

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University

Volume 24, Number 2

Spring 2001

DAVE RITTER RETIRES FROM MUSIC FACULTY

This year the music department says farewell to one of its distinguished faculty after 36 years of service. Dave Ritter retires this year as associate professor of trumpet and director of jazz studies at WTAMU.

Dave Ritter began playing the cornet in the 5th grade at Harding Elementary School in Hammond, Indiana. His first teacher was John Melton who himself was a trumpet player and was the band director at Morton High School. Dave began receiving first division medals in the 6th grade at both the city and region level. Back then in Indiana if you made a first division at region (high school) you went on to state. At state there were only three medals given: first, second or third. He received the first division medal in both his junior and senior year. At the age of 16 he began playing professionally with his father's weekend band.

After high school, he entered the Air Force and spent most of his hitch at Perin Field in Sherman, Texas. John Haynie, the trumpet teacher at North Texas State College, was teaching trumpet at Olen Atherton's Music Store on Saturdays, and Dave began studying with him. After three years at the end of his military service, John Haynie offered him a graduate assistantship if he would come to North Texas. In the spring of 1958 he entered North Texas as a freshman and began teaching trumpet for him and continuing his studies. He received his BME in the spring of 1961 and took a job as the band director at Archer City High School. The following summer he began work on a master's degree at North Texas State University.

In the fall of 1962, he began teaching at Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway, Arkansas, and continued to attend North Texas working on a MM which he received in 1965. He came to West Texas State College in the fall of 1965 and found a home. His duties have included teaching trumpet and French horn for two years and then just trumpet. He has also directed the brass choir and the jazz band. In 1978 he became the assistant Band Camp director until 1986 at



DAVE RITTER, associate professor of trumpet

which time he became the camp director, a position he's held for the past 15 years.

His playing career has included the American Wind Symphony, the Midland Symphony, the Arkansas Symphony, and many "gigs" and shows along the way. He is presently principal trumpet with the Amarillo Symphony (a position he has held for 34 years) and principal trumpet with the Randel Chamber Orchestra.

His plans for the future are to run the band camp for one more summer and to perform with the Amarillo Symphony
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ALUMNI NOTES

Ronnie Smith ('58 BME) earned a master of church music and doctor of musical arts degrees, served as a minister of music and taught in colleges in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Florida. He also taught some in Texas. He retired and moved home to Amarillo in 1996.

Richard ('66 BME, '68 MA) and Noreen (Putnam) ('65 BME, '68 MA) Bales live in Big Spring, Texas, where Richard is the district superintendent for the United Methodist Big Spring District. Noreen continues active music involvement often playing organ at Big Spring First United Methodist Church. Richard received his doctorate in 1999 from Asbury Seminary in Kentucky with his dissertation written as a 10-year case study of the growth of Canyon First United Methodist Church where he was senior pastor from '90-'00.

Janie Synatzske Evins ('76 BME) was a member of the WT band and is now a practicing attorney in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She is married to Bruce Evins and has two boys, Billy, age 15, and Bobby, age 12.

Susan (Muhlinghause) and Paul Worsello ('76 BME) are still living and teaching in the Klein ISD (24 years). Paul is at Klein Forest High School and Susan is at Epps Island Elementary. Daughter Anna is a senior at Klein Forrest and plays French horn in the band. Tygar is an eight grader at Wunderlich Intermediate school and plays clarinet (according to mom "much better than us at this time of our lives") and swims on a swim team.

Delaine (Little) Faris ('78 BMT) writes "I have owned and managed New Day Counseling for the last three years. We are currently expanding into new programs and larger offices. I am married to Bob and we still are hobby players and sing."

Jay Perdue ('78 BME) and wife Vicki own and operate Perdue Acoustics (12 years) which designs specialized acoustics for band rooms, churches, gyms, auditoriums, etc. They are shipping products all over the

world and Jay has been awarded his fourth US patent! Their sons, Joab, 20, and Jesse, 16, have a Christian rock band, Evermore, that tours regionally and has opened for several nationally known groups.

