Shape the Future
Scholarships & Awards of 2008-2009

Scholarships for students in the Department of Music create a lasting effect on the donors and the students who receive them. Each year at the Gift of Music Recital in April, the donors or their contacts are reunited with the awardees at a gala chamber recital and reception. Please join us for the 2010 Gift of Music Recital on April 11 at 3:00 p.m. in the FAC Recital Hall. This event that promotes communication between the donor and the students contributes to shaping the future for these emerging musicians, and creates long-lasting ties of friendship and gratitude. These students were awarded scholarships for 2008-09:

- Jerry Baker Scholarship
  Alyna Atkinson, violin, Fairbanks, AK
  Johnny Smith, viola, Lewisport, TN

- Bennie Beach, Jr., Memorial Scholarship
  Kara Oglesby, clarinet, Bowling Green, KY

- Jean Blankenship Scholarship
  Cody Gilstrap, horn, Bowling Green, KY
  Steven Lopez, saxophone, Franklin, KY

- Bowling Green Music Club Scholarship
  Erin Newman, voice, Bowling Green, KY
  Jim Stites, tuba, Bowling Green, KY

- Athena Cage Scholarship
  Nelson Logan, percussion, Lewisburg, KY

- Kent Campbell Scholarship
  Rachel Stewart, clarinet, Central City, KY

- Howard Carpenter String and Piano Scholarship
  Allison Galley, piano, Jackson, TN
  Josh Bloecher, violin, Fulton, KY

- Blanche and Austin Duckett Strings Music Scholarship
  Jackson Talley, violin, Princeton, KY

- Thelma Griggs Scholarship
  Kristina Rasmussen, piano, Versailles, KY

- Mitzi Groom Scholarship
  Laura Beth Galipeau, clarinet, Russellville, KY

- Sylvia Karsenbaum Scholarship
  Aisha Ask, saxophone, Magnolia, KY

- Music Department Faculty Scholarship
  Melissa Geisler, flute, Rockfield, KY
  Cody Gilstrap, horn, Bowling Green, KY
  Ian Wieder, trumpet, Louisville, KY

- Ohm Pauli Scholarship
  Alyna Atkinson, violin, Fairbanks, AK
  Josh Bloecher, violin, Fulton, KY
  Ben Goodwin, cello, Owensboro, KY
  Catherine Larson, viola, Bowling Green, KY
  J. B. Miller, double bass, Leitchfield, KY

- Edward J. Pease Memorial Scholarship
  Erin Goad, oboe, Brownboro, AL
  Enn Newman, voice, Bowling Green, KY
  Jonathan Staples, trumpet, Reynolds Station, KY

- Charles W. Smith Scholarship
  Jim Stites, tuba, Bowling Green, KY

- Seymour Spiegelman Scholarship
  Jacob Sensing, voice, Oakland, KY

- Dr. Samuel W. and Jeane Payne Tinsley Music Scholarship
  Amberly Bush, double bass, Bowling Green, KY
  Alyna Atkinson, violin, Fairbanks, AK

- Athena Cage Scholarship
  Nelson Logan, percussion, Lewisburg, KY

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  Nelson Logan, percussion, Lewisburg, KY

- Ida Weidemann Scholarship
  Matt Crocker, trombone, Franklin, TN

- Marita Hawley Travelstead Scholarship
  Tony Richardson, voice, Shelbyville, KY
  Travis Lowe, voice, Rockfield, KY

- Nelle Gooch Travelstead Scholarship
  Will Armour, voice, Bowling Green, KY

- D. & S. Vitale String Scholarship
  Ashley Grueter, cello, Ashland City, TN

- Edward J. Pease Memorial Scholarship
  Erin Goad, oboe, Brownboro, AL
  Enn Newman, voice, Bowling Green, KY
  Jonathan Staples, trumpet, Reynolds Station, KY

- Charles W. Smith Scholarship
  Jim Stites, tuba, Bowling Green, KY

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Honored Hilltopper Musicians

Forty WKU musicians from the Department of Music were selected to perform with other honored musicians from universities in the Commonwealth in the four intercollegiate ensembles at the Kentucky Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference in Louisville, KY, held on Feb. 4-7, 2009. These ensembles rehearsed under the batons of John Dickson (Mercer University), All-Collegiate Choir; Ralph Hultgren (Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, Australia), Intercollegiate Band; Sarah Ioannides (El Paso Symphony Orchestra & Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra director), Intercollegiate Orchestra, and Miles Osland (University of Kentucky), Intercollegiate Jazz Ensemble.

