From the Program Director

Successes at Home and Abroad

Greetings from Manhattan! I’m confident that you will enjoy reading this issue of our newsletter, as it documents many of the developments and accomplishments that have further elevated the prominence of our program. You will read about faculty performances in Russia, Italy, France, Austria and Canada, and about faculty presentations of concerts, clinics and research at universities and other venues from coast to coast in the U.S.

You will read about students studying and performing in Germany and Austria, and about the achievements of our alumni, who are securing positions in the field. Furthermore, you will read about some of the ways in which students’ experiences and opportunities are being enhanced “right at home,” including the completion of Kirmser Hall — representing the transformation of a functional classroom into a versatile and aesthetically elegant space for recitals, rehearsals and classroom experiences. Also, you will read about the tremendous progress being made in endowments for the Marching Pride Scholarship. Additionally, the piano studios of Slawomir Dobrzanski, Virginia Houser, David Pickering and Amanda Arrington will be named for Mark A. Chapman, who recently presented our program with a major gift. And the late and long-time faculty member Jean Sloop bequeathed another major gift to our program.

During a time in which iconic organizations such as major symphonies and operas are under duress, the fulfillment of our music program’s mission to the university, state, nation and profession becomes all the more important. Each day and in countless ways, faculty, students, alumni and friends are able to underscore the importance of music to the quality of life.

Kurt Gartner
Music Program Director

WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR ALUMNI!!
Please send your news updates to Kristin Mortenson at kmortens@k-state.edu.

We welcome your donations to the Music Service Guild to help support current and future students. Make a donation through the KSU Foundation at found.ksu.edu/give/music
Kirmser Hall dedicated in October

Nearly $500,000 in renovations have been completed in Kirmser Hall, formerly 204 McCain, providing the very latest technology and acoustics for classroom and performance experiences.

“This is the first major construction project for the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance,” said Gary Mortenson, director of the school. “We hope this will serve as a springboard for other projects that will enhance the reputation of the school.”

The renovations were funded in part by the late Philip and Jeune Kirmser, who were longtime members of the Manhattan/K-State community and passionate fine arts advocates. The College of Arts and Sciences dean’s office and the provost’s office provided additional funding.

The hall’s stage was named after William Fischer, a retired K-State music professor, and funded through donations from former students. Students and faculty began using the facility in early October 2013, and more than 1,200 students now use Kirmser Hall each week.

K-State trumpet students perform in Germany

The Kansas State University Trumpet Ensemble, directed by Gary Mortenson, was one of the two groups invited to perform at Brass im Frankenwald, a brass instrument chamber music workshop hosted by the Rekkenze Brass Quintet in Lichtenberg, Germany, during the summer. Ensemble members included James Johnson, Adam Ladd, Aaron Fisher, Caleb Kuhlman, Omar Tanus and Elizabeth Roggenkamp.

The ensemble received coaching sessions from Andrei Ikov, principal trumpet of the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra in Moscow, Russia; Martin Hodel, associate professor of trumpet at St. Olaf College; K-State’s Gary Mortenson; and all five members of the Rekkenze Brass. The culmination of the workshop included three public concerts given in Hof, Lichtenberg and Kulmbach, all towns in the Frankenwald area of Germany. Near the end of the workshop, all of the attendees traveled about 50 kilometers to Kulmbach, Germany, and performed for about 500 people at a beer festival.

To sum up her trip to Germany, Roggenkamp, a senior in music education, said, “Germany was incredible. Not only did I see amazing places and make new friends, but I also grew as a woman. It was definitely a life-changing experience.”

The K-State Trumpet Ensemble’s trip to Germany was made possible through the assistance of the Academic Excellence Fund and through support received from the dean’s office in the College of Arts and Sciences.
Bryan Pinkall to help stage the 2014 Olympic Opening Ceremony of XXII Winter Games in Sochi, Russia

K-State voice instructor Bryan Pinkall was selected by the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games to join the group tasked with the production of the Opening Ceremony of the XXII Olympic Winter Games. The event will be Feb. 7 in Sochi, Russia.

