo Music Teachers Association Teacher of the Year, and she also served on the Amarillo Opera board of directors.

Anyone who studied with Miss Porter remembers the high standard of excellence she set for her students. This may have seemed difficult at the time, but after a few tears had been shed, her students realized that in order to become successful in the field of music, these demands were necessary and certainly made us better musicians. Miss Porter remained in contact with many of her students through the years. She helped them in their professional endeavors long after they left her studio. She readily gave advice and assistance in anything from managing a voice studio to buying a house. She would attend performances at WTAMU and throughout the country as long as her health allowed. In fact, she was looking forward to attending the grand opening of the new Fine Arts Complex at WTAMU. Her former student, Emily Pulley (Metropolitan Opera and companies throughout the world) was going to be singing at the grand opening. Miss Porter said, "I will definitely be there!" She was also anxious to see the "John Green Student Plaza" located on the first floor of the new Fine Arts Complex that she and Miss Mary Ruth McCulley (WTAMU faculty 1956-84) had the honor of naming. Unfortunately, Miss Porter never got to see the building or hear Emily's return to Northen Recital Hall. Emily remarked that she knew Miss Porter's spirit had always been and would always be with her when she was on the stage. Elsa Porter's legacy will live on through her former students and through her continued scholarship assistance for voice majors at WTAMU.

### **Elsa Porter Memorial**

In celebration of Elsa Porter's life and dedication to the art of singing, a Memorial Celebration will be held May 5 - 6, 2007. The event is still in the planning stages. If you were one of her former students or if you know how to reach her former students, we would love to have that information. Please contact Dr. Cloyce Kuhnert at (806) 651-2856 or by email at [ckuhnert@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:ckuhnert@mail.wtamu.edu).

## ALUMNI NOTES

**Dana Harlow Taylor (BME '70)** writes: "I teach middle school choir at Forestwood MS in Flower Mound, after 16 years of being a HS director. Got married in 2004 (to a lyric baritone I met in the theatre), have a step-daughter and continue to do musical theatre, as time allows. My husband and I will be in a production of *Sweeney Todd* this fall at the Meyerson. That brings back fun memories of the 1984 production at WT. My, are we getting old!"

**Marilyn Riehl ('83-'89 music major)** has been in Memphis, Tennessee, for 11 years now . . . children are all grown . . . sons are married . . . daughter is in college. Marilyn was Director of Worship Arts at Church of the Redeemer, Episcopal in Memphis for about 3 years before taking her present position at St. John's Episcopal. She's now been there for almost 6 years. It is hard to believe how quickly time has passed. Marilyn teaches piano and voice privately and does the elementary music at a local private school.

**Candi (Erwin) McDonald (BME '92; MA '94)** writes: "I had some exciting news this summer. Thought I would share it. I'll be starting my 5th year as the head director of Live Oak Ridge MS in Killeen, but this next year I will be starting the year as Candi McDonald :) I married CW3 Curtis McDonald on July 3, 2006. It was a whirlwind romance that we are both still amazed at what God has done between us. Curtis is in the military and will be serving our country for a 2d time in Iraq at the end of the year. My girls (a dog and cat) and I are adjusting quite nicely to having a man around :) I thought you would like to hear about this and to put it in the *Ritornello*. I've never had anything exciting enough to write y'all about yet :) (Not only marriage, but I was able to spend 2 weeks in Ireland earlier this summer...wow!! Talk about your amazing vacations...huh??)"

**TMEA Alumni Reception  
Menger Hotel Ballroom  
9:30-11:30 pm**

## IN MEMORIUM



**Layne Sorensen (BME '74)** died Wednesday, May 10, 2006.

Celebration of life services were at 10 a.m. Saturday at Parkside Chapel with the Rev. Ted Taylor officiating. A private burial followed. Arrangements were by Parkside Chapel Funeral Home.

Mr. Sorensen was born June 22, 1951, in Denver to George and Pauline Sorensen. He graduated from Sanford-Fritch High School and received his bachelor of music education degree from WTAMU in May 1974. He married Elizabeth Stephenson on April 3, 1971, at the Hill Chapel on the WTAMU campus in Canyon. He was a band director for eight years, four of them with the Hereford ISD.

