

RITORNELLO



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Greetings From the Desk of the Director of the School of Music



Dr. Robert Hansen

We have now been the School of Music for two years, and what a good ride! This has not been a change in name only, for new initiatives and programs are on the horizon.

The most substantial change comes to the "Music Business" program. We have changed the name of the option to Music Industry, and in addition to our Bachelor of Music with Elected Studies in Business, we will be offering a parallel track in Music Technology.

We are pleased to be collaborating with the Mass Communication program to offer students selecting this degree path opportunities in audio and video recording and media law. The new curriculum has been approved by the university curriculum committee and has been listed with NASM for approval.

One of the most exciting aspects of this initiative is our budding partnership with Belmont University in Nashville. President O'Brien, Provost Shaffer, Dean Mallard, joined Darrell Bledsoe, Randy Ray (from Mass Comm) and me in a visit to Nashville to meet with leaders of the College of Entertainment and Music Business and the School of Music at Belmont. Our exciting discussions led to plans for WT students to be able to have a summer experience in Nashville under the auspices of Belmont, as well as sharing distance-learning classes during the long semesters. We anticipate a significant increase in music majors!

Along with this change, we have added Guitar as an applied music offering and option for a major instrument. With the generous support of an anonymous donor, we have a part-time instructor in place and have added private lessons and class guitar to the catalog.

We are making slow but steady progress on our Steinway initiative with an ultimate goal of replacing all of our pianos. Did you know that the age of most of our practice room pianos is between 60 and 85 years!

I am so proud of the accomplishments of our students and faculty this year. We have had outstanding concerts at home, invited performances at national conferences and student successes too numerous to list. My goal as the Director of the School of Music is to make every one of our students and our alums point with pride to the fact that they got their music education at WTAMU!

Dr. Joe Ella Cansler Retires



Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, Associate Professor of Music, has retired after 21 years of teaching voice at West Texas A&M University. She received her Bachelor of Music degree with All-Level Certification in 1968 and a Master of Arts in Vocal Performance in 1970 from West Texas State University. She completed her Ph.D. in Fine Arts (Interdisciplinary Music Concentration in Vocal Performance) from Texas Tech University in 1998. She joined the WT voice faculty in 1993.

Dr. Cansler has taught applied studio voice, musical theatre and empowerment and performance apprehension classes. As a performer she has given lecture recitals, performed chamber music, presented clinics and has facilitated workshops throughout the United States and Europe. She was named as a semi-finalist in the third annual American Traditions competition in conjunction with the annual Savannah On-stage International Arts Festival in Georgia. As a recipient of a Faculty Development Grant in 1999, she performed and conducted in Italy and Switzerland with the University of Sienna. In 2002 she was a Colloquium Guest Professor and Grant Recipient with Western Carolina University.

As the past musical director of the outdoor musical drama TEXAS, she has worked with celebrated artistic directors auditioning, casting, and producing professional theatre. She is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the National Opera Association, the College Music Society, and the Texas Music Teachers Association.

Her performance credits included roles in *Carousel*, *Camelot*, *Most Happy Fella*, *Oklahoma*, *Snow White*, *Trial by Jury*, *The Medium*, *La Boheme*, and *Faust*.

We wish Dr. Cansler nothing but the very best of everything in her retirement. We know that she will now have more time to spend with her family (especially her two grandchildren). She will be dearly missed!

Dr. Rai Morales Leaving WTAMU



Dr. Rai Morales will be leaving the WTAMU School of Music to return to the faculty at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He joined the WTAMU faculty in 2008 and has taught trombone, trombone choir, elementary music education courses and the WTAMU Athletic Pep Band. Prior to his appointment at WTAMU, he taught applied trombone at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and was a middle school band director with the Austin Independent School District. While at WT, Dr. Morales became known as one of the most outstanding recruiters in the School of Music. He doubled the size of the trombone studio and the WTAMU Trombone Choir is presently comprised of approximately 31 trombone majors. Thank you for such a great job while at WTAMU!

We wish Dr. Morales and his lovely family the best of luck and success at the "Island University".

WTAMU Symphony Orchestra

The orchestra presented a full season of events: Chamber Music Recital, Live Cinema Tour, Christmas Concert, Concerto Concert, Showcase of Music, and Spring Concert. Collaborative partners included several student, faculty, and alumni soloists; the Pampa HS Choir; WTAMU student and alumni choirs, and the WTAMU Dancers.

Repertoire for the season included:

- Mozart: *Idomeneo Overture*
- BJ Brooks: *The Kid in Live Cinema* [2013 Revision]
- Bach/Cailliet: *Cantata 208: Sheep May Safely Graze*
- Saint-Saëns: *Symphony No. 3 "Organ", Op. 78: II. Maestoso-Allegro*
- Bradford (Arr.): *The Shepherds Had An Angel* with WTAMU/Pampa HS Choirs; Sean Pullen, conductor
- Beethoven: *Christ on the Mount of Olives: Final Chorus* with WTAMU/Pampa HS Choirs
- Handel/Brooks: *Joy To the World* with WTAMU/Pampa HS Choirs
- Wagner: *The Ride of the Valkyries*
- Larsson: *Concerto, Op. 14: II. Adagio, III. Allegro scherzando* with Ryan Yett, alto saxophone
- C.P.E. Bach: *Concerto in D minor, Wq. 22: II. Un poco andante, III. Allegro di molto* with Megan Williams, flute
- Grieg: *Concerto in A minor, Op. 16: I. Allegro molto moderato* with Jesus Diaz, piano
- Beethoven: *Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125: Mvt. IV. Presto* with WTAMU Choirs/Alumni Choir; Lyndi Williams Krause, soprano; Melissa Parks, mezzo-soprano; Matthew Oglesby, tenor; Ron Loyd, baritone; Sean Pullen, conductor
- Saint-Saëns: *Samson and Delilah: Danse Bacchanale*
- Séjourné: *Concerto for Marimba and Strings: I. Tempo souple* with Juan Ramirez, marimba
- Stravinsky: *The Firebird Suite* (1919 Orchestration) with WTAMU Dancers; Leslie E. Williams, choreographer



Ryan Yett, alto saxophone and the WTAMU Orchestra

Dr. Mark Bartley

WTAMU Choirs

This past year the Chorale took a tour across Texas. We sang in Houston for five high school choirs, and returned through Fort Worth, where we sang for North Crowley High School. In February at Showcase the choirs performed the finale of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the WTAMU Symphony.