Pinkall was hired in 2013 as a voice instructor by the K-State School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. A lifelong Wildcat fan and alumnus of Kansas State University, he has performed with many symphony orchestras, professional choirs, opera companies and recording groups, sharing the stage with many music greats, including Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Placido Domingo and Aretha Franklin. In 2010, he founded the Kansas City Vocal Institute, which provides free or greatly discounted music lessons to more than 1,400 children and families. Pinkall is also a professional singer in the Grammy Award-winning Kansas City Chorale.

The Opening Ceremony will be one of the largest artistic spectacles in history. Hundreds of world leaders will be in attendance, and it will be broadcast to nearly 3 billion people worldwide. Production and construction costs have topped $1 billion. Pinkall is working with the Ceremonies Staging Agency to help organize portions of the event and manage a cast of more than 5,000 musicians and performers. In addition, he will participate in the event itself. He declined to release any specific information about his role in the performance, as details about the Opening Ceremony are highly secretive. Those involved with the ceremonies have agreed to keep sensitive information from the public until after the opening night.

Pinkall is one of only 40 international experts helping to produce the Opening Ceremony. He was selected through a two-year process of interviews, language proficiencies and testing on history, music and the Olympic movement. In January, Pinkall will travel to New York and later Sochi, Russia, for preparations, rehearsals and the performance of the Opening Ceremony.

The 2014 Winter Games will be the first Winter Olympics hosted in Russia. Moscow hosted the 1980 Summer Olympics, which was boycotted by the United States. For more information about Pinkall visit bryanpinkall.com. To learn more about the XXII Olympic Winter Games visit sochi2014.com.
Music Faculty News

Fred Burrack’s 2013 publication, “Collegiate Connections: Developing the Next Generation of Music Teachers, Sample Music Education Association Programs that Promote the Profession and Prepare Future Colleagues,” was published in the Music Educators Journal earlier this year. Also, he and Phillip Payne presented two poster sessions, including “Encouraging Students to Consider Music Education as a Future Profession” and “Validity of Documenting Students’ Individual Progress Associated with Professional Teaching Standards through Web-based Portfolios” at the Society for Music Teacher Education in Greensboro, N.C.

Alfred Cochran joined daughter Jenny Lee and son-in-law Bernie Vaughn in a recital at Florida State University in November, performing the Leon Stein Quintet for Saxophone and String Quartet as well as a piece that Cochran commissioned from Laurel Littrell in memory of his parents, James and Ruth Cochran, titled “Were You There?” It was scored for alto saxophone, violin, cello and piano.

Kansas State University faculty members Cora Cooper, violin; Nora Lewis, oboe; Gordon Lewis, cello; and Amanda Arrington, piano, premiered Demented Dances by K-State faculty composer Craig Weston at the 42nd International Double Reed Society Conference at the University of Redlands in California. The program also included “For Ygor” and “Music for Three” by Joseph Koykkar. Cooper also attended the 2013 Starling-DeLay Symposium on Violin Pedagogy at the Juilliard School in New York.

Sławomir Dobrżanski has released a three-CD album of the complete piano music by the celebrated 19th-century female virtuoso and composer Maria Agata Szymanowska, 1789-1831. The album, which contains several world premieres, was released in May 2013 in Poland by the Acte Prealable label. In addition to solo music performed by Dobrżanski, the recording contains piano works for three and four hands, with the participation of K-State faculty colleague Virginia Houser, K-State graduates Janka Krajciova and Eduardo Orozco, and a local precollege piano student Barry Chi Zhang. The project was co-sponsored by Kansas State University and the recording took place at K-State’s All Faiths Chapel. The recording engineer was K-State graduate Kyle Arnold.

Kurt Gartner is the associate editor of Percussive Notes and published four articles in 2013. He also worked as soloist, clinician and adjudicator for the Johnny Pacheco Jazz Festival, Lehman College/CUNY, and serves as an educational consultant for Vic Firth Inc., Sabian Ltd., Etymotic and Gon Bops.