In 1981, Layne made a career change and used his talents in woodworking to open his own business, L & L Sorensen. Layne and his wife, Liz, have remodeled homes throughout the Hereford area for the last 25 years. They were featured in a recent newspaper article that quoted them as saying: "Remodeling homes has given us the chance to meet a variety of wonderful people. We get to know our customers as our friends."

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Greg Sorensen and wife Stephanie of Georgetown and Randy Sorensen and wife April of Farmers Branch; his parents; a brother, Gary Sorensen and wife Olga of Las Cruces, N.M.; and four grandchildren.

## FACULTY FOOTNOTES

**Robert Hansen**, professor of voice, won a Faculty Teaching Excellence Award for 2005-2006.

**Ron Lemon**, associate professor, attended the 38th International Horn Symposium in Cape Town, South Africa, in July. He presented a lecture on "Dystonia and the Horn Player's Lip" and coached visiting students from Cape Town University on solo repertoire. He then enjoyed a few days in Durban with his son, Jim, who plays horn in the KZN Philharmonic there. Ron enjoyed hearing Jim's orchestra in performance.

On his return to the U.S., Ron stopped over in Washington, D.C., for a reunion held by the U.S. Navy Band, and joined them in playing a concert on August 7. His lovely wife, Kay, met him for the reunion and some sightseeing in the area. Of special interest was seeing their first apartment after being married in Texas.

The WT Horn Choir has been busy preparing a concert for November 19th at 3:00 p.m. The horns will also be playing at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum on Saturday, December 2, at 2:00 p.m., for the annual Christmas open house.

**Denise Parr-Scanlin**, assistant professor of music, taught at the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota during summer 2006. The month-long program brought together students and faculty from around the United States. Dr. Parr-Scanlin taught piano, musicianship, and coached a piano ensemble. She also gave a solo performance and played in faculty chamber music ensembles. She has been invited to return in 2007 for the 25th anniversary year of the Festival. Dr. Parr-Scanlin has had a busy fall semester presenting piano recitals featuring works by Beethoven, Chopin, Messiaen, Debussy, and Chaminade. In addition to her WTAMU faculty recital of these works given in October, she also performed as a guest artist at Frank Phillips College, Texas Tech University, and Houston Baptist University.

after the Christmas break. I hope she sends back some good barbecue. Have a good fall. Hope to see some of you at national or regional conference.

### **SAVE THE DATE! ALL-STATE STRING CAMP JULY 29 –AUGUST 1, 2007**

This past August, Nick Scales began a summer camp at WT as an all-state workshop and technique class. The first year started small but mighty with students mostly from Amarillo, but also some from as far away as Houston and Austin. Our special guest instructor for the camp was Andy Moritz who is an extremely successful bass instructor in the Houston area. It was a wonderful way to get potential string students on campus and give them a good head start on their all-state preparation while slipping in useful day-to-day technique work to help students improve their overall playing. Next summer, the string area is planning to offer this same camp for all strings with instruction by the Harrington Quartet and guest instructors. Mark the date and spread the word, we hope this will move us toward the goal of a full string camp in the not too distant future!!

### **HAVE STRINGS, WILL TRAVEL!!**

In other string area news, we have been very busy recruiting and doing clinics this year so far as the Harrington Quartet (minus one) and Nick Scales have been to Plano, Allen, El Paso, Houston, and Odessa. Nick presented an in-service bass technique class for all Ector ISD string teachers and then joined the Harrington for a full weekend of master-classes and sectionals for the El Paso Youth Symphony. The Harrington came to El Paso via Plano and Allen where they put in some long days doing sectionals and clinics. We are working hard to raise the visibility of the great program here at WT!

### **CHORAL ACTIVITIES**

WT choirs started the semester off by holding the second annual Panhandle High School Honor Choir. We had approximately 135 area high

school students in attendance. The WT Chorale joined them as section leaders to form a very formidable ensemble. This year's clinician was Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Miami. The clinic choir performed two all-state selections as well as Paul Basler's "Gloria" and Dr. Hall's recently published "A Dream of a Blessed Spirit." Dr. Hall's piece will be performed by the Georgia All-State Choir in 2007 and is being considered for the Southwest ACDA Honor Choir in 2008. It is published by Walton Music, and if you go to [waltonmusic.com](http://waltonmusic.com), you can hear the WT Chorale singing its premier on their 2006 sampler.

