

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance
West Texas A&M University



Volume 17, Number 2

Spring 1994

From the Music Office

Have you heard about the Aggie who got a job working at the museum? He was assigned to look after the dinosaur exhibit. One day a visitor asked the Aggie, "How old is the dinosaur?" The Aggie thought about it for quite a while, used his fingers to count, and was obviously perplexed about the answer. Finally he said, "Three million years and seven months." The visitor was amazed at such a definitive answer and asked the Aggie, "How do you determine the dinosaur's age so precisely?" The Aggie answered, "When I first came they told me it was three million years old and I've been working here for seven months."

So much for Aggie jokes. This must be one of the debatable advantages of joining the Texas A&M University System. But most of the advantages are more tangible. Enrollment has increased. Overall support from the legislature has gone up. And we think our relative position to lobby for new programs has more strength with the coordinating board and other Austin bureaucrats. One thing has not changed: our need for scholarship support. And that is the main thought for today's column, to thank the 281 alumni and patrons who contributed this year! Your names are listed on pages 2 and 3 of this issue of *Ritornello*.

This year we've added something new to our listing. There is a small number after each name to indicate your number of years as a contributor (and we apologize if we haven't credited you with the proper number). We have noticed that many of our givers contribute year after year and we wanted to acknowledge this ongoing aspect of your stewardship. We hope you approve of this added feature of our listing. But most importantly, we want you to know how much we appreciate your continuing support, year after year. We literally



New Marching Band Director

New marching band Don Lefevre with drum major David Martinez.
David is a senior trumpet major from Clovis High School.

could not sustain the department at its present level without your help.

That's one thing about the Aggie tradition; they are supposedly unmatched for institutional loyalty. However, I don't think the Aggies have yet been compared with a group of music-minded buffaloes.

Don Lefevre to Direct Marching Band

Don Lefevre will become director of the marching band in the fall semester of 1994. Dr. Gary Garner will continue in his position as Director of Bands; he will also continue to conduct the symphonic band and the orchestra.

Mr. Lefevre, a graduate of Ft. Stockton High School, came to WT in

the fall of 1977 as a freshman music major. After completion of his BME degree, he attended the University of Michigan where he studied saxophone with Donald Sinta and received his MM degree. For five years he taught in the Midland public schools before joining the WT music faculty in 1987 as saxophone teacher and assistant band director.

Except for one year's leave to work on a doctorate, Don Lefevre has been the assistant director of the marching band and has attended every rehearsal and performance. He has worked as closely with Gary Garner and with the marching band, as it is possible for a person to work. Asked for a quote, he responded, "I plan to continue the same traditions for which the band is famous."

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The following is a list of donors for the 1994 annual solicitation. Donors support the publication of *Ritornello*, the alumni reception at TMEA and, most importantly, music scholarships. The names were listed in the 14th annual SHOWCASE OF MUSIC program which was held on April 8. We raised \$10,000 this year for music scholarships. Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Music and Dance at West Texas A&M University.

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Paula Hill Scholarships

Six students were selected by the music faculty to receive "Paula Hill Scholarships" for 1994/95. They are as follows:

Jessica Boyd, a senior vocal performance major from Roswell.

Amy Browning, a junior flute performance major from Amarillo High School.

Vicki Glenn, a graduate trumpet major from Weatherford.

Cai Lei, a junior piano performance major from China.

David Lanier, a senior horn student majoring in theory/composition from Randall High School in Amarillo.

Lance Sanford, a junior flute performance major from Flower Mound.

These awards are funded by an endowment created in 1981 to honor the memory of Paula Hill. Paula was student at the university from 1977 through 1980. She was a music education major, an outstanding flutist, and, above all, an inspiration to students and faculty because of her enthusiasm for music. Selection of the recipients is made by a five-member committee from a list of nominations created by the music faculty. A Paula Hill Scholarship is equivalent to the honor of being named as one of the six most outstanding music students at the university. Each recipient receives a \$500 stipend for the academic year 1994/95.