The following WKU music students were chosen to participate in these honor ensembles:

Intercollegiate Jazz Band
Murf Adams, trumpet (Greenville, KY) and Jeremy Durst, saxophone (Jacksonville, OH)

Intercollegiate Band
Jessica Austrbrooks, clarinet (Scottsville, KY); Elliott Beckley, trombone (Bowling Green, KY); Ana Bogach, bass clarinet (Scottsville, KY); Matt Croker, trombone (Franklin, KY); Melissa Gensler, flute (Rockfield, KY); Cody Gilstrap, horn (Cromwell, KY); Kate Hobdey, clarinet (Central City, KY); Laura Beth Nichols, oboe (Scottsville, KY); Kara Oglesby, clarinet (Mayfield, KY); Paul Rotramel, trumpet (Lexington, KY); Matt White, trombone (Bowling Green, KY); Ian Wilder, trumpet (Louisville, KY)

Intercollegiate Choir
Leigh Anderson, alto (Rockfield, KY); Ben Goodwin, bass (Owensboro, KY); Jessica Lunstford, alto (Franklin, KY); Courtney Richardson, soprano (Shelbyville, KY); Dustin Seabolt, tenor (Louisville, KY); Jacob Senseing, tenor (Oakland, KY); Emily White, soprano (Bowling Green, KY)

Intercollegiate Orchestra
Sueann Abell, cello (Bowling Green, KY); Katie Aquadro, bassoon (Louisville, KY); Alyna Atkinson, violin (Fairbanks, AK); Josh Blocher, violin (Fulton, KY); Amberly Bush, double bass (Bowling Green, KY); Courtney Calvert, clarinet (Erlton, KY); Zach Cup, double bass (Paducah, KY); Erin Goad, oboe (Brownsboro, AL); Ashley Grueter, cello (Ashland City, KY); Chuck Jewell, tuba (Eastview, KY); Keith Kinder, trombone (Franklin, KY); Catherine Larson, violin (Bowling Green, KY); Nelson Logan, percussion (Lewisburg, KY); J. B. Miller, double bass (Leitchfield, KY); Kallie Rogers, flute (Fremont, KY); Phoebe Simpion, viola (Lexington, KY); Jonathan Staples, trumpet (Reynolds Station, KY); Steven Stewart, violin (Leitchfield, KY); Andy Woebber, viola (Mayfield, KY); Spencer Wills, bassoon (Louisville, KY)

NATS Winners
On October 17 and 18 twenty-nine WKU voice majors attended the Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions. Eighteen students proceeded to the semi-final round, with two of the students advancing in two categories (Classical and Musical Theatre). During the two-day auditions, students performed before panels of three judges, attended a masterclass by Douglas Fischer (Director of Opera at Florida State University) and attended the Finalist’s Round singers from high school through graduate school who advanced to the finals. WKU voice faculty members Nancy Cren, Liza Kelly, Beth Pope and Wayne Pope adjudicated in all rounds.