Back in June we resurrected the WT All-State Choir Camp. We decided to start with a day camp, but we hope to expand it to include housing so that students from all across the state can participate. Information on the camp will appear on the department website next semester.

With a successful fall concert behind them, the choirs are gearing up for the WT Christmas Concert and Carol of Lights. This year the Carol of Lights and the Christmas Concert will occur on the same night (Tuesday, November 28). The Carol of Lights is at 6:00 pm in front of Old Main. The concert will follow at 8:00 pm in Northern recital Hall. We are excited to be combining these two events and we hope that it will establish a long-lasting holiday tradition. For more information please contact the department of music and dance.

FYI: If you are planning on attending TMEA, be sure to hear the outstanding Canyon High School Women's Choir. They recently commissioned Dr. Hall to compose a piece for their convention performance. It is an arrangement of "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" and was recently premiered as part of the All-Region choir concert here at WT.

### **BAND NEWS**

At this writing, the marching band is preparing to perform at the WTAMU Buffalo football teams first play-off game this fall, schedule on November 18. The Concert and Symphonic Bands are getting ready to

take the stage in Northern Hall for our December 4th concert.

The Symphonic Band will tour through the West Texas area this year on February 25-28. Soloist for the tour will be Dr. William Takacs, performing Arban's Carnival of Venice. The band will be also be performing The Glory of the Yankee Navy by John Philip Sousa, Danza Sinfonica by James Barnes, Theme and Variations by Arnold Schoenberg, and Klezmer Classics by Johan de Meij. We hope to see all of our friends living in the area at one of our concert sites this spring.

### **SHOWCASE OF MUSIC DONOR LIST, APRIL 7, 2006**

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We're very appreciative of all our donors that make scholarships possible for deserving young musicians.

Harrington String Quartet violinist, **Keith Redpath**, will perform Mozart's 4th Violin Concerto in D major with the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra on their New Year's Eve Gala Concert. The performance is at 8:00, December 31st at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts. The performance will also feature tenor Eric Barry and will be followed by a midnight countdown with champagne, hors-d'oeuvres, and dancing with a live jazz band. Please contact the ASO office at 376-8782 for further information.

**Susan Martin Tariq** presented clinics, all state help sessions and recitals in Odessa, Stephenville, College Station and Sugar Land November 4-7. Tariq had the opportunity to work with students of WTAMU alums, John Carroll (Odessa Permian H.S.), Geoffrey Elsner (Midland Lee H.S.), Dane Langen (Dulles H.S.) and Jonathan Seale (A&M Consolidated H.S.) as well as students of Larry Lawless in Stephenville.

#### CALLING ALL PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE ALUMS

An alumni percussion ensemble concert has been scheduled for Sunday, January 28th with rehearsals on Saturday, the 27th. This will be a great opportunity for all to see our new instrumental music addition, rehearse in the new facility and visit with old friends. We do not have a complete file of ensemble alums. If you are interested in participating in/attending this event, email Susan Martin Tariq (stariq@mail.wtamu.edu)

#### NEW FACULTY



A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, **Robert Denham** holds a DMA in composition from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of

Music (CCM) where he studied with Michael Fiday, Joel Hoffman, and Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon. His other degrees are from UCLA (MA Composition) where he studied with Roger Bourland, Ian Krouse, and the late Jerry Goldsmith, and Biola University (BM, Trumpet Performance). Dr. Denham managed the annual new music festival MusicX for four years, and currently teaches theory and composition at West Texas A&M University.

Denham's music includes works of every genre and has been performed across the United States and Europe by such performers and ensembles as Timothy Lees (Concertmaster, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra), the CCM Philharmonia, the Los Angeles Flute Quartet, the Orion Saxophone Quartet, the CCM Chamber Players, and the Academia Musicale di San Casciano Orchestra e Coro di Bambini (Florence, Italy). Performances of his music include such notable venues as the 2006 SCI National Conference, Composers Inc., Culver City Chamber Music Series, the Pacific Contemporary Music Center (Long Beach CA), and the Ernest Bloch Festival (Newport OR). He has won numerous competitions, including the Hvar International Composition Competition (Croatia), the CCM Philharmonia Composition Competition, the Gluck Brass Quintet Composition Competition, and was the 1998 recipient of the coveted Stanley Wilson Composer's Award (UCLA).