Alumni Notes

John (BS' 66) & Linda Lowes Hatchel wrote from Waco where both play in the Community Band. John is Waco's Assistant City Manager and Linda teaches English at McLennan Community College and is working on her Ph.D. from Texas Womans' University. Daughter Barbara is back in the Panhandle as a student at Amarillo College.

Sandra McMillen (BME '67) was named "Outstanding District Director" for 92-93 by the Executive Board of Mu Phi Epsilon for her work with collegiate chapters on the campuses of SMU, TCU, UNT, SFA and alumnae chapters in Dallas, Ft. Worth, and Denton. She currently teaches private voice and is a substitute teacher for the DeSoto ISD.

James W. (BME '68, MA '73) and **Julie Johnson** (BM '80) **Andrews** have recently moved to Lubbock where James is a band specialist at Jent's House of Music and Julie works for a law firm as a legal secretary. James continues to be active in composing concert band works, with several on the contest list, and hopes for getting his latest works on the new list coming out this year. He also has an orchestra piece in progress, and takes on chamber projects as well as various arranging projects when the opportunity arises.

T.L. Haney (BME '70) is living in Houston where he owns a rental car business. He and wife Sandi recently built a new house where T.L. is becoming an expert landscaper and groundskeeper.

LTC Dana Renard (BME '71, M.Ed. '77) is teaching at the Missouri Military Academy in Mexico, Missouri, where he is the bandmaster/music department head. Wife Peggy teaches jr. high math, high school algebra and geometry at Community RG which is located 12 miles east of Mexico.

Donna Bogan (BME '76, MA '87) plays bassoon with the Corpus Christi Wind Symphony which performed at the 47th Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic on December 17th in Chicago. The wind symphony, led by Bryce Taylor of Alice, is comprised of players from a 500-square-mile area of south Texas, representing 22 communities.

Li-Ly Chang (MM '79) played three Messiah concerts in December in Washington, DC, and has recently done two programs comparing Chinese music with Western music for both the Laurel and Long Island Music Teacher's Associations. In January, she will play on an all Chinese Women Composer's concert at Western Maryland and in March will serve as a panelist for the Savannah, GA, Music Festival. Also in March, she and husband, James Cunningham have a concert scheduled.

Mike (BME '80) & **Linda Lentz** (BME '81) **Sprick** stay very busy in Odessa where Mike is president of Southwest Financial Services and Linda is Assistant Principal at the elementary fine arts magnet school. They keep up their music, however, Mike playing with the local college jazz ensemble and Linda accompanying her school's 4th-6th grade show choir and directing the 1st grade choir at church. Son Justin is now in 1st grade and has many interests.

Laura Lopez (BM '82) is still an aspiring singer-songwriter along with

Greg Brettell. Their act, "TELL LAURA," has a publishing contract with an LA firm for a song they co-wrote. Listen for it on pop radio. They plan to release CD number 2 this year.

Tony Parris (BME '83) now teaches computers at Hays Elementary in Odessa, after spending 3 years there as elementary music instructor. In Feb 93 he starred as Japheth in Richard Rogers' "Two by Two" at the Globe of the Great Southwest. He was recently elected to serve as Secretary for the Board of Directors of the Globe, and continues to perform in 2 or 3 productions each year there.

Janie Howard (BM '85, MM '87) is working as a music specialist for Kislung school, a program for developmentally delayed and impaired youth K-12, Fresno ISD, and is the music director at Wesley United Methodist Church, going on five years, and directing the Kids Community Chorus in conjunction with the southeast Asia resettlement program in Fresno. She also does some of her own singing, most recently as soprano soloist in the Mozart Coronation Mass with California State University, Fresno.

Risa Kanaoya-Kumagami (BM '86, MM '88) married a mechanical engineer in August 1992. They are now the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl, Yurika.