Beethoven's Ninth Symphony Final: Mark Bartley conducting the WTAMU Symphony, WTAMU Choirs, Alumni Choir with soloists Lyndi Williams Krause, Melissa Parks, Matt Oglesby and Ron Loyd.

Dr. Sean Pullen

WTAMU Bands

The band program had a busy spring this year. The Symphonic Band and Concert Bands performed at the Showcase of Music concert scheduled during the first week in March. The Symphonic Band toured the El Paso area and performed concerts at Oate, Franklin, Coronado, Americas, Eastwood and Eastlake High Schools.

The Instrumental Band Clinic and Concert was on Saturday, March 29th. Dr. Garner and I served as clinicians for the event and the WTAMU wind and percussion faculty presented master classes. Randall, Lubbock Coronado, Permian and Clovis High Schools Bands participated and all performed outstanding concerts.

The WTAMU Band Camp is scheduled for July 6-18. During the second week of the camp we will be featuring Yamaha Performing Artist, tubist, Thomas Bough. Dr. Gary Garner will be conducting the Director's Band and Dr. Russ Teweleit will direct the Faculty Jazz Band again this year. We hope to see you and your students at the camp! For more information concerning the WTAMU Band camp, please call 806-651-2828 or visit our website: www.wtamu.edu/bandcamp.

Don Lefevre

WTAMU Brass Choir

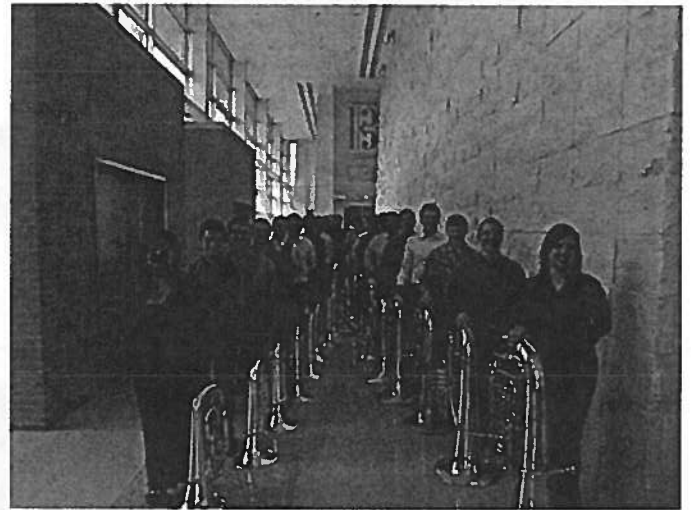
The WTAMU Brass Choir under the direction of Dr. Guglielmo Manfredi was invited to perform at St. Andrews Episcopal Church as part of The Arts at WT: A Subscription Series in the fall semester and also performed at St. Anthony's

Church in Hereford. They helped raise \$1,500 for the St. Anthony School and charity.

Dr. Guglielmo Manfredi

Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble

The Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble performed during the 2014 International Tuba-Euphonium Conference in Bloomington, Indiana, May 17-24. The concert will feature a new work by WT student, Alex Pettigrew. Dr. Jeremy Lewis will also be performing a recital during the conference and feature a new piece for solo tuba by WT faculty member, Dr. BJ Brooks.



The WTAMU Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble directed by Dr. Jeremy Lewis

Dr. Jeremy Lewis

The Harrington String Quartet

The Harrington String Quartet will be traveling to three European countries in late May and early June to perform at 2 international music festivals and a series of educational concerts titled "Music from America". Their first stop will be at the *Festival Internacional de Musica de Toledo* in central Spain, where they will perform two concerts. On May 23rd they will perform in Carranque at the Villa Romana del Parque Arqueológico and on May 24th in Ocaña at the Convento de PP. Dominicos. Next they will travel to Magdeburg in Germany to present a series of educational programs as part of "Klassik-I like it!" – a cultural literacy and education project of the Europa Philharmonie. The quartet's program, "Musik Aus Amerika", will be presented three times on May 27th and 28th. The last stop of the tour will be at the *International Music Festival of the Adriatic*, located at the small coastal village of Duino, Italy near Trieste. The quartet will give master classes for students from around the world, including many from the United States. The tour's final performances will be on June 6th with a HSQ concert in the Duino Castle, perched dramatically on the cliff tops overlooking the Adriatic Sea, and on June 7th with a concert in Trieste. For these concerts, the quartet will collaborate with members of the *International Music Festival of the Adriatic*

faculty in performances of the beloved Octet for Strings by Felix Mendelssohn. The HSQ will also be performing on the Distinguished Artist Series of the Piano Texas International Academy and Festival in Forth Worth on June 14th. They will perform three Mozart Piano Concertos with pianist Alon Goldstein.

A gem in the cultural landscape of West Texas, the Harrington String Quartet was established by a generous gift from the late Sybil B. Harrington to benefit the Panhandle community. From its founding in 1981, the quartet has brought "stellar credentials" and "a refined sense of ensemble and musical integrity" to performances across the nation and internationally. The Harrington String Quartet is in residence as string faculty at West Texas A&M University.