Tawnya Bryan ('82 BME, '99 MM) says "Bushland is the most wonderful place to work with WT grads **Ivy (Caruthers) Haynes ('98 BM)** and **Jennifer Smith ('98 BM).**"

Teri (Waldrop) Burnett ('82 BMT), husband Jerry and their two daughters, McKenna, 4, and Samantha Grace, 18 months, are living in Broken Arrow. Teri maintains a small psychotherapy practice in Tulsa where she has been able to use music therapy with clients struggling with anxiety and panic disorder. She has recently offered a new emphasis working with couples coping with infertility and adoption issues. A new project has been consulting with a local music minister who composes and records music for emotional and spiritual healing. Teri and Jerry enjoy playing contemporary music in their church band.

Allison (Campbell) Johnston ('82 BME) is teaching choir at Muleshoe High School now instead of band and loving it! Her 5 children include a senior, a sophomore (All-Stater in mixed choir B2), an eleven year old, a five year old, and a fifteen month old (four girls and one boy). She'd love to hear from old friends. ajohnston@muleshoeisd.net

Lisa (Stallings) Smith ('83 BME, '90 MA) is currently teaching at Armstrong Middle School in Plano. **Annette (Murphy) Mitchell ('98 BM)** is her assistant as is **Shelly Van Doren ('86 BME)** who is half time at this school and half time at a sister school and who just had twins (a boy and a girl). Three WT alumni at one school!

Amy (Barnhart-Hammel) Zabin ('87 BMT) writes: "I completed my master's degree in music therapy from FSU and then my doctoral degree from NYU (also in music therapy) where I served as the

doctoral fellow for the department. After that I taught graduate music therapy students at NYU and was a music therapist at the New York Hospital-Cornell medical Center for almost a decade. My husband is Steve Zabin, MD, who directs the residency program at New York Medical College. We live in Greenwich, CT (outside NYC) and have two young children, Benjamin, age 2, and Alixandra, age 11 months. I have founded the Music Therapy Center of Greenwich and maintain consultant positions with various facilities for training their professional staffs. A major publication is my music therapy chapter in *The Handbook of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* and I have just signed a contract with Context Books for a book due next year."

Carlie Burdett ('84 BM) lives with her husband, Tom, on a ranch southeast of Amarillo. She enjoys singing with the Amarillo Civic Chorus as well as in the church choir at Central Church of Christ. She also continues to write, and arrange, music.

Scott Myers (84 BME, 89 MA) is the head band director at Ann Richards Middle School in La Joya, Texas and is marrying Erika Acker in December of 2001. Lucky girl!!

Nancy (Griggs) Warncke ('84 BM) and husband are proud parents of Julius, born on October 7, 1999. She is currently working at the corporate headquarters of Brook Mays Music Company in Dallas as support staff for educational representatives.

Tammy (Stansford) and Don Summersgill ('86 BME) are now teaching in Lubbock. Don is the band director at Monterey High School and Tammy teaches music at Hardwick Elementary School where son Jacob, 9, attends. Their most recent addition is Emily, born in May 2000.

Dana Harlow ('87 BME) has been teaching high school choir for the past fourteen years. She is presently head director at MacArthur High School in Irving. She is single, lives in Dallas, and would love to hear from

any choir/musical theatre people from '83 to '87. harldan@aol.com

Kevin Kuehler ('87 BME) is currently head band director at Borger High School. He married Wendy Alkinson in June of 1998 and they have one child and an eight month old black Lab named Ranger. He is still involved with the Naval Reserve.

Pano Mata ('88 BME) is now in fundraising since 1998 with Express Industries. Wife **Dianne ('89 BA)** is a counselor at Permian High School. Kids Devin is ten and Anyssa is five. Pano and Dianne both served as president of the PTA at their children's elementary school and have been very busy with various activities.

Sheri (Scales) Neubauer ('88 BM) writes: "We are still in Tulsa. Nils is senior engineer for Williams Communications and loves it! I am full-time associate principal violinist with the Tulsa Philharmonic and I am in the string quartet with the Philharmonic. I teach violin and miscellaneous classes at Oral Roberts University and run a music prep program also. We miss all our friends from WT!"

Emily Pulley ('89 BM) was recently honored with a 2000 Aria Award and featured in the November/December issue of *Opera Now*. She was one of three recipients considered to be on the brink of major careers. After graduating from WT, and then from UNT in 1992 with her master's degree, Emily won the regional auditions for the Metropolitan Opera. Since then she has been on contract with the Met and has enjoyed a wide variety of roles.