Finalists were:
Ellen Murray (Glascow, KY), Second Place in Underclass Musical Theatre (student of Wayne Pope); Jameson Price (Glascow, KY), Third Place Junior Women (student of Beth Pope); Nicolas Metcalf (Bowling Green, KY), First Place Upperclass Musical Theatre (student of Liza Kelly); Rebecca Fields (Bowling Green, KY), First Place Advanced Category (student of Wayne Pope)

Performers of the Fall 2008 Semester
Performer of the Spring 2009 Semester

Bachelor’s Degree
Will Armour, BM
Josh Beasley*, BA
Jonathan Slum, BM
Anastasia Bogach, BM
Jennifer Brooks*, BA
Amberly Bush, BM
Jeremiah Bush*, BA
Cassie Cooper, BM
Lisa Cooper*, BM
Caitlin Demman, BA
Bobby Dergen, BM
Jeremy Durr*, BA
Jordan Fillingham**, BM
Drew Givan, BM
Erin Good***, BM
Lindsay Harned*, BM
Amy Hatman, BA
Adrienne Hayes**, BA
Kimberly Justus, BM
Matthew Kresslein, BM
Steven Lopez**, BM
Cari Manire, BM
Erik Newman**, BM
Anthony Olympia, BA
Tammy Overstreet**, BM
Chris Powell*, BM
Megan Puckett***, BM

Jacob Semenij**, BA
Cassie Smith, BM
Jonathan Staples, BM
Rachel Stewert**, BM
Jon Stiles**, BM
Nick Warren, BM
Aaron West**, BM
Drew White, BM
Alex Wyatt, BM

Master’s Degree
Brian Brown
Chris Bryan
Sandra Crowder
John DeFerraro
Laura Nichols
Lindsey Ross

* cum laude
**magna cum laude
***summa cum laude

Honors College Graduate

Honors Program
Join the faculty at their annual Autumn Collage chamber music recital on October 18, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. This concert is part of the Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra's Chamber Series, with proceeds from this concert going to fund scholarships. Tickets are $18 adult/student and may be purchased online at www.bgwso.org, by phone at 270.745.7681 or at the door.

Mary Wolinski, music history, has an article published in Leuven, Belgium, and presented a paper for the South-Central Chapter of the American Musicological Society. She continues to research and write notes for the Symphony programs and has been appointed as a Leadership Faculty Fellow in Potter College. She organized two student trips to see the operas Don Giovanni and La Boheme in Nashville, TN.

Robyn Swanson, music education, reviewed research proposals for presentation at the Second International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education that was held at the University of Florida. She is updating the folios for the Music Education that was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She also served as one of the leaders of a Regional Conference held in Louisville. She presented on this program was a Michael Cipollaro, cellist, was the 2008 Russellville Bass Society’s solo/duo competition, and is also a member of the Michael Scott Band. Currently signed to Rocky Mountain Strings, Cipollaro has performed in New York City. Cipollaro's work, *White Water*, at Western Carolina University (Chapel Hill, NC), University of Kentucky, Ohio Northern University, and Denver University. Pintner performed a recital with the Commonwealth Wind Ensemble for its Christmas Spectacular in New York City. Cipollaro had an article, *The Pedagogical Clarinet*, at the Levine School of Music where Mark Berry is director of String Explosion. Sarah Berry, cello, was the director of String Performance at the 2008 Regional Conference in Louisville. She presented a lecture entitled, "A Study of using non-staff musical materials on freshman music majors’ sight-singing skills." at the Kentucky Music Educators State Conference held in Louisville. Michele Fiala, oboe and bassoon, and Donald Speer, piano, performed a series of recitals in masterclasses at the University of South Florida, Hillsborough College, and Florida College. Don Speer was appointed to the faculty of the Governor's School for the Arts at Transylvania University. He collaborated to premiere 2 pieces at GSA as well as performed with GSA faculty members in Kentucky, Florida, Washington, and Utah. Fiala is featured on YouTube. Michele Fiala and Heidi Pintner, flutes, were the only classical musicians invited to perform at the Kentucky Arts Council's Kentucky Crafted Marketplace, performing for a recital in November. At the festival the recitalists participated in masterclasses in Kentucky. Pintner performed in a recital with the Commonwealth Wind Ensemble for its Christmas Spectacular in New York City. Pintner has taught voice at WKU for the last 15 years. She frequently performs as soprano soloist at WKU and in the Bowling Green community. Anna Cromwell, violin, performed on solo and chamber recitals at WKU and at Valdosta State University. She also served as one of the leaders of the Chamber Music Through Performance regional conference held in Louisville.