The Harrington String Quartet: Keith Redpath, Rossitza Jekova-Goza, Vesselin Todorov, and Emmanuel Lopez



The Duino Castle

Dr. Keith Redpath

Music Therapy

The Music Therapy Club has been very busy this year. They have conducted numerous fundraisers and held yearly Christmas and end of year get-togethers. Several speakers presented during the club hour. Speakers have included an Art Therapist, Hospice director, the director of Hope and Healing (our own

Tiffany Laur), and Lesleigh Zundt (talking about her internship). The club arranged and implemented the third Music Therapy Awareness Week in April and planned and ran the first Spaghetti and Song fundraiser at the end of Awareness Week. It was a GREAT success!!! We continue to attend national and regional conferences and are excited that one of our students, Dawn Stewart, will serve as President of SWAMTAS this next year.

Please keep in touch and if you are ever in town, we'd love to see you. Below is a picture taken after the Spaghetti and Song fundraiser.



The Music Therapy Club

Dr. Edward Kahler

Song Collaborators Consortia Art Song Festival

In October, 2013, the second Song Collaborators Consortia Art Song Festival was held both at West Texas A&M University School of Music and the Fibonacci Building, home of Chamber Music Amarillo. Twenty-five professionals, including singers, pianists, musicologists and theorists from all over the country converged in the Texas Panhandle to sing and present on the topic of art song.

The inception of the art song recital was a performance in front of a small crowd in someone's parlor. Often, the composer him or herself would play the song for a singer friend in order to introduce their new work to friends and/or patrons. Much in the same way, our performances tend to be in smaller, more intimate venues like the FAC Recital Hall or the Fibonacci Building.

Our featured recital was performed by Mr. Christopher Scholl, tenor, and Mr. Kevin Bylsma, piano, both of Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. The duo performed *Die schöne Müllerin*, a well-known song cycle by Franz Schubert. You can learn more about both of these amazing performers by going to the Bowling Green State University School of Music website to view their biographies.

The next SCC Art Song Festival will be hosted again at WTAMU and Chamber Music Amarillo on March 12, 13, and 14, 2015. In 2016, the Art Song Festival will travel to Syracuse University where it will be shared with the Texas panhandle every other year.

Dr. Christopher Meerdinck

WTAMU Piano News

Jesus Diaz, a sophomore from El Paso, won Texas Association of Music Schools Clara F. Nelson scholarship last year and began receiving a substantial scholarship that covers both tuition and expenses since fall, 2013. Jesus was also a winner in the WTAMU School of Music Concerto Competition and performed the first movement of Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor with the WTAMU Orchestra in February.

Misael Tambuwun, an international student from Indonesia, has been accepted to participate in two summer programs including one at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. After a busy summer, he will embark on a year long study abroad in the Republic of Georgia at Tbilisi State Conservatory. He will be studying piano performance and composition.

Dr. Choong-ha Nam

2nd Annual Big, Fat Flute Shindig

Helen Blackburn (Yvonne Franklin Endowed Chair, Artist Teacher of Flute) would like to invite all flute enthusiasts to the **2nd Annual BIG, FAT FLUTE SHINDIG** at WTAMU!

DATES: June 20-24, 2014

Registration and opening concert on the evening of Friday, June 20

Final concert at 12:00 (noon) on Tuesday, June 24

For more information: www.wtamu.edu/fluteshindig

(The "Official" registration deadline is June 5, but we can definitely accommodate late registrations!)

Our action-packed days will be filled with flute activities for all ages and all levels of flutists and teachers. This means Beginners, JR. High/Middle School, High School, College Students (undergrads and grads), Adults (amateur and professional), and Band Directors (flutists and non-flutists!) The only "requirement" is a DESIRE to learn and improve!

Our relaxed atmosphere of "team teaching" will include daily master classes, faculty recitals, emphasis on flute fundamentals (posture, tone, vibrato, double tonguing, technique, etc.), rhythm, preparing for auditions, pedagogy, important repertoire from UIL list, advanced repertoire, orchestral excerpts, piccolo, technology, performance tips, relaxation, nutrition, yoga, exercise, Q&A sessions. (Students will be placed in classes appropriate to age & ability.)

Every student will play in flute ensemble and will have the opportunity to play piccolo, alto, or bass flute! We also have a **CONTRABASS FLUTE** (a very rare beast, indeed!) traveling to the Shindig all the way from Canada!

The class for Band Directors will focus on pedagogy: teaching beginners, fundamentals (posture, tone, vibrato, double tonguing, technique, etc.), solutions to common problems (intonation, technique, etc.), tips for teaching & judging all-region auditions, standard solo-ensemble repertoire, alternate fingerings, and other important topics. Bring your flute!!

Take a look at our wonderful, **DIVERSE FACULTY!** We have experts in performance and pedagogy with a vast range of experience including: elementary music, music therapy, middle school, high school, university and orchestral performance!

Helen Blackburn - Artist Teacher of Flute - WTAMU, Principal Flute - Dallas Opera Orchestra (degrees from WTAMU & Northwestern University)

Dr. Gary Garner - Retired Director of Bands and former professor of flute, WTAMU

Maria Harding - Principal Flute of Omaha (NE) Symphony (degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Cincinnati Conservatory)

Ebonee Thomas - Principal Flute of Knoxville (TN) Symphony (degrees from SMU and New England Conservatory)

Dr. Lisa Van Winkle - Professor of Flute, New Mexico State University (degrees from WTAMU, NMSU, and University of Arizona)

Susannah Self - Professor of Flute - Eastern New Mexico University, former flutist with the St. Louis Symphony (degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Northwestern University)

Cindy Bulloch - Flutist/Band Director (Two-time AAA Honor Band director @ Nimitz JH - Odessa) (degrees from WTAMU)

Dr. Lyndsay Eiben - Flutist/Band Director (Nimitz JH - Odessa)(degrees from WTAMU and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music)

Inna Staneva - Freelance flute performer and flute instructor in Dallas metroplex (degrees from Rachmaninov's School of Music/Moldova and University of North Texas)

Kelli Bahner - Flutist/Band Director (Alvarado HS) (degrees from Baylor Univ. and Texas Christian University)

Amy Casper - Flutist in the Abilene Philharmonic and Breckenridge (CO) Music Festival, Private flute instructor in Austin (degrees from Indiana University and UT)

Cariann Rohus - Freelance flutist in Houston area; Kindergarten music teacher (degrees from SFASU and WTAMU)

Charmaine Bacon - Flutist/Pianist, Winnipeg, Canada (degrees from University of Toronto and University of Manitoba)

Ginger Denney - Flutist/Band Director (Randall HS - Amarillo) (degrees from WTAMU)

Alumni Notes From the 1970's

Stephen A. Haddad (1973 - *BM in Performance - Euphonium/Tuba*) After 29 years in business, I sold our business and re-entered the music world. I currently teach tuba and euphonium at U.T.E.P. and am the Area Coordinator for Commercial Music, which combines performance, technology and business for students wishing to work in music business.