Lisa Gulde Stobb (BME '86) is a stay-at-home mom for her two children, ages 2 and 1. They make their home in Waco where her husband works for Chrysler Technologies Airborne Systems "fixing airplanes," according to their 2-year-old.

Denice Blackburn Bridges (BM '87) is the choral assistant for Spearman High and Junior High. She also maintains a private studio and plays piano and directs the adult bell choir for her church. She and her pharmacist husband are the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl born March 1993.

Nadina Baird Oney sends word from Topeka, Kansas of her children's activities: **Janie Baird Sanchez** (BME '87) is now principal oboist with the El Paso Symphony. Husband **Anthony Sanchez** (BME '87) teaches junior high band there. Janie and her sister, **Leslie Baird Blanchard** (BME '78, MM '80), are "job-sharing" a third-grade classroom and are very excited about it. Leslie also is organist and music administrator for Western Hills Methodist Church while husband, **Russ Blanchard** (BME '79, MA '80), is working as an investment counselor with Edward D. Jones in El Paso.

Martha Gundelfinger (BMMB '88) is now working for BCI, a telecommunications company in Dallas. She is planning an April wedding!

Rebecca Stewart (BME '88) and husband Brett announce the birth of Megan Nichole on March 18. All are doing well and adjusting to no sleep.

Marlys Edborg (BMMB '90) works in Development/ Fund Raising for the Ft. Worth Symphony. She was proud to see fellow WT graduate **Emily Pulley** (BM'89) perform the Brahms' Requiem recently with the FWSOA.

Kim Wieck Hernandez (BMTh '92) and hubby Vince welcomed their first child, Madison Marie, on December 19, 1993. All are doing super. They report that she is a "high soprano."

Mary Ruth McCulley (faculty '56-'89) in October celebrated her 40th year as senior organist at Polk Street Methodist Church in Amarillo. The Sanctuary Choir commissioned Dr. Lloyd Pfautsch to write an anthem for the occasion. Joining in the festivities were members of the WT Brass Faculty. After Christmas, she and Ms. Porter flew to New Orleans, boarded the Delta Queen, and went "steamboatin' up the Mississippi."

In Memoriam

Margaret Fisher Bogan (BME '66, MA '72) died at her home in Borger August 8, 1993, following a 9-month battle with cancer. Funeral services were held at Wesley United Methodist Church with the Rev. Jeff Burress officiating.

A native of Canadian, Margaret attended McMurry College prior to marrying Chuck Bogan in 1937. She came to WTSU in the 1960's to complete her degree. She taught music in the Borger schools for 21 years and was organist at Wesley for 25 years. Having retired from teaching in 1988, she remained active as organist and in AAUW, Borger Music Club and Friends of the Library.

She is survived by her husband, Chuck; 4 children; Linda Mooter of Dallas, Sandra Sebren of Houston, David Bogan of Chicago, IL, and Donna Bogan of Alice; a sister, Dorothy Koonce of Bowie; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts can be made to WTAMU Friends of Fine Arts.

Opera/Musical Theatre Workshop

The Opera/Musical Theatre Workshop produced an American opera, *The Crucible*, for its Spring production. Robert Ward composed the music and Bernard Stambler wrote the libretto, both under the careful guidance of Arthur Miller, writer of the play on which the opera is based. The hauntingly beautiful music of the opera captures the drama of the Salem witchcraft trials in a stirring and poignant way. The commentary offered by the opera on over-zealous self-righteousness and the potential of emotion to overcome reason is very compelling in our time. The performance featured a large cast, including seniors Ron Loyd and Mechelle Curry, and juniors Jessica Boyd and Tandra Goode in the principal roles. Guest artist Timothy Tucker shared his professional experience with the students. Jim Gardner returned to the pit to lead the production, which was staged by Dr. Robert Hansen.