A member of ASCAP and SCI, Denham's music is published by Falls House Press, Imagine Music Publishing, Pelican Music Publishing, and Tuba Euphonium Press.

Dr. Denham replaces Dr. Joe Nelson's, who retired in August after 36 years in the music department.

We have a new dance position. A native of the Texas Panhandle, **Leslie E. Williams** returns to her alma mater to teach the next generation of dancers.

Leslie started dancing at a young age and began training professional at the age of 8. After many summers away from home she traveled north to attend Interlochen Arts Academy, a private performing arts high school

located in the northern part of the lower peninsula of Michigan.

Upon graduation Leslie moved to Chicago to train with Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago. She worked in the field for a number of years and returned back to Amarillo to get her degree. Leslie graduated from West Texas A&M University in 2000 with a BFA in dance all along dancing with Lone Star Ballet and attending professional workshops such as: Jacob's Pillow, Mark Morris, Bill Evans, ADF and many more to fine tune her modern skills.



Leslie began work on her master's at The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, in 2001 and graduated with an MFA in choreography and performance in 2003. While attending U of M Leslie was fortunate to work with David Dorfman, Peggy Linman, Peter Sparling, Bill DeYoung, Gay Delghane and many more. Two months after graduation she was offered a job with a small modern troupe in Ann Arbor, Peter Sparling Dance Company.

Leslie divided her time in Michigan between teaching at Dance Gallery Studio, teaching at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, and dancing with the company. This past summer Leslie was able to re-connect with her Interlochen roots and was on faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp. Leslie commutes from Amarillo to Ann Arbor to continue to perform with Peter Sparling Dance Company and serves as assistant professor of dance at WTAMU.



Assistant professor **Mark Bartley** joined the faculty at West Texas A&M University this fall to serve as Director of Orchestral Activities. The previous six years were spent in Massachusetts during which time he conducted ensembles from Cornell, Yale, Boston University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the New England Conservatory. He served as a conductor on the faculty at Mount Holyoke College and completed a doctorate in conducting from Boston University. In July 2004, he was selected as a fellow with the Conductors Institute and traveled to China to direct the China Opera and Dance Symphony Orchestra (Beijing) and the Harbin Opera Orchestra. Prior to moving to Massachusetts from Texas, Bartley directed various academic, religious, and community musical organizations in Houston and Austin. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas.

## MUSICAL THEATRE

*Nunsense*, directed by Royal R. Brantley and Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, will be the first musical produced in the new Branding Iron Theatre in the Fine Arts Complex. Scheduled performances are February 14-17 and 21-24, 2007. Should be a barrel of fun. Be sure to join us and get your tickets early!!

## OPERA

Mozart's *Così fan tutte* will be performed on March 2 – 3, 2007 in the new Branding Iron Theatre. Performances will begin at 7:30 pm. Artistic director of the opera is Dr. Cloyce Kuhnert. This will be the first



**WTAMU Collegiate Chapter of Music Teachers National Association recital November 14. Pictured are, left to right, Jonathan DeLong, Sheila Bowles, Sharon Grasha, Keyhwa Lee, Brandy Jenkins, Jesse Switzer, MTNA members from Amarillo College Jeremy Duck and David Conley; seated is faculty adviser Denise Parr-Scanlin.**

collaboration with the new orchestra conductor, Dr. Mark Bartley. For ticket information, please call (806) 651-2856.

## MUSIC THERAPY

The good news is the "Fine Arts Complex" is open!! The bad news is that there is still construction all around us. This fall has been very busy. We had the big grand opening on October 20. During that night, we brought in some special needs adults and conducted some "music activities" with them. I think our students gained and so did the residents. It was a nice time.

The music therapy club has been active. They have participated in several fundraisers, the homecoming parade, and singing "Halloween Carols" for children at Northwest Texas Hospital. They even brought back the fundraiser known as "Halloween Professor." For those of you who are not aware, music faculty agree to dress up if they receive the most money. Nine professors agreed to participate. Cans for each professor were placed in the music office. Faculty, staff, and students were encouraged to contribute to the can

representing the professor they wanted to see dressed up on Halloween. I was worried. The music therapy club informed me I was participating. I was ready to spend some money in my peers' cans. But, I lucked out. I did not win. The winners (I guess) were Dr. Hansen, Mr. Lefevre, and Dr. Cansler. I would love to send you a picture of Mr. Lefevre, but you better email me. It was a fun time and ended up being a nice fundraiser.