Email: sahaddad@utep.edu (Spouse - Margaret Hathaway Haddad)



Stephen A. Haddad

David W. Smith (1973 - *BM in Bassoon Performance; 1977 - MA Music Ed.*) I am currently teaching part-time in the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD. I am semi-retired, but looking forward to full retirement soon. I teach bassoon, bass clarinet and oboe at Pharr-San Juan-Alamo (PSJA) North High School. During my career I also taught in Edinburg, TX, Copperas Cove, TX and McAllen, TX. David is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Email: dsbsn@sbcglobal.net



David W. Smith

Jamie L. Larson (1976 - *BMed - Trombone*) Retired from teaching since 2004. My last position was Head Middle School Band Director in Bryan ISD, Bryan, TX. I am currently TRTA District 6 President and a member the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature. My oldest son is Head Middle School Band Director in Dripping Springs. His wife is an Elementary teacher. My youngest son is Building Supervisor of new homes in Killeen, Temple, Belton and Harker Heights. His wife is a High School Social Studies teacher. My daughter is a Stage Manager for Alley Theater in Houston. We have 4 granddaughters. We raise cattle and I do woodworking and enjoy every day of retirement.

Email: jamlar50@yahoo.com (Spouse - Susan Bazarsky Larson)



Jamie L. Larson

Gary Lynn Mingus (1977 - *BMed - Trombone - Euphonium - Piano; 1978 - MM - Performance*) In 1979 I married Suzi McKay from Kokomo, Indiana. We met while I was playing keyboards in a group with Jay and Vicki (West) Perdue. We've been married almost 25 wonderful years! We have three beautiful daughters: Carly, 1982 (31) a science teacher in Waco, TX. She has a 4 year old son and expecting another in May; Kimberly, 1983 (30) a Legal Secretary in Dallas. She has a 2 year old son; and Christy, 1985 (28) a Catering Sales Manager @ George R Brown Conv. Center in Houston.

I played solo piano for over 30 years at the Amarillo Club. I'm now playing @ Rolling Hills CC in Arlington. I sold Insurance for MET LIFE for over 10 years, then moved to Dallas to sell Yamaha Pianos in 2004. I'm still selling for them when needed. In 2001 I became the Senior Dealer for SALADMASTER in Tarrant County. In 2014 I became a Dealer for Acoustics in a Box. I am working with my long time friends Jay and Vicki Perdue ("Perdue Acoustics.com"). A new adventure and new patent. I hope to connect with the music industry for a much needed product.

Most recently, I've been busy playing piano for Mansfield High School. They did the production *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. The pit orchestra was incredible and the music programs are fantastic.

Gary is an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi.

Email: garymingus@gmail.com (Spouse - Suzi McKay Mingus)



Gary Lynn Mingus

Bruce D. Collins (1978 - *BMed - Clarinet; 1984 - MA*) Julie and I are in our 9th year as directors at Amarillo High School. Our son, Alex, is a junior trumpet/music education major at WTAMU. Our son, Matthew, plays saxophone in our band at Amarillo High. We have a great staff including WT grads Scott Myers and Mike Ellis and Cody Myers as our Fine Arts Director. Great times!

Email: bruce_c74@suddenlink.net (Spouse - Julie Smith Collins - Clarinet)



Bruce D. Collins

Russell H. Blanchard (1979 - *BMed - Tuba/Bass Trombone; 1980 - MA - Music*) I am a Financial Planner for Met Life. I play in the Eoodlands Concert Band which is directed by Paul Worsello. I am married to Leslie Baird Blanchard and we

have lived the Woodlands for 9 ½ years. Leslie is a teacher (K-4 elementary music) in Conroe ISD. She plays harp and performs in our church.

We have two sons (and 4 grandchildren): David is an elementary music teacher in Spring ISD (he has 2 children ages 10 and 7) and Brian who lives in the Woodlands and is auditioning for horn positions in orchestras (he has 2 children ages 7 and 5). Russell is an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi.

Email: RussLeslieB@aol.com (Spouse-Leslie Baird Blanchard)



Russell H. Blanchard

From the 1980's

Michael C. Johnson (1980 – BMed – Bassoon; 1982 – MM – Conducting) Retired high school counselor; currently a doctoral student at Texas Tech University in the composition department. I am employed by USA Today and Motorsport.com as a sports photographer. My daughters: Brittany (24) is a financial advisor with Thrivent Financial and Summer (21) is senior engineering major at Texas Tech.

Email: mcjohnso@sbcglobal.net (Spouse – Gretta Mayben Johnson – solo twirler WTSU Band)



Michael C. Johnson

Iris Gonzalez (1981 – BMed – Clarinet; 1994 – MM – Clarinet) I presently run in the Gonzalez Clarinet Studio (2005-present); Prior to my clarinet studio I was a Band Director for 21 years. 1981 – Edinburg ISD, 1987 – Pharr-SanJuan-Alamo ISD, 1988 – Fort Bend ISD. Iris is an alum of Tau Beta Sigma (parliamentarian).