Plans for the 1994-95 season have been settled. In a new arrangement of the schedule, the opera will be presented in October and the musical will be staged in early March, to coincide with the Branding Iron Theatre Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. Puccini's well-known one-act operas *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica* will be produced in the fall, and the Tony award winning musical *Barnum!*, based on the life of circus magnate P. T. Barnum, will be the spring production.



Recipients of the Gail and Helen Shannon Scholarships for 1994/95 are Kristen Phillips and Julie Long.

Shannon Scholarship Recipients

Recipients of the Gail and Helen Shannon Scholarships for 1994/95 are Julie Long and Kristin Phillips.

The Shannon Scholarships were established in 1984 as a part of the retirement ceremonies of President Gail Shannon. Many of Dr. & Mrs. Shannon's friends wanted to honor their work in the campus community and contributed to an endowment. A committee of Dr. Russell Long, Provost, Mrs. Lynda Tinsley, Director of Student Financial Aid, and Dr. Harry Haines, selected the two following students as "Shannon Scholars for 1994-95."

Mrs. Julie Long is a returning student who lives in Pampa and commutes daily to the campus. She is in a carpool with her daughter who is also a full-time WT student. Julie is a pianist who is majoring in music therapy. Professor Martha Estes recommended Julie for the scholarship and calls her, "One of our most talented and hard-working music therapy majors." Julie carries a high GPA, quite a feat for a mom and a commuting student!

Kristin Phillips is an outstanding violinist and is both concert-mistress and president of the university orchestra. Dr. Gary Garner is high in his praise of Kristin and calls her, "A leader in every way." She was a 1991 graduate of

Amarillo High School, a member of the Texas All-State Orchestra, and principal violinist of the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra. At WTAMU she is majoring in music therapy.

Band and Orchestra

This has been a highly successful semester for both bands. At this writing, the Symphonic Band has just completed its final concert of the year and the Concert Band is two days away from its grand finale. The Symphonic Band tour to New Mexico and the Permian Basin was very successful and we saw numerous alumni along the way. One of the highlights of the tour was the performance of Dr. Nelson's newest work, *Dance Pair*, for saxophone and band. The piece is a technical tour de force for the soloist, playable by possibly only one player in the world. Fortunately, we had that person in Don Lefevre, saxophone virtuoso extraordinaire.

In April we hosted our fourth annual WTAMU Band Clinic with H. Robert Reynolds as guest clinician. The visiting high school bands were The Colony HS, Dick Clardy, director; Odessa HS, Ed Handley, director; Midland HS, Cody Myers, director; and Dumas HS, Will Burks, director. Three of the four are old WT trumpet players!

Don Lefevre will be in charge of the marching band next fall. Everything he undertakes leads to consistently excellent results and we know we can look forward to the same with the marching band.

The orchestra finished the year in a blaze of glory with one of its best concerts ever. We had two outstanding soloists: soprano Esther York and flutist Lance Sanford. Both were scheduled to perform at the concerto concert in February, but had to delay for illness in Esther's case and because Lance's music was late in arriving from Europe. The orchestra also premiered a new work by student composer Fouad Foukhari. Entitled *Lea*, it received a tremendous response from the audience.

The year was brought to a close with the String Fling. Several high school string players came to campus for a day of string playing, pizza, and a concert by WT string faculty and students.