Lisa (Drew) Stiles ('89 BM) has a wonderful five year old son, Nigel Hunter Drew, and is still at Dulles Middle School. She took her band to the Midwest Clinic in 1998 and the Dulles Middle School Symphony Orchestra in 2000. She has also recently remarried to P. R. Stiles.

Joe Pruitt ('87 BME, '94 MA) is teaching at Fort Bend ISD at Lake Olympia Middle School. The past four years were spent at Dulles Middle School in FBISD working with **Lisa Hunter Drew Stiles ('89 BMMB), Anthony**

Gilbreath ('96 BME) and **Bill Duggan ('73 BME)**, all WT grads and past Pampa residents.

Judy (O'Rear) Harvel ('93 BME) received her MME from the University of North Texas in the summer of 1999 and currently teaches choir at McMath Middle School in Denton. She also enjoys singing with Music Theatre of Denton (formerly Denton Light Opera).

Caryn Herrick ('94 BM, '96 MM) will return to band camp this summer as Mrs. Kevin Crutchfield. They will marry on June 23, 2001. Congratulations Caryn!

Adrian Letz ('97 BA, '98 BM) is in his third year at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Wife Deborah is graduating from the University of Dallas with a BA in English Literature.

Amy Gould ('98 BM, '01 MM) is the assistant band director at Hudson Middle School in the Garland ISD. She is also a busy freelance clarinetist in the Metroplex area.

Lexa Richmond ('99 BM) is currently head band director at San Jacinto Junior High School in Midland.

Brandon and Ivy (Caruthers) Haynes ('00 BM and '99 BM) still live in Canyon and teach in the Amarillo area. Brandon is teaching with Mike Ellis at Tascosa High School in Amarillo and Ivy is at Bushland with Tawnya Bryan. They hope to buy a house in the near future.

Belinda Lehmborg Finn is teaching elementary school in Harper, Texas. She and husband Sean have a new baby, seven-month-old Matthew. She also has a team of 24 twirlers and sponsors the local high school twirlers.

Ethe Clark, aunt to Gary Garner, director of band and orchestra at WT, reports that his mother was a generous contributor to the band program at WT. Her grandson, Joshua (Pedo) Brokenbek is a jazz vocalist at UNT in Denton and her son was a graduate from WT. Arthur Lane Brokenbek is now working on his PhD in education.

Leslie Pray is a retired assistant professor from the school of business at WT. She and husband Wallace have enjoyed the musicals and recitals when they are able to attend.

Current student **Alan Miller**, a senior from The Woodlands, placed second at the percussion concerto competition at the 2000 Percussive Arts Society International Convention held in Dallas in November. Miller had been selected by taped audition as one of only four finalists to perform with the TCU Wind Ensemble for this competition.

UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

The orchestra opened the semester with the annual Concerto Concert. Six outstanding soloists were chosen by audition to perform: Marisa Sorraja, violin; Amy Browning-Clark, flute; Daniel Loudenback, saxophone; Raquel Rodriguez, trumpet; Cale Self, euphonium; and Dane Langen, marimba. Cale will be performing his solo with the Symphonic Band at its spring concert. The soloists were all exceptional.

Currently, we're preparing for SHOWCASE, where we'll be performing Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmilla*. The final concert is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1 at 8:00. We've had a number of promising string players audition for next year and we're looking forward to another great year with the orchestra.

SYMPHONIC BAND

The Symphonic Band recently completed its tour to the Dallas area, playing concerts in Iowa Park, Wichita Falls, Arlington Martin HS, The Colony, Rowlett, Grapevine Heritage HS, L. D. Bell HS, Trinity HS, and Keller HS. Raquel Rodriguez was featuring soloist, playing the Arban arrangement of Carnival of Venice on trumpet and she brought the house down at every concert. The band also did clinics with the Coyle Middle School Band, directed by Marcy Zoffuto, and the Keller Middle School Band, directed by Steve Winslow.

Along the way, we saw a number of band alumni, including: Ann Barnes, Bill Huff, Jim & Judy Summersgill, Heather McCamey, Ken Valliant, Richard Hall, Manuel Martinez, Teresa Moore, John Muelschen, Sarah Preston, Cynthia

Beard, Eric Gilley, Steve Winslow, Donna Carroll, Dick Clardy, Phil and Shawnda LaRocque, Marcy Zoffuto, Mark Alewine, Lance Sanford, Amy Gould, Shannon Whitaker, Annette Murphey Mitchell, Adrian and Deborah Letz, Sarah Preston, Cynthia Beard, Jessica Smith, Kelly Pace Zimmerman, Brandon Cameron, Kristen Scheirman, Michelle McGill, and John Black.