Email: GonzalezClarinet@aol.com



Iris Gonzalez

Robert D. Rubio (1983 – BMed – Trumpet and Piano; 1995 – MA – Music) I am Director of Bands at Stevens High School in San Antonio, Texas. I am in my 31st year of teaching. Both of my daughters, Ashley and Emily, attend WTAMU.

Email: rdrubio07@yahoo.com (Spouse – Lisa Oldencott Rubio)



Robert D. Rubio

Nancy E. Griggs Warncke (1984 – BM with Elective Studies in Business – Violin) I have a private teaching studio in Dallas where I teach violin and piano. I have been married to Russel Warncke for 15 years and we have one child, William, who is 14 years old and an enthusiastic 8th grade basketball and football player. Email: nancywarncke@sbcglobal.net (Spouse – Russel Warncke)



Nancy Elaine Griggs Warncke

Rusty L. Gray (1987 – BMed – Trumpet) I am band director at Coppell Middle School East and Music Director at Irving Bible Church. I have been married to Linda Young Gray for 26 years and we have 2 children. Leah – graduates from Belmont University this year.

Daniel – graduates from Coppell High School this year.

Email: rgray@coppellisd.com (Spouse – Linda Young Gray)



Rusty L. Gray

Lisa A. Oldencott Rubio (1988 – BM Music Therapy – Flute) I am called the flute whisperer of NISD. My accomplishments include a wonderful 25 year marriage to Robert Rubio (and they said it wouldn't last!). Two daughters, Ashley and Emily are both attending WT. I am an alum of Tau Beta Sigma.

Email: larubio07@yahoo.com (Spouse – Robert Rubio)



Lisa A. Oldencott Rubio

Jim Cathey (1989 – BMed – clarinet; 1995 – MA – Music) I am the Head Band Director at Floresville High School (9

years). My wife Kimberly is the color guard instructor for the band and is in administration for Floresville ISD.

Email: BigTexSA@ad.com (Spouse – Kimberly Smith Cathey)



Jim Cathey

From the 1990's

Grant Joseph Sorensen (1990 – BMed – Saxophone; 1993 – MA – Music) I now work as an Ultrasound Tech in a hospital (I work with sound waves!) I am an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.



Grant Joseph Sorensen

Christopher James Wurtz (1990 – BM with Elective Studies in Business – Trumpet; 1995 – Teacher Certification) See Kelly Shea Pace Wurtz.

Email: cwurtz88@gmail.com (Spouse – Kelly Shea Pace Wurtz)



Christopher James Wurtz

Angie Muñoz Blackiston (1993 – BMed – Flute; 1994 – MA – Conducting) I am in my 8th year at Peet Junior High in Conroe, TX (and my 12th year teaching band in Conroe.) My son, Thomas, is a 6th grade trumpet player in my husband's band, and Thomas will be in my band next year at Peet JHS. Angie is a member of Tau Beta Sigma and Mu Phi Epsilon.

Email: angieblackiston@aol.com (Spouse – Craig Blackiston)



Angie Muñoz Blackiston

David Finnell (1994 – BMed – Horn) I am presently Head Middle School Band Director in Andrews, Texas (north of Odessa). I am married to Sylvia and blessed to be teaching in

West Texas. In 2002 I earned a Masters degree in Music Performance from Baylor University.

I held the principal horn position in both the Austin Symphonic Band (under Dick Floyd) and the Balcones Community Orchestra. David is an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (Collegiate Province Representative).

Email: jdavidfinnell@yahoo.com (Spouse – Sylvia Finnell)



David Finnell

Kimberley Joy Hanna (1994 – BMed – Oboe) I am currently teaching band at the Applied Learning Academy in Fort Worth ISD. In my “spare” time I love to take photographs. Recently my entire family went on an Alaskan Cruise together to celebrate my parents' 50th wedding anniversary. Kim is an alum of Tau Beta Sigma. Email: flipper370@sbcglobal.net



Kimberley Joy Hanna

Tony W. Lucas (1995 – BMed – Saxophone; 2002 – MA – Music) I am in my 3rd year as the Middle School Band Director at Orangefield ISD in Orangefield, Texas. I am an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi (secretary) and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (vice-president).

Email: awlucas2001@yahoo.com

R. Fawn Hausman Sorgi (1996 – BMed – Bassoon and Cello) I am teaching orchestra at McKinney ISD and enjoying life with my domestic partner, Grant Sorensen and our puppu, Teddy. I am also teach AP Music Theory and loving it!

Email: fsorgi@mcKinneyisd.net (Spouse – domestic partner, Grant Sorensen)



R. Fawn Hausman Sorgi

Kelly Shea Pace Wurtz (1996 – BMed – Trumpet; 1997 – MA – Performance Trumpet) I work for Huffman ISD as the Middle School Band Director with my husband, Chris Wurtz, who is the High School Band Director. We have 5 children between the 2 of us: Cory Wurtz (music major at WTAMU), Krisly Wurtz (nursing major at WTAMU), Seth Wurtz (high school junior – 2 year All-State trumpet), Karani Zimmerman

(7th grader – trombone) and Kaitlyn Zimmerman (5th grader).
Email: kwurtz1757@gmail.com (Spouse – Chris Wurtz)



Kelly Shea Pace Wurtz

Conrad D. Flusche (1998 – BMed – Trumpet) I taught in Troy for 4 years and now at Mexia Junior High School where I also assist with the high school band. I have been married to Kristi Turner Flusche for 15 years and we have 2 daughters: Brittney (15 and Lindsey (11). Conrad is an alum of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Kappa Kappa Psi.
Email: backtobasics01@me.com (Spouse – Kristi Turner Flusche)



Conrad D. Flusche

Eric F. Gilley (1998 – BMed – Trumpet; 2000 – MA – Music) I recently became the Head Director at Colleyville Heritage High School (5A). I am married to Anisa Evans Gilley (a former WT horn player) and we live with 2 cats and a dog.
Email: efgilley@gmail.com