Nancy Cron (1948-1983) WKU alum, altovoice, has been elected to the Bowling Green High School Hall of Honor, Class of 2009. The Hall of Honor, created by the BGHS Alumni Association, was designed to honor those who have distinguished themselves in their various fields. Candidates were reviewed by the Bowling Green High School. Cron has taught voice at WKU for the last 15 years. She frequently performs as soprano soloist at WKU and in the Bowling Green community. Anna Cromwell, violin, performed on solo and chamber recitals at WKU and at Valdosta State University. She also served as one of the leaders of the Chamber Music Through Performance regional conference held in Louisville.

John Cipollaro, clarinet & saxophone, performed his clarinet concerto, *Black Dog*, with the WKU Wind Ensemble. He continues to perform as a member of the Radio City Music Hall Orchestra for its Christmas Spectacular in New York City. Cipollaro had an article, *The Pedagogical Clarinet*, at the Levine School of Music where Mark Berry is director of String Explosion. Sarah Berry, cello, was the director of String Performance at the 2008 Regional Conference in Louisville. She presented a lecture entitled, "A Study of using non-staff musical materials on freshman music majors’ sight-singing skills." at the Kentucky Music Educators State Conference held in Louisville. Michele Fiala, oboe and bassoon, and Donald Speer, piano, performed a series of recitals in masterclasses at the University of South Florida, Hillsborough College, and Florida College. Don Speer was appointed to the faculty of the Governor's School for the Arts at Transylvania University. He collaborated to premiere 2 pieces at GSA as well as performed with GSA faculty members in Kentucky, Florida, Washington, and Utah. Fiala is featured on YouTube. Michele Fiala and Heidi Pintner, flutes, were the only classical musicians invited to perform at the Kentucky Arts Council's Kentucky Crafted Marketplace, performing for a recital in November. At the festival the recitalists participated in masterclasses in Kentucky. Pintner performed in a recital with the Commonwealth Wind Ensemble for its Christmas Spectacular in New York City. Pintner has taught voice at WKU for the last 15 years. She frequently performs as soprano soloist at WKU and in the Bowling Green community. Anna Cromwell, violin, performed on solo and chamber recitals at WKU and at Valdosta State University. She also served as one of the leaders of the Chamber Music Through Performance regional conference held in Louisville.

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Back to the Future

The first Administration Building was Van Meter Auditorium. The School of Music began its operations in Cabell Hall, originally built in 1906. It was the residence of Benjamin Cabell, the president of Potter College for Young Ladies which occupied the Hill before Western. When Western moved to the Hill in 1911, the building was shared by the music department on the first floor and the domestic science department on the second floor. It was demolished in 1926.

Construction of the Music Building (also referred to as Webb Hall, and its music major inhabitants as “spiders”) was begun in 1937 with WPA funds but not completed until January 1940. Although it was damaged by fire in 1965, music classes were held there until 1973, when the Department of Music was moved to Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center. Webb Hall stood unused until September 1975, when it was demolished.

Van Meter will have a fully functional orchestra pit with a lift to accommodate all types of performances. The two resident Steinway pianos have been rebuilt and will be housed under the stage in state-of-the-art, humidity-controlled spaces.

Music Entrepreneurship Year Two

The second year of the ensemble initiative aimed at student retention, the Student Chamber Music Ensemble (SCME) Program, has been completed. The project began in the Spring of 2008 and is a student engagement initiative that is a musical rite of passage into the real world. Students learned to be leaders, be team players, developed communication skills, developed the ability to recognize musical and personal problems and solve them, developed a heightened sense of work ethic, learned to be dependable, and developed a mutual respect for their peers.

Students were the leaders, the rehearsers, the correctors, the conductors, the organizers, the planners and the marketers for each of the ensembles that they formed, with minimal help from a faculty coach. Their responsibilities were to have weekly rehearsals, perform on one student recital, perform at one campus/community/regional event, and provide a written assessment of their time spent together.