Clarinetist Tod Kerstetter, French hornist Jacqueline Fassler-Kerstetter, and pianist Amanda Arrington presented the world premiere of K-State faculty composer Craig Weston’s Aspects in July at the International Clarinet Association’s ClarinetFest in Assisi, Italy. Kerstetter currently serves on the association’s executive board as treasurer.

Karen McLaughlin Large presented several concerts at the National Flute Association Convention in New Orleans, Aug. 7-11, 2013. She performed with the Raines Ensemble, the Florida Flute Orchestra, Traverso Colore: Baroque Flute Ensemble, the National Flute Association Professional Flute Choir, and had solo and ensemble performances in the Newly Published Music Concert and in the Remembrance and Healing Concert. Throughout the course of the convention, Large was involved in five world premieres and seven National Flute Association premieres of new music for flute. She was also a winner in the association’s Convention Competition and its Professional Flute Choir competition.

Saxophonist Anna Marie Wytcko completed a guest artist tour in France, where she presented recitals, master classes and lectures at institutions such as the National Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique de Paris, the Conservatoire Aulnay sous Bois de Paris, and the Centre Cultural La Bouvèche Paris in Orsay, to name a few. Her tour included premieres of two new works by French composer Philippe Gantchoula. Additionally, she recently presented guest concerts and master classes at California State University, Los Angeles; Chapman Conservatory of Music; the University of Minnesota; St. Olaf College; and the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, where she performed as guest soloist with the symphony and concert bands and presented a solo recital and taught master classes.
The PEN Trio, including oboist Nora Lewis from Kansas State University, clarinetist Phillip Pagialonga from Virginia Tech University, and bassoonist Eric Varner, principal bassoon of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra in Canada, gave a fall recital and master class tour at Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Wright State University, Miami University and Ohio University, where they were featured guest artists on OktoboeFest. The trio recently partnered with TrevCo Music Publishing to create the PEN Trio Collection, which features critical editions of existing works as well as works written for the PEN Trio. Lewis also presented An 80th Anniversary Tribute: The Life and Works of Ronald Roseman at the 56th College Music Society National Conference in Cambridge, Mass.

Organ professor David Pickering led a group of eight students to Munich, Salzburg and Vienna for the two-week summer study abroad course, A Musical Journey from Munich to Vienna. Pickering also performed organ recitals at the Peterskirche in Vienna and at the Salt Lake Tabernacle and Conference Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, in July 2013.

Director of bands Frank Tracz guest conducted and presented workshops in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, North Carolina, Minnesota, Alabama, Texas, Maryland, Tennessee, Nevada, Oklahoma and Arizona this past summer and fall. He has continued fundraising for the Marching Pride Scholarship fund and has secured nearly $700,000 in endowments.

Congratulations to MTD director/trumpet professor Gary Mortenson and saxophone professor Anna Marie Wytko, who were initiated in May as Distinguished Members of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity. Mortenson was inducted as a National Arts Associate and Wytko was inducted as a Friend of the Arts. An SAI National Arts Associate is “a man or woman who is nationally recognized for distinguished contribution to the arts” and a Friend of the Arts is “a man or woman who is supportive of and actively involved in the arts at a local or regional level.”

Christopher Gugel, master’s student in music performance, was a winner in the National Flute Association’s Collegiate Flute Choir competition and performed several concerts with that ensemble as well as the flute ensemble from his alma mater, University of Nebraska, Kearney.

Stephen Kucera, sophomore in music performance and accounting, received second place in the American Guild of Organists/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists in Springfield, Mo., in June.

Percussionist Joe Kulick, junior in music education, performed with the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps' drum line at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention and at the Music For All Grand Nationals in Indianapolis in November 2013.

Elise Poehling, sophomore in applied music, performed the role of Louise in the Broadway musical The Fantasticks with the Great Plains Theatre in Abilene, Kan.