Eric F. Gilley

Suzanne R. Pecht (1999 – MM – Performance – Trombone) I am in my 5th year as Band Director at Sam Houston Middle School (where Dr. Garner went to middle school). I play in the Town and Gown Band. Suzie is an alum of Tau Beta Sigma (fundraising chair) and Mu Phi Epsilon.
Email: suzannepecht@cs.com



Suzanne R. Pecht

Director of Bands for Irons Middle School in Lubbock, Texas. I am also directing the Irons Invitational Music Festival and working with the Texas Tech Middle School Band Academy. I am also active at Hillside Church. Tim is an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi (secretary) and was the Band secretary.
Email: tking79@lubbockkids.org



Timothy Ryan King

Chris Walls (2001 – BMed – Trombone) I work for Fruhauf Uniforms-Designs and am the Principal Guest Conductor of the Dallas Pops and Music Director for Cirque Musica.
Email: christopher.walls@rocketmail.com



Chris Walls

Ginger R. Wiscombe Denney (2002 – BMed – Flute) I am in my 2nd year a Head Band Director at Randall High School in the Canyon ISD. I am married to Brandon Denney and we have 2 four-legged, fuzzy children (Slink and Gus).
Email: gdenney@canyonisd.net (Spouse – Brandon Denney)



Ginger R. Wiscombe Denney

Daniel H. Loudenback (2002 – BMed – Saxophone; 2006 – MM – Saxophone) I am now the Director of Fine Arts for Ector County ISD and Adjunct Instructor of Saxophone for Odessa College and the University of Texas in the Permian Basin. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Odessa Council for the Arts and Humanities and the Midland/Odessa Symphony and Chorale. Alumni of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Kappa Kappa Psi. Email: dannyback42@gmail.com (Spouse – Sarah Lodge Loudenback)



Daniel H. Loudenback

From the 2000's

Timothy Ryan King (2001 – BMed – Clarinet/Bass Clarinet; 2011 – MM – Conducting) I am in my first year as the

Michael Daniel Roberts (2002 – BMed – Saxophone/Oboe) I am Director of Bands at Dulles Middle School in Sugar Land, Texas. Michael is an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi and Alpha Chi. Email: michaeldanielroberts@gmail.com



Michael Daniel Roberts

Mayra O. Garcia (2003 – BMed – Horn; 2005 – MA – Music) I am presently Band Director at Midland Freshman High School. Mayra is an alum of Tau Beta Sigma (president) and a member of WTAMU Band Council. Email: mayraogarcia@aol.com



Mayra O. Garcia

Kristi S. Turner Flusche (2004 – BMed – Clarinet) I am currently one of four directors at Groesbeck ISD. I am the 7th grade Band Director, assist at the high school, teach clarinet and saxophone to the 6th graders and am the color guard coordinator. I have been in Groesbeck for 6 years. Conrad Flusche and I have been married for 15 years. We have 2 daughters: Brittney is currently a freshman in high school and Lindsey is in the 5th grade and is looking forward to playing the trumpet next year. I love spending time at home with my kids and family trips. Kristi is a Tau Beta Sigma alumni. Email: kshayfl@me.com (Spouse – Conrad Flusche)



Kristi S. Turner Flusche

Jordan R. Holmes (2004 – BMed – Saxophone) I am the band director at Abell Junior High in Midland, Texas. I am married to Tara Dunn and we have one son, Evan Jordan Holmes (born: June 11, 2013) Email: jordan.holmes@midlandisd.net (Spouse – Tara Dunn Holmes)



Jordan R. Holmes

Sarah M. Lodge Loudenback (2004 – BMed – Clarinet) Sarah is an Adjunct Clarinet Instructor at Odessa College (1 year) and Private Clarinet Instructor for Midland ISD and Ector County ISD (2 years). Sarah lives in Odessa, Texas with husband, Daniel Loudenback. They have a 2 year old son, Luke, and are expecting another boy in late May. Email: sloudenback@gmail.com (Spouse – Daniel Loudenback)



Sarah M. Lodge Loudenback

Julianna N. Meier (2004 – BMed – Clarinet) I have been an elementary music teacher for 5 years and a band director for 3 years. I also teach private clarinet lessons. Julianna has 2 dog children (cocker spaniels – Roxy and Jazz). She is also engaged to be married. The wedding is in June 2014. Email: juliannameier@yahoo.com



Julianna N. Meier

Johnathan W. Smith (2004 – BMed – Percussion) I am assistant band director and also teach elementary music in Tahoka, Texas. This is my 10th year of teaching. I have 3 children, and they are a blessing and pretty awesome! Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia alum. Email: wazaponing@gmail.com

Lesley Dale Zorn (2004 – BMed – Trombone) I have been teaching in Canyon as the Director of Band at Canyon Junior High School for the past 9 years. I am married to Katy Hall Zorn and have 3 children: Jackson (8 years old), Grayson (5 years old) and Kensington (3 years old). We are looking to relocate to the Houston/Austin area upon Katy's graduation. Email: lesleyzorn@gmail.com (Spouse – Katy Hall Zorn)



Lesley Dale Zorn

Alta Evangeline Striggles (2005 – BMed – Clarinet; 2010 – MM – Performance – Woodwinds) I am currently Junior High Band Director in Iraan, Texas. This is my 8th year to teach and previously taught for Plainview ISD in Plainview, Texas. In my spare time I like to read, sleep, cook and play the piano. I will be getting married on June 28, 2014 in Midland, Texas to Dawn Ray Lee. Alta is an alum of Tau Beta Sigma.