The outside performances scheduled by the SCME student managers occurred at the Lighting of Town Square, Bowling Green Country Club, Morgantown Retirement Village, Gatton Academy Commencement Exercises, Moss Middle School and the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Awards Program. Upon program requirement completion each semester, each musician received a departmental SCME stipend of $125.

Last year, thirty-two students, including one homeschooled and one Gatton Academy student, participated in the inaugural year for this program. This year, the six SCME ensembles, including 23 students with GPAs of 3.2 or higher, were: Quintessential (undergraduate brass quintet), Western Winds (flute, clarinet, oboe), Fluellos (2 flutes and one cello), Saxoflutes (2 saxes and 2 flutes), Bella Voce (women’s vocal quartet) and Sound Waves (SATB quartet).

The Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra (director, Wayne Pope) was honored by both houses of the Kentucky Legislature for its 100th year anniversary. The Paul Quintet plays in the House after the honor was conferred.

The Choral Society; director, Paul Hondorp

The Big Red Marching Band in the stands; director, Jeff Bright

Department of Music and Department of Theater & Dance present Trial by Jury; Opera Theatre director, Wayne Pope

WKU Choirs and soloist, Jessica Lunsford, in Ray’s Gospel Mass; director, Paul Hondorp

Symphony Band at PBIM; director, Gary Schoener

The 2008-09 renovation of Van Meter Auditorium, originally built in 1911, began with the demolition of the back wall to allow for an expanded stage area and heightened flyspace.

A new back wall that is thirty feet higher than the original has been added, along with new 2008-09 construction on the side to accommodate dressing rooms, a multipurpose staging room and a green room.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Although we are navigating in a fiscally-strapped environ, the Department of Music and its students and faculty remain steadfast in our pursuit of excellence in music making and music education. We continue to have much to celebrate—students who are reaching musical adulthood, faculty who are growing professionally and facilities that are receiving their facelifts. We extend gratitude to our loyal supporters who are continuing to support our programs, both through their attendance and their financial donations. Our newest faculty members, Lisa Kelly (voice) and Gary Schallert (director of band), are finding ways to be an integral part of what the Department of Music is becoming.

Our priority mission is to promote ways to insure that our students succeed, both in emerging careers and as collective adults. In a surge of superfast days and cyber-activities (IPHONE, Twitter, YouTube, Kindle and Facebook), the reflection that is necessary for improvement is becoming a lost art. We want to avoid having our students getting lost in thought.

Natalie Adcock (2006) completed the master’s program at the University of Florida in 2018. Will Armour (2009) will be a graduate assistant this Fall while attending Louisiana State University; pursuing an M.M in Choral Conducting. He was awarded a scholarship for 2009 summer study at the Berkshire Choral Festival in Sheffield, Massachusetts.

Amanda Biggs (2008) has completed her vocal performance study at Indiana University, including summer study in Salzburg and performing at the Mozarteum. She is moving to Manhattan in August, after singing a concert in Bowling Green, KY, on July 25 at the First Christian Church, and will be studying with Bill Schuman, internationally acclaimed voice teacher and member of the Academy of Vocal Arts.

Alumni Accolades

Natalie Adcock (2006) completed the master’s program at the University of Florida in 2018. Will Armour (2009) will be a graduate assistant this Fall while attending Louisiana State University; pursuing an M.M in Choral Conducting. He was awarded a scholarship for 2009 summer study at the Berkshire Choral Festival in Sheffield, Massachusetts.

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Erin Goad (2009) performed in a public masterclass at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Provo, Utah, in July of 2008. She appeared as soloist with the Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra on December 4th, performing the Bellini Concerto for Oboe. She will be pursuing a Masters Degree at Arizona State University.

Lindsay Harned (2008) married Braxton Kyle Buege in Louisville in June, and she will be the choral director at Christian Academy of Louisville, KY.