Pilot Program in Student Teaching

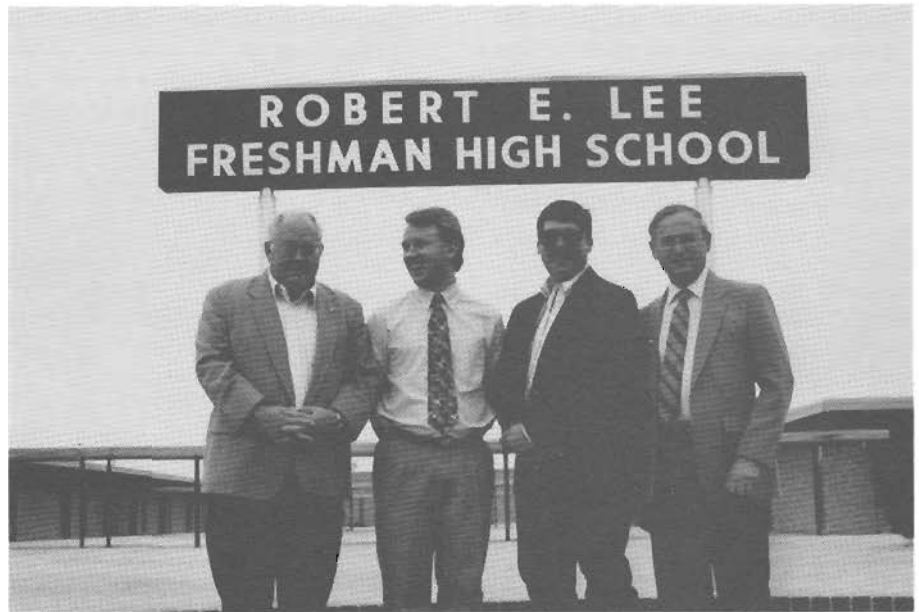
WTAMU has just completed the second year of a five-year study in evaluating the effects of an expanded program in student teaching. The "Pilot Project Comparing Two Approaches to Student Teaching" has received approval from the Texas Education Agency to compare the traditional ten-week student teaching with an experimental program designed by Dr. Ted Guffy, Head of WT's Division of Education, and Dr. Harry Haines, Head of the Department of Music.

The experimental program is called an "Internship" and consists of a full year of full-time teaching for pay. School districts pay the intern a salary of \$7,000 to \$9,000 for working full-time as an assistant teacher.

Students completing their internship in May 1993 are Chris Wurtz and Mark Alwine at Amarillo High School, Hughlen White at Farwell High School, and Mike Sheffield, Midland ISD. Schools that are interested in employing an intern for any of the three remaining years of the pilot program are encouraged to contact Dr. Guffy or Dr. Haines.

Choral Activities

The West Texas A&M University Choral Department has had a good year under the direction of Director of Choral Activities, Dr. George Biffle. Both Chorale and Collegiate Chorus have both sung very well. The year opened with a Fall Concert followed by our annual choir-orchestra Christmas concert. I heard many favorable comments from the audience that was estimated at nearly 400. Both choirs participated in the Amarillo Symphony's production of Zoltan Kodaly's *Te Deum* in late February. Three weeks later, the WT Chorale went on tour to Lubbock and Abilene, singing for seven high schools and one church. Our year ended with our Meadows Grant concert at which the WT Chorale, accompanied by members of the WT Faculty and members of the Amarillo Symphony, performed Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and the Collegiate Chorus joined in for Haydn's *Mass No. III (Lord Nelson)*. Faculty members participating with us were Dr. Bob Krause, oboe; Dr. Tina Carpenter, bassoon; Dave Ritter,



Midland ISD Hosts a Student Teaching Intern for 1993/94.

Left to right: Randy Storie, Mike Sheffield, Cody Meyers, and Clyde Wilson.

trumpet; Sally Turk, flute; and Thom Robertson, organ.

Vocal scholarship auditions are going well, except the numbers are slightly down. There are some outstanding singers expressing a desire to attend WTAMU next fall. Several All-Staters have already signed scholarship agreements with us. There should be about 20 new voice majors in the choral program next year. This summer we will again hold our second All-State Choir Camp (July 23-26) for high school singers interested in getting a head start on next year's all-state choir literature. We have contracted with 12 of the area's leading high school choral directors to help us run the camp. The camp will feature section rehearsals, mass rehearsals, activities, recreation, and fun and fellowship. This should be a great recruiting atmosphere for WTAMU's Department of Music.

The choral department would like to hear from all of its exes. Please drop us a note telling where you are and what you are doing. Please send to us both your current address and telephone number:

Dr. George Biffle
WTAMU

Department of Music and Dance
PO Box 879
Canyon, TX 79016-0879

We look forward to your reply. Have a happy and prosperous summer.