Email: riggles18@hotmail.com (Spouse – future – Dawn Ray Lee)



Alta Evangeline Striggles

Laura S. Bennett Cameron (2006 – BM – Performance Bassoon) Laura earned her Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and the Doctor of Music degree from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. She is presently the principal bassoonist in the Dallas Wind Symphony and is teaching music theory at University of Texas, Arlington. She is also studying and writing on the works of Roger Boutry. (Spouse - Brandon Cameron)



Laura S. Bennett Cameron

Nikeshia Hailey Hopes (2006 – BM Music Therapy – Violin and Viola) I am in my second year as orchestra director at Midland High School, Midland, TX. Prior to teaching at Midland High I was the orchestra director at Goddard Junior High for 4 years. I have been a violinist in the Midland/Odessa Symphony for 7 years and also perform with the Big Spring Symphony. I have been married to Byron Hopes for 3 ½ years. Nikesia is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon and was president of the WTAMU Orchestra.
Email: nikeshia.hopes@midlandisd.net (Spouse -Byron Hopes)



Nikeshia Hailey Hopes

Veronica Lea Tagle (2006 – BMEd – Tuba) I am currently in my eighth year of teaching. This is my first year as Head Band Director at Iraan ISD. Veronica was a member of the Symphonic Band and Tau Beta Sigma.



Veronica Lea Tagle

Flint Dale Weed (2006 – BMEd – Euphonium) Currently Assistant Director at Sherman High School in Sherman, Texas. I received my Master of Music degree in music education from Texas A&M Commerce and engaged to be married (March 10, 2014) to Valerie Parks, administrator at Dallas Presbyterian Hospital. Flint is an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi (president).

Email: flintweed21@agmail.com (Spouse – future – Valerie Parks)



Flint Dale Weed

Michael Ray Cason (2007 – BMEd – Trombone) This is my 2nd year as head director at Clarendon ISD. My family enjoys small town life. My 4 children, Ethan, Audrey, Asher and Gabel enjoy playing outdoors and making music with their dad. Email: casontrombone@gmail.com (Spouse – Bridget Rodriguez Cason)



Michael Ray Cason

Benjamin M. Grabber (2007 – BMEd – Trumpet; 2009 – MM – Conducting) Benjamin recently moved to San Antonio after four years in Odessa. He is the proud and happy father of two children: Abigail – 2 years old and Ephraim – 3 months. Email: benjamingrabber@hotmail.com

Nathanael W. Holmes (2007 – BMEd – Trombone; 2010 – MM – Performance) I am the Assistant Band Director at Seminole ISD.



Nathanael W. Holmes

Lyndi Williams Krause (2007 – BM with Elective Studies in Business; 2013 – MM – Voice Performance) After my bachelors I traveled overseas to tour the Republic of Armenia on a concert tour, produced and managed a program named Musical Tribute to Scientists which featured music dedicated to great minds of our time including Noam Chomsky, James Watson, Bertrand Russell and others. Upon completion of Master's degree I began teaching applied voice at WTAMU

and I am also the Admissions Counselor for the School of Music and help with the recruitment of incoming and transfer students.

Email: lyndi.r.williams@gmail.com (Spouse – Charles Allen Krause)



Lyndi Williams Krause

Heather G. Barr Capshaw (2008 – BMed – Bassoon) Heather is a band director at McClung Middle School in Fort Worth, Texas. She has been married to Randall Capshaw for a year and a half. She is an alumna of Tau Beta Sigma.

Email: hcapshaw@hotmail.com (Spouse – Randall Capshaw)



Heather G. Barr Capshaw

John A. Mireles (2008 – BMed – Trombone) I am an Assistant Director in Roma, Texas. I teach grades 6-12 and am in charge of a trombone studio of 30.

Email: johnmireles@gmy.com



John A. Mireles

Guillermo Teniente (2008 – BMed – 'Cello) – Attended the University of Tennessee and received a Master of Music degree. I went back to my home town of Laredo, Texas to teach at the local college and University. I teach cello and double bass, music appreciation and history of popular music. I have also been the Laredo Philharmonic Youth Orchestra director for the past two years.



Guillermo Teniente

Brent T. Key (2009 – BMed – Euphonium) I am presently teaching elementary music at Houston Elementary in Midland, Texas and I currently perform in the Odessa Collage

Community Band on tuba. I am married to Nancy, the sister of Daniel Loudenback, who is a social work. We live in Odessa and are expecting our first child in August. Alumni of Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Band Historian (3 years). Email: brent.key@midlandisd.net (Spouse – Nancy Loudenback Key)



Brent T. Key

Pricilla Ann Marruffo (2009 – BMed – Euphonium; 2012 – MA – Conducting) I am an Assistant Band Director at Randall High School in Amarillo, Texas. I am an alum of Tau Beta Sigma. Email: pricillamarruffo@gmail.com



Pricilla Ann Marruffo

Cara Lynn McBurney (2009 – BMed and BM in Music Therapy – Flute) Cara has been teaching music K-6 at Ireland Elementary in Odessa, Texas for the past 3 years. Alumna of Tau Beta Sigma (Historian for 3 years) and the Music Therapy Club (President for 2 years). Email: caramcburney@ectorcountyisd.org



Cara Lynn McBurney

Stacy Ann McBurney (2009 – BMed – Clarinet) Stacy is in her 3rd year as Director of Bands at Alamo Junior High School in Midland, TX. She is an alumna of Tau Beta Sigma.



Stacy Ann McBurney

Estephan A. Quintela (2009 – BMed – Euphonium) I am in my 2nd year as Assistant Band Director at Midland Lee High School. I was drum major in the WTAMU Marching Band and a member of the Symphonic Band and Jazz Band.



Estephan A. Quintela

Jesse A. Switzer (2009 – BMed – Percussion) Jesse is in his 4th year teaching at Westover Park Junior High in Amarillo, TX. He is married to Michelle Gamboa Switzer and they have 2 children (Jonah and Moriah). Jesse was MTNA president in 2007. Email: jswitzer@canyonisd.com (Spouse – Michelle Gamboa Switzer)



Jesse A. Switzer

Joe Trevino (2009 – BMed – Tuba; 2011 – MM – Tuba Performance) I am in my 2nd year as Assistant Band Director at Lubbock High School. I was a member of the Symphonic Band, Basketball Band and Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble. Email: joetrev1291@gmail.com



Joe Trevino

Abby R. Ullrich Wood (2009 – BMed – Clarinet; 2010 – MA – Music) I am currently teaching in Burnet, Texas at Burnet Middle School. My husband, Jeriad, has just graduated from the University of Texas with a DMA in trombone performance. We are excited to see where we will be next year as he begins his career. I am an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi.