I thought I would share a little about this year's Martha Estes Music Therapy Scholarship recipients. As you probably know there are two. One is for a returning student and one is for a student entering an internship. Cara McBurney is the recipient of the returning student scholarship. Cara is a junior flute player from Midland. She is actually majoring in both music therapy and music education. She also is the music therapy club president this year. Charity Wilson is the recipient of the Intern Scholarship. She is a piano player from Canyon. Charity is excited because she is going to do her internship in Kansas City (this year's conference location). She has informed me that if I cannot find her, she is probably looking for a place to live. Charity will begin this exciting time in her career shortly



## "1924 – A VERY GOOD YEAR"

Can you name two things that were created in 1924? Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* is one and one of the two Steinway grand pianos in Dr. Parr-Scanlin's studio is another! The second piano was built in 1926. Like the *Rhapsody*, these pianos may be called classics. Generations of WT piano students have had lessons on these instruments that are still used daily. With time, however, the pianos have developed a number of problems, but, like good classic cars, they are good candidates for restoration – you might say it is time to rebuild their engines.

Fifty-five percent of our pianos are pushing thirty years of age while another twenty-six percent are almost fifty! Instruments such as the Steinway grand pianos can be rebuilt and retain good value, whereas the aged practice room instruments cannot. The piano inventory within the music department has reached the point where a replacement and restoration program is in order.

There is good news to report. In the past year, we have acquired two very nice upright pianos for student practice. Additionally, a portion of the recent Harrington gift for the new Fine Arts Complex will enable us to purchase a Steinway concert grand piano for the new recital hall as well as several more upright pianos for the practice rooms. This is very exciting news and gives us a wonderful start on reinvigorating our piano inventory.

During the spring semester of 2007, Steinway's *Legendary Pianos Tour* will make a stop in Canyon, thanks to Jent's House of Music. The tour includes Horowitz' personal Steinway piano, one of Van Cliburn's pianos, and the *Rhapsody* piano (yes, it IS blue and features over 400 inlaid mother-of-pearl stars and a music desk made to resemble the Manhattan skyline). Plans are underway to use this opportunity as a kick-off event for raising funds for purchasing, restoring, and maintaining pianos for the department. If you are interested in participating or would like more information concerning pianos at WT, please contact Denise Parr-Scanlin at 806-651-2852, [dparr@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:dparr@mail.wtamu.edu).

With the opening of our new building and the beginning of a period in which we are replacing worn-out pianos, future generations of WT music students should be able to look back on 2006 as "a very good year!"

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

We're in the new facilities but we had to force our way in. The university set July 24-28, the Monday after band camp, as the week for the move from the Fine Arts Building. A moving company was hired to transport stuff from the FAB to the new building. It's December 15 and I still don't know if the contractor has turned over the project to the university. Since July a lot of the contractor trailers have, one by one, been pulled from the parking lot, but there are still workers attending to details. As you can imagine, just because it's a new building doesn't mean that everything works. We've been told that it will probably take a full year to get everything fine-tuned. Nevertheless, it's a great facility.

The next question that you are asking yourself is "What's going to happen to my beloved Fine Arts Building in which I spent so many years of my early youth?" Right now, the university is planning on using that building to house faculty who reside in the Classroom Center while that building is being renovated. The last I heard work would start in September and the project would take about 24 months. Eventually the FAB will be razed and it will be replaced with a parking lot. We lost quite a few parking spaces in Northen because of the new building. The center of campus is now closed to through traffic and a pedestrian mall is being built. Go to <http://www.wtamu.edu/campus/improvements/> to see what's going on. It should make the campus look very attractive, but there are more parking spaces lost.

Our grand opening was on October 20. A web page created by the "go! committee" (grand opening committee) is still up. Go to <http://www.wtamu.edu/grandopening> for video tours, information about events that evening, etc.