1994 Summer Camps

Band Camp (July 10-22)
Room and Board: \$225
Tuition and Fees: \$170
David Ritter, director

Choir Camp (July 23-26)
Room and Board: \$80
Tuition and Fees: \$75
Dr. George Biffle, director

For more information about summer music camps, contact the Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University WTAMU Box 879 Canyon, Texas 79016-0001 or call (806)656-2840.



1994 WTAMU Bassoon Bash Participants

Bassoon Mania

Northern Recital Hall was filled with the beautiful sound of bassoons on April 30th for the 6th Annual WTAMU Bassoon Bash. This year's festivities included bassoonists from as far away as Dallas and Iraan. There were twenty participants in all ranging from junior high school students to professionals. Many of the group were WTAMU alumni and graduates students: Johnnie and Robbie Rumph, Mike Johnson, Joe Pruitt, Angie Munoz, and Candi Erwin. The program included old favorites such as "The Baby Elephant Walk," "Tijuana Taxi," selections from Bizet's *Carmen*, and "Roll Out the Barrel." The event was a huge success and everyone looks forward to more performances by the Buffalo Bassoon Band.

Endowment for Don Baird Scholarship

As many of you know the band directors of Region One have been contributing the ticket receipts of their all-region band concerts to the Don Baird Memorial Scholarship Fund. This money has been available for band students from the region who attend WTAMU as music majors. Scholarships are awarded by audition with the WT wind and percussion faculty.

For some ten years the admission has been \$1 per person and the donation for scholarships has been between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per year. In 1994 the directors voted to increase the admission to \$2 and to divide the donation into two accounts, one for current scholarships and the other for a permanent endowment for the scholarship fund.

The donation this year was \$3,200 and in accordance with the wishes of the region directors, \$1,600 was placed in an

endowment. The WT chapters of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma learned that matching funds were available for new endowments of \$2,000 or greater. Each chapter contributed \$200 and applied for the matching \$1,000; the endowment now has \$3,000.

This endowment is sure to grow and will be of significant help to future band students at WTAMU. And what better way to do this than to honor the memory of Don Baird.



Bass Buddies Perform Christmas Carols for the Annual College Potluck Dinner

Flute Studio Enjoys Successful Year

Sally Turk, assistant professor of flute and music business, was one of two recipients of the faculty Teaching Excellence Award, presented at spring commencement. The award included a plaque and \$1000.

She has been at W.T. for 16 years and plays principal flute in the Amarillo Symphony, as well as the Amarillo Opera and Randel Chamber Orchestras. Letters of nomination were received from faculty, students, and former students for the award. She says "teaching is a great pleasure and sometimes things really start cooking in a studio. It's one of those times now." For instance:

- Heather Turk, performance and music business major from Canyon and a direct descendent of her mother, was a student at the Aspen Music Festival last summer.
- Sarah Preston, sophomore performance major from



Sally Turk, 1994 Faculty Teaching Excellence Award Recipient

Henderson (and a former student of Helen Blackburn's), is getting ready to leave for the Brevard Music Festival in North Carolina for their program.

- Amy Browning, performance major from Amarillo, was a semi-finalist in both the "Flute Talk" competition in Chicago (March) and the Myrna Brown Competition in Denton (May). These are both international competitions of great stature.
- Lance Sanford, performance major from Flower Mound (an early product of Cindy Bulloch's), was a finalist in the 1993 Myrna Brown Competition and placed 4th in the "Flute Talk" Competition in 1994. He is being inducted into the Yamaha Young Performing Artists Program June 17-19. He will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Minneapolis where he will be featured with the 12 other selectees on a recital.
- Helen Blackburn ('82) recently won the Dallas Opera Orchestra principal chair against a field of 50.

Congratulations to all of these flutists, and keep sending more talent our way!

RITORNELLO

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