Email: abbywood18@gmail.com (Spouse – Jeriad Wood)



Abby R. Ullrich Wood

From the 2010's

Weston T. Clark (2010 – BM Elective Studies in Business – Voice) Weston is a music teacher at Lamar Elementary in Pampa, TX. He also directs a children's choir and youth musicals in Perryton, TX. Weston served as secretary in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.



Weston T. Clark

Kyle L. Davis (2010 – BMed – 'Cello and Conducting) I am head orchestra director at Odessa High School in Odessa Ector County ISD since 2012. An alumn of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Email: kyledavis43@gmail.com (Spouse – Heather Sechrist Davis)



Kyle L. Davis

Elyse Tamara Kahler (2010 – BMed and BM Composition – Clarinet) I recently graduated from UNT with a composition degree. Presently I do freelance composing and am looking into doctoral programs. I am an alum of Tau Beta Sigma (vice-president, parliamentarian and secretary) and Mu Phi Epsilon (treasurer and chorister). Email: etkahler@hotmail.com



Elyse Tamara Kahler

Jason A. Ott (2010 – BMed – Percussion) I am in my 2nd year as Percussion Director at Abilene Wylie High School. In 2012 I received a MM degree in Percussion Performance from Oklahoma City University. Jason is an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi. Email: jott@wylie.esc14.net



Jason A. Ott

Andrew Brian Sedlacek (2010 – BMed – Tuba) I am Assistant Band Director at Dumas Junior High School. Andy is an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Email: absedlacek@gmail.com



Andrew Brian Sedlacek

Heather A. Sechrist Davis (2011 – BM – Violin) I am Orchestra Director at Hood Junior High in Odessa Ector County ISD since 2012. I play principal 2nd violin in the Midland/Odessa Symphony and Chorale and 2nd violin in the Permian Basin String Quartet.

Email: violinqueen@aol.com (Spouse – Kyle Davis)



Heather A. Sechrist Davis

Andrew Lee Kasper (2011 – BMed – Clarinet; 2013 MM – Conducting) I recently graduated from WTAMU with a Master of Music degree in Conducting. I am currently an Adjunct Professor at WTAMU teaching Music Technology and I will be conducting TEXAS in the summer of 2014.

Email: akasperinc@gmail.com



Andrew Lee Kasper

Jillian A. Read (2011 – BMed – Double Bass) I am completing my 2nd year at Oakwood Intermediate in College Station. I teach 5th and 6th grade orchestra. At WT I was a member of the WTAMU Orchestra and Symphonic Band.

Email: jr874927@gmail.com



Jillian A. Read

Jesse A. Bailey (2012 – BMed – Horn) I am in my 2nd year as Assistant Band Director for Brady ISD. I am married Kristin Bailey and we have a six month old daughter named Brooke.



Jesse A. Bailey

Mallarie Ann Muñoz (2012 – BMed – Trumpet) I am an assistant Band Director at Allen High School in Allen, Texas where I teach beginners to high schoolers all in one day. I am staying busy with a new puppy (miniature dachshund named Minnie) and staying active in music. Tau Beta Sigma alum (treasurer). Email: mallariemunoz@yahoo.com



Mallarie Ann Muñoz

Rocky Lee Gonzales (2013 – BMed – Flute, Tuba and Voice) I am fresh out of college looking for a job. I miss my WTAMU family. Rocky is an alum of Kappa Kappa Psi (vice-president) and Alpha Psi.

Email: rocklee13@yahoo.com



Rocky Lee Gonzales

Brian Hairston (2013 – BMed – Violin and Saxophone) I work in Pasadena ISD, teaching 5th and 6th grade orchestra at Keller Middle School. I was president of Kappa Kappa Psi.

Email: bphairston1@gmail.com



Brian Hairston

Caitlin Erin Oldham (2013 – BMed – Oboe/English Horn) I am teaching Elementary Music, beginning woodwinds, Junior High Band and High School Color Guard in Flatonia, TX. I am also running half marathons! Caitlin is an alum of Tau Beta Sigma (treasurer and fundraising chair).

Email: ceoldham@satx.rr.com



Caitlin Erin Oldham

Samantha Leigh Vickery (2013 – BMed – Flute) I am currently working at Coronado Middle School in Plainview, Texas where I am the assistant director. I teach 30 sixth grade flutes and 97 students in my Symphonic Band. Was vice president of Tau Beta Sigma.

Email: samantha.vickery@plainview.k12.tx.us



Samantha Leigh Vickery

Summer Activities in the WTAMU School of Music

All-State Choir Camp

DATES: June 11-14, 2014

Online Registration February 17-May 30

At mercury.wtamu.edu/camps

For more information contact:

Camp Coordinator – Matt Oglesby

moglesby@wtamu.edu or (806) 651-2850

2nd Annual

Big, Fat Flute Shindig

DATES: June 20-24, 2014

Registration and Opening Concert:

Friday evening, June 20

Final Concert:

Tuesday (noon), June 24

For More Information:

www.wtamu.edu/fluteshindig

The "Official" registration deadline is June 5, but we can definitely accommodate late registrations!

WTAMU Chamber Music Strings Camp

DATES: June 15-20, 2014

For more information

Contact: Tracy See at tsee@wtamu.edu or
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WTAMU Band Camp

DATES: July 6-18, 2014

For More Information:

www.wtamu.edu/bandcamp or call (806)
651-2828

During the second week of the camp
Yamaha Performing Artist, tubist, Thomas
Bough will be featured.

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Alumni Newsletter

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