

## FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

I am looking out my office this evening at an early December snow—very beautiful and sparkling. Too bad those of you in the southern climates can't enjoy these sights and all the adventure of conquering the tempestuous winter.