Just to summarize things for you, many of the faculty who were living in the old Fine Arts Building came to the new Fine Arts Complex. One of the challenges that we have experienced when Northen was built is that the bands and orchestra rehearse in the FAB but perform in Northen. We wanted to correct that problem, so the new rehearsal hall is attached in what we call the "West Wing." It's where the outdoor Greek theatre used to be. Another related problem was the percussion equipment and studios. Before, we had five different areas where percussion equipment was stored in two buildings. We've now consolidated that into one percussion area, also located in the west wing. Dr. Tariq has an office, a large ensemble room with additional percussion storage, a good-sized teaching studio and seven practice rooms, each with a different set-up. And (if you were a percussionist here) the equipment can be rolled onto the stage instead of taking the marimba apart to get it on stage, assembling it to perform, taking it apart to get it off stage, then putting it back together to put it back in N-157. There are also two general-purpose rooms that we leave unlocked for students or student ensembles to rehearse in. We didn't have anything like that in the old building except the faculty lounge that students used from time to time.

The music office, the voice and piano faculty are in the new Fine Arts Complex on the second floor. We also have five studios for accompanists. The choir room, which is larger than the one we left behind in the FAB, and the choir library came with us, too. We got 18 Acoustic System practice rooms. And each service organization got a 10' X 10' cage to store stuff. It's a pretty nice set-up. If you're ever in the area, stop by and we'll show you around.

An update of the piano situation: We received delivery of 13 Boston uprights and they've been placed in the new Fine Arts Complex practice rooms. They look really nice and play very well (not by themselves, of course, but even at the mercy of a first-semester piano class student, even the massive mistakes have a nice quality about them).

As Dr. Parr-Scanlin mentioned, the university received a \$5 million gift from the Harrington Trust. Part of that is to be used for construction expenses. Dr. O'Brien's, our new university president, top priority is to finish out the small recital hall. It will probably be at least a year before that project would be completed, but we don't have a start date yet. Besides the new pianos for the new practice rooms, he's also allowed us to have a new Steinway Concert Grand. Dr. Parr-Scanlin will fly to New York at the end of January to pick out an instrument and tour their factory.

Dr. Sue Park, who has been the dean of the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities for the past 18 years, is retiring January 15. She started in the English department in 1966. She wanted to stay until we got into the new building. I'm sure she had hoped for April 2005 date, but because of delays she had to hang on until now. Forty years is a long time. We wish her many years of well-deserved retirement. A search is in progress and the university hopes to have a new dean named for the fall semester. Mr. Royal Brantley, head of the art, communications, and theatre, will serve as interim dean until a new dean is appointed.

Speaking of retirements, Mr. Bill Evans, piano faculty since 1961, has turned in his retirement letter. He will have 46 years of service to the university! We've been approved for a replacement and Dr. Parr-Scanlin is heading that search committee.

Speaking of doctorates, we have three new ones. Dr. Denise Parr-Scanlin finished her doctorate from the University of Texas, Austin, last December. Dr. Russ Teweleit, finished his this summer from the University of Oklahoma. And Dr. Mark Bartley, our new orchestra director, was awarded his degree from Boston University in September. These are significant milestones for our faculty. Congratulations to them. I can't remember if I told you, but Dr. Tina Carpenter was recognized for teaching excellence last year. You read in Faculty Footnotes that Dr. Hansen won this year. I think that only four are awarded each year out a faculty of approximately 250.

Like you, our faculty won't blow their own horn. They're reluctant to write about themselves, but it's interesting for the rest of us to share in their accomplishments. I wish we had more alumni news to report. OK, enough of that. Back to work. But we really do need your help. Send us something about yourself.

I mentioned that Dr. J. Patrick O'Brien was installed as president of the university. That happened the day after the open house. Dr. Brian Chapman, provost and vice president for academic affairs, came in the summer of 2005 and serve as interim president in the spring. Dr. Russell Long, resigned as president at the end of December 2005. He's had a year's leave and will return this spring as an English professor. Next fall the dance program will move to the art, theatre, and dance department so we will become the department of music. Dance will still have the same space, but they'll be aligned more with the Branding Iron Theatre for their performance venue. Speech and communications will become its own department and history and geography will come to this college. There's a lot of things happening here as we move forward.

There's probably a lot more that I've forgotten to tell you, but maybe I'll remember by the next issue of Ritornello. As always, if there is anything that we can help you with, please do not hesitate to call upon us. You can reach us through our website (<http://www.wtamu.edu/academic/fah/music>) or send an e-mail directly to me at [tdubois@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:tdubois@mail.wtamu.edu). We'd like to hear from you.

Ted DuBois

# RITORNELLO

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