At this writing, we're preparing for our annual band clinic on March 24. The visiting bands will be Tascosa HS,

the trumpet students he has taught in the past 40 years. For further information about the reunion, contact: Doug Laramore, Box K-4, ECU, Ada, OK 74820 or at laramore@wilnet1.com.

Best of luck in this new chapter of your life, Dave. You will be missed!

CHORAL ACTIVITIES

The WT Chorale just completed a successful tour of the Permian Basin, March 5-9. The chorale sang

Samuel Barber pieces: *Under the Willow Tree* and *To Be Sung on the Water*, *Three Scottish Folksongs* by Mack Wilberg, featuring one piano-four hands, played ably by our staff accompanist, Noel-Paul Laur and junior Jay Wright from Canyon. Other selections included *His Voice as the Sound*, *Deep River*, and *Dere's No Hidin' Place*, (a spiritual featuring tenor Eric Barry from Sundown Texas), arranged by Alice Parker. Schola Cantorum (the chamber choir) also performed two selections: *Sing unto God* by G. F. Handel and *Neighbors Chorus* by J. Offenbach.

Be reminded of our Showcase of Music on April 6th, and the Spring Choral Concert on April 27, both at 8:00 p.m. Hope you can come and we look forward to hearing from you.

George Biffle
Director of Choral Activities

WTAMU OPERA WORKSHOP

This was an exciting year for WT Opera Workshop. In the fall of 2000, we presented Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. In order to bring more opera to the community, we chose to perform this opera at area churches. First United Methodist Church in Canyon, Saint Paul Methodist Church in Amarillo, and Saint Luke Presbyterian Church in Amarillo were so kind to open their doors to us for our performances. We accepted donations for the opera workshop program at these events. The money we received helped us to produce the spring 2001 production of *Hansel and Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck. This was an innovative endeavor in that we used computerized orchestration as accompaniment. Since we performed in Northen Recital Hall (which has no pit for the orchestra) the best solution was to put the orchestration on computer rather than to have a piano on stage. It went well beyond piano accompaniment in that the orchestral colors were now present. The opera was well received. This opens doors for us in the type of operatic repertoire that is available for us to produce in the future.



HARRINGTON STRING QUARTET

Mike Ellis, director; Canyon HS, Mike Sheffield, director; Lubbock Monterey HS, Don Summersgill, director; and Brenham HS, Eric Rettig, director.

DAVE RITTER, cont'd

and the Randel Chamber Orchestra for one more season and then we'll see. In November he will solo with the Randel Chamber Orchestra. Plans also include lots of golf. He says it has been a great "run" and he has had the opportunity to work with many wonderful students.

On June 2nd, his former students are planning a trumpet reunion of all

performances for Odessa High, Odessa Permian, Midland High, Midland Lee, Andrews, Lubbock High Magnet, Lubbock Monterey and a post-tour concert at Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall. It was indeed challenging and grueling, but also fun. I think the singers enjoyed the tour as much as the faculty. Joining the Chorale on tour were voice faculty Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, Dr. Robert Hansen, and Dr. Cloyce Beard-Stradley. Dr. Stradley was featured on the concerts as the mezzo-soprano soloist in Howard Hanson's *One Hundred Fiftieth Psalm*. Additionally, the Chorale performed Hanson's *One Hundred Twenty-first Psalm*, two

We will be taking *Amahl and the Night Visitors* to the community again next year in the fall and will also do an "as yet to be announced" opera in the spring. We hope to see you in the audience!

MUSICAL THEATRE

It is hard to believe that another semester is nearly over. This had been another busy year for musical theater and the Branding Iron Theater. We presented eight performances (two full weekends) of Stephen Schwartz's *Godspell* to very appreciative audiences. Directed by Mr. Royal R. Brantley and Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, this show celebrated a free symbolic approach to the gospel according to St. Matthew allowing a great deal of improvisation for the actors. An interesting side note: the full stage including the pit, was utilized for choreography, while the live band played on stage behind a brick facade, making ensemble and acoustics a creative endeavor. We really had a wonderful time!