Chri$t$ Bryan (2005 & 2009) and Matthew Shores (2004 & 2008) were married on the beach in Destin, FL, in June 2009. Christi will be the band director at Bowling Green High School, and Matthew will be the band director at Bowling Green Junior High, beginning in Fall of 2009.

Tim Buckman (1999) is in the final stages of completing his DMA at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Graduate Colloquium (2008) is an elementary music specialist in Barren County beginning in the Fall of 2009.

Caitlin (Pege) Dennem (2009) is Director of Children’s Music at State Street United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, KY.

Jenny Denley (2009) is the band director and arts and humanities teacher at Casey County High School in Liberty, KY.

Shain Fike (2004) is traveling with the 15th Anniversary national touring company of the musical, Fiddler. He is singing the role of Cowboy Bob, and “wearing a crazy trucker ‘stache.”

Stephanie (Childress) Hensley (2004 & 2009) and husband, Kyle, are new parents to a baby girl, Shanna Renee, born on March 14, 2009, weighing in at 4 pounds 10 ounces. Stephanie is the music specialist at Cub Run Elementary School in Cub Run, KY.

Joan (Hixson) Howard (1970) is a professor in the Kentucky Department of Education, working with family resource youth services, community education and service learning across the state.

Being a devoted Hilipper, both of her daughters attended WKU and her son attended hand camp at WKU.

Bonnie Susanne Hughes (2008) is the orchestra director at Bryan Station Traditional Magnet Middle School, a Seventh Immersion school, in Lexington, KY.

Stuart Runi (2003) is the Worship Arts Pastor at Coralville Community Church in Louisville, KY. Christine McCarr (2009) will be teaching at Phoenix Academy in High Point, North Carolina, a K-5 “Public School of Choice” magnet school with three hundred students.

Matt McDougal (2004) is the Senior High Choir at the Little River Male Chorale Community Church in Louisville, KY. Bill Miller (1976) studied voice with Ohio Fall Singer at Miami University and was accepted to three years as Music of Minister at Second Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. Before that, he served ten years as First Baptist Church of Shively, Kentucky, while earning a Master’s degree at Southern Seminary in Louisville in Music Education. His wife, Debbie (1976), a pianist and bassoon major, also earned an elementary education degree.

Bronson Murphy (2008) performed in the world premier of King David, an oratorio written by Alan Menken and Tim Rice. King David featured a cast of 20, backed by a 25-voice choir and a 25-piece orchestra made up of the students from the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students of the Department of Music, and Performing Arts Professionals at New York University’s Steinhardt School.

This position has taken him to Florida, Arizona, and New York. Bronson has been encouraged the orchestra students to “not take great music for granted,” and then to “encourage them to perform.”

Megan (Whitney) Puckett (2008) was the recipient of the 2008 Fall Semester Jane Chittenden Memorial Scholarship. Teachers of Tomorrow, sponsored by the Kentucky Association of Professional Educators (KAPE). She will be a WKU graduate assistant in the choral area beginning in the Fall of 2009.


Jim Sites (2009) has been awarded a graduate assistantship for Fall 2009 at the University of Louisville.

Daniel Thomas (2006) was selected as a Student Worker for the 2008 International Trombone Festival in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was able to hear and meet some of the best trombonists in the world. Mr. Thomas is in his third year of studies at the University of Louisville pursuing a degree in trombone performance.

Kevin Thornton (2001) is employed by the American Vocal Studio in Hong Kong as a private vocal coach for students of all ages. This position has taken him to Florida, China, Japan and on a cruise ship throughout Europe.

Adam Vincent (2008) is the new choral director at Warren East High School in Waco, Texas.

Chris Westover (2008) is pursuing his MM in instrumental conducting at Southern Methodist University, where he is the assistant conductor and graduate assistant for the wind ensemble. He is the music director of BrassWind at Tyler Street United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. This summer he will attend his Conductor’s Retreat at Medomak in Washington, Maine.