Ryan Smallwood, senior in music education, was in Evansville, Ind., in
June for the Phi Mu Alpha Leadership Institute, where he worked on staff for the event. He worked as a liaison for guest speakers, which included Michael Colgrass, an American composer; Karl Paulnack, newly appointed dean of the School of Music at Ithaca College; and Winston Scott, dean of external relations and economic development at Florida Institute of Technology. During October 2013, the Kansas State University Saxophone Studio participated in a *KSU International Saxophone Extravaganza* with Italian-American saxophonist and composer Victor Morasco. The students were involved in a series of master classes with Professor Morasco and presented a public concert featuring his saxophone music.

Voice students traveled to Emporia State University in November 2013 to participate in the National Association of Teachers of Singing West Central Region Student Auditions and Conference. K-State had three students who were finalists in their vocal divisions: *Michael Fibelkorn* placed second in Freshmen Men and fifth in lower division music theatre; *Trevor Lee Jones* placed third in Freshmen Men; and *Rebekah Watzig* placed first in Junior Women. Semifinalists were *Rachel Hunt, Monica Diaz-Serrano, Ivy Calvert, Kara Ressegue, Aeriel Dodson, Danielle Jones, Megan Meadows* and *Madison Moore*.

**Alumni News**

**Bryce Craig** (B.M. 2013) is pursuing a master's degree in composition at Central Michigan University, studying with David Gillingham on a graduate fellowship. His piece *Indescribable* was recently performed at the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy in Norman, Okla., and the Society of Composers INC Region IV conference in Richmond, Ky.

**Andrew Feyes** (Ph.D. 2014-ABD) has accepted a position as interim director of bands at the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

**Drew Hansen** (B.M. 2013) was chosen to sing the role Leporello in Mozart’s “Don Giovanni” with the American-Franco Vocal Academy in Salzburg, Austria, last June.

**Charles Hower** (B.M.E. 2013) is pursuing his Master of Music in euphonium at the University of Missouri, Columbia, where he was awarded a graduate teaching assistantship.

**Cameron “CJ” Longabaugh** (B.M.E. 2011) received a graduate fellowship from the University of Minnesota where he is currently pursuing his Master of Music in saxophone performance and is studying with Eugene Rousseau.

**Christopher Nichols** (M.M. 2007) was recently appointed visiting assistant professor of clarinet at the University of Delaware.

**Bobby Scharmann** (B.M. 2013) is a master’s student in jazz bass performance at Indiana University, where he performs in the Brent Wallarab Jazz Ensemble and the University Orchestra.

**Kelley Tracz** (B.M. 2013) is a master’s student in oboe performance at the University of Minnesota, where she received a graduate fellowship and is a student of John Snow.

**Ross Wooten** (B.A. 2013) and **Cassity Mitchell** (B.M.E. 2011) were chosen to sing with The World Choral Festival in Dublin, Ireland. Ross and Cassity also got engaged while in Ireland!

**Our music education graduates continue to be in high demand upon completion of their degrees. The following K-State students graduated in 2013 with Bachelor of Music Education degrees and have accepted these teaching positions:**

**Aaron Burke:** Vocal music teacher at Parsons Middle School and Parsons High School, USD 503, Parsons, Kan.

**Stephanie Dudley:** Choral director at Bonnette Junior High in Deer Park ISD, Texas

**Marguerite Fredericksen:** K-6 general music at USD 336, Holton, Kan.

**Kasie Gepford:** Elementary general music in USD 443, Dodge City, Kan.

**Claire Mullender:** Band director at Kiowa County Junior High School, USD 422, Greensburg, Kan.

**Emily Riley:** Elementary general music in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Austin Russell:** Band director at USD 428, Great Bend, Kan.

**Katie Scanlan:** Director of bands, grades 5-12, USD 113, Sabetha, Kan.

**Hollyann Sewell:** Director of bands at Dodge City Middle School, USD 443, Dodge City, Kan.

**Katie Kreis:** Band and choir director at Wellington Middle School, USD 353, Wellington, Kan.

**Tabitha Vincent:** 5-12 music in Hill City, Kan.

**Peter Weinert:** Director of bands in USD 382, Pratt, Kan.

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