As of the present, we are planning to audition and present another Musical Revue this coming fall, and another musical in the spring.

MUSIC THERAPY

Spring is in the air. That means it is time for the Southwestern Region's annual Music Therapy conference and Showcase. I am actually writing this article in the middle of both events. Nine students and I took a university van to Lubbock to catch a flight to El Paso for the regional conference (it was cheaper, if you were wondering). The conference was very successful. Two of our students were elected to an office in the regional student association and I found myself on one more committee. While in El Paso, a trip was arranged for us to visit Juarez, Mexico. I think everyone bought some (too much for some students) souvenirs. It was also a nice time to catch up with some of our alumni. We returned safely last night (March 31) to begin a busy week of Showcase rehearsals. This year the Music Therapy Club will be signing to the

song *As Long as I Have Music*, a popular choral piece by Don Besig. Following Showcase, the remainder of the semester will be devoted to completion of a community project (a sing-a-long) at the local nursing home and election of new officers. Hope you have a nice spring and summer.

Edward Kahler, music therapy

member Robert Levin, and a presentation of Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ*. Watch for details of our 20th Anniversary next year! We will premiere a work by WT composer Dr. N.J. Nelson, and present a series of concerts with outstanding guest artists. Please join us!



SUSAN MARTIN TARIQ AND SHERRY RUBINS

HARRINGTON STRING QUARTET

The Harrington String Quartet has had a great year. Now in our fourth year with the same personnel, we were excited for the opportunity to work with some of the world's leading chamber musicians, members of the Juilliard, Cleveland, Orion, and American String Quartets. We began several small series of concerts, including Lunch Concerts at WT, children's programs at Barnes and Noble Bookstore and at the Amarillo Public Library, and Pre-Concert Lectures for the Amarillo Symphony with Dr. Ted DuBois. Our latest events have included a "Beethoven and Coffee" afternoon, a collaboration with Texas Tech viola professor Mark Neumann, a piano quintet performance with Harvard University faculty

STRING DEPARTMENT NEWS

As a string department, we were happy to welcome Sandor Ostlund as our new bass teacher this year. During last summer, we had our first HSQ Practice Camp in two sessions, which were highly successful (and fun!). This fall, we were very excited to present a string chamber music concert, featuring four string quartets, and even more pleased that our numbers swelled enough to have 7 groups perform this spring. We had quite the gamut of repertoire, from Mozart and Beethoven to Mendelssohn, Bartok, and Shostakovich. And our string ensemble continues to grow (22 members strong!), with a performance of the Bach *3rd Brandenburg Concerto* at WT's annual Showcase.

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Dr. **Joe Ella Cansler** presented a program on her paper "An American Treasure: The Vocal Works of Royal L. Brantley" Feb. 23 at the 2001 South Central Regional Conference of the College Music Society at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Dr. Richard Davis, assistant professor of voice at UT-Pan American, attended and discussed old times at WT when the music department and theater department were combined and he studied with Mr. Brantley.

Sandor Ostlund, the double bass instructor at WTAMU, was the featured performer and clinician at "Bass Bash #15" in San Francisco in March 2001. Sandor performed a

recital and masterclass in the San Francisco Symphonies hall and taught classes and coached bass ensembles at several area middle schools and high schools. The event was sponsored by Barry Green, former principal double bassist with the Cincinnati Symphony and author of *The Inner Game of Music*.

Dr. **Susan Martin Tariq**, associate professor, and Sherry Rubins, UT-San Antonio, presented a duo recital/clinic titled "Bringing Out the 'Music' in Percussion Literature" at TMEA in San Antonio on Friday, February 9th. The program included three marimba/vibraphone duos: *Toccata* by Anders Koppel, *Ambient Resonances* by Peter Klatzow and

Over Hills by Dave Friedman. The snare drum duo *Rhythm Strip* by Askell Masson and multiple percussion duo *Surface Tension* by Dave Hollinden were also performed.

BAND CAMP

Band Camp is coming up again this summer from July 8 to 20. Camp costs for a residential camper is \$465.00 and \$215.00 for commuters. There are reduced rates for All-Staters and entering WTAMU freshman. Deadline for registration is June 1, 2001. Contact Sonja Love at slove@mail.wtamu.edu or call 806/651-2828.



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