Laura Wood (2003) has worked for the past four years as director of Talentainment entertainment, since the summer of 1998 and was promoted in February of 2007 to the position of Talent Director of Productions for the company.
In the Spotlight

David Livingston

“Doc” Livingston (1952 WKU Alum & WKU music professor 1965-1996) re-enacted a scene from the movie “Air Holland’s Ours” at the final concert of a 2-day celebration in 2009 at Franklin County High School, as he conducted the alumni band in the school’s Alma Mater. Doc had composed both the fight song and the Alma Mater in 1959 when he and Joyce were the first band and choral directors of the school. The Franklin County High School Band room was named “David Livingston Band Hall” in 1999.

Many former students and students of students came from all over the county to celebrate the event, including two special friends who were his former proteges from 5th grade. Tom Brawner (director of bands at Scott Co. High School) and former assistant band director John Edmundson (composer of band repertoire).

During the alumni banquet Tom Brawner gave a tribute to Doc and told stories of how he was like to be under his leadership. Later that evening a large alumni jazz band entertained the guests, including Doc on his clarinet. He thrilled the audience, including his wife, Joyce, with his improvisational skills, still sharp at 84. At the final concert a large alumni band was directed by a former teacher and by two former FCHS graduates. Tom Brawner (FCHS director 1968-1991), Dr. Pat Dunnigan (FCHS class of 1975, currently director of bands at Florida State University) and Dr. Steve Grage (FCHS class of 1975, currently director of bands at Northern Michigan University).

Frances and Lively Wilson

The Wilson’s have been loyal supporters of the WKU Jazz Program since 2000. They have contributed financially to its growth and have given a lasting gift that supports the Big Red Marching Band. They have been members of the Big Red Marching Band ever since they were music major Hilltoppers in the ‘70s. They graduated from WKU in 1975 with undergraduate degrees, but didn’t forget the fun they had as a part of the marching band. Doc is currently the principal engineer for Intel Corporation in Hillsboro, Oregon, and Janet is an associate senior management analyst for the Metro, a regional city-county government in Portland, Oregon.

2008 DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC WALL OF FAME HONOREE: DWIGHT POUDS

Dwight Pounds received his Ph.D. from Indiana University where he studied viola with William Primrose and Irvin Biner. He is a native of West Texas where he was one of the founding members of the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale. He is Professor of Music (Emeritus) at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, having taught there for 33 years before retirement in 2003. While at Western he taught music appreciation for music majors and non-majors, including a section for honors students which he founded. His other course responsibilities included music theory, string techniques, and applied music. He was principal violist in the orchestra and served on the founding board of the Bowling Green-Western Symphony Orchestra. He retired with the rank of colonel following 30 years service with the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Reserve, including 13 years with the Kentucky Air National Guard. He currently serves as Retrospective Editor of the Journal of the American Viola Society (JAVS) and is a frequent contributor of articles, reviews and photographs. Some thirty photographic images he has taken at viola congresses are on permanent exhibit at the Primrose International Viola Archive (PIVA). Subjects include William Primrose, Walter Trampler, Donald McNitt, David Dalton, Franz Zeytniger, Myron Rosenblum, Maurice Rile, Marcus Thompson and many more. His photographs and articles have also been published in Strings, The Strad, and The American String Teacher. One of his prize-winning photographs was part of Visions Kentucky 2003 at the Governors Mansion, Frankfort, Kentucky, where he was an invited exhibitor. He is author of The American Viola Society: A History and Reference and a pedagogical book, Violin for Violists: The Violin in Viola Conversion

and awfully proud of the piano player.”

Steve and Janet Tolopka have been longtime fans of the Big Red Marching Band, ever since they were music major Hilltoppers in the ’70s. They graduated from WKU in 1975 with undergraduate degrees, but didn’t forget the fun they had as a part of the marching band. Doc is currently the principal engineer for Intel Corporation in Hillsboro, Oregon, and Janet is an associate senior management analyst for the Metro, a regional city-county government in Portland, Oregon.

Steve and Janet Tolopka marched in the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade with the Get A Life Marching Band, Oregon’s official representative in this parade. Doc is the music director of the band. One hundred and two Oregonians, ages 29 to 71, dancing, twirling batons, playing the classic rock ’n’ roll tune, “We’re an American Band,” gave the Obamas a bright moment in an even happier day. Even after they’d passed C-SPAN’s cameras, you could still hear the Get A Life band playing “Louie, Louie” in the background. The adventure began in late December, when the band received its invitation to march. That left very little time to make arrangements, but band members made it happen. The day before the inauguration, Steve got security credentials from the Secret Service for every band member “very cool-looking,” he says, “and our best souvenir.”

Music continues to be a big part of their lives, playing in 2 all-adult marching bands, a wind band, a jazz band and a horn band that plays funk, soul and rock ‘n roll. They have given a lasting gift that supports the Big Red Marching Band at WKU.
Delta Omicron

The 2008-2009 year has been an exciting time for the Omicron Omicron chapter at Western Kentucky University. The chapter has been very active in the community and in the Department of Music at WKU. Eight new members have been added to the roster this year and eight members have been moved to alumni status. Adrienne Hayes will be moving to France this summer to attend graduate school and Ashley Payne will be attending law school at the University of Kentucky in the fall.

Several members will be leaving Bowling Green, Kentucky for the summer, representing Delta Omicron and WKU. Ashley Payne will be working at the Bowling Green campus of GAF. Kathryn Aquadro will be at Interlochen, Susan Abel will be at the New England Music Camp and Melissa Gensler will travel to Italy for a week to study with Rhonda Larson.

The members of the Omicron Omicron chapter have individually achieved many awards and honors this year. Susan Abel, Aleasha Akin and Ariana Boyagh served on the Music Department Student Board. Aleasha Akin was selected to be a part of the College Student Recruit team. Susan Abel was selected by the Music Department faculty to be representative at the annual Campus Leadership Banquet. Along with representing the department, Delta Omicron was well represented in Intercollegiate Ensembles at KMEA in Louisville. Susan Abel in the orchestra, Jessica Lindsford in the choir, and Danyan Guerra, Melissa Gender, Jessica Mays Ausbrooks, Ana Bogach and Kara Oglesby in the band.

Kathrina Garrett, serving as the Executive Director, received an Exceptional Education award. Caption for the photo: The chapter provided a scholarship to a University student and is an active member of Delta Omicron and WKU. Several members were highly involved and holding main roles. The chapter auditioned to sing the National Anthem at a Bowling Green Hot Rods game and was selected to perform at the April 30th game. Several students will be seen performing during the selection process, the chapter grant committee selected Pam Thurnam, Rich Furlow, and Melissa Gensler.

The chapter provided a scholarship to students attending the WKU Topper Camp for Clarinet and Saxophone and has been assisting the Bowling Green Symphonic Orchestra and the Wind Ensemble. The chapter has been very active in the community and in the Department of Music at WKU.

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After contributing to the funding completion of two endowed funds, the Sylvia Kenneson Kenneson and the Charles Smith scholarships, the chapter decided to take a different approach for “aiding worthy music students.” The chapter offered an annual grant that would be given to a music program in Kentucky Music Educators Association District 3 based on financial need. A grant named after one of the founders was created. After reviewing several applicants during the selection process, the chapter grant committee selected Pam Thurnam, Rich Furlow, and Melissa Gensler.

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She is the first recipient of the Lorena Creamer McClure grant. In April, the chapter presented her with a check for $650 at a Warren County Site Based Decision Meeting. The funds were raised in the Fall 2008 semester through donations, selling Bruster’s coupons and selling fun posters around the Bowling Green area for upcoming concerts. As with tradition, Delta Omicron helped to sponsor the ensemble. Aleasha Akin was instrumental in helping organize the tour as well as obtaining sponsors and funding. The chapter performed at a nursing home and obtained sponsors and funding. The Wind Ensemble provided a scholarship to a University student and is an active member of Delta Omicron and WKU. Several members were highly involved and holding main roles. The chapter auditioned to sing the National Anthem at a Bowling Green Hot Rods game and was selected to perform at the April 30th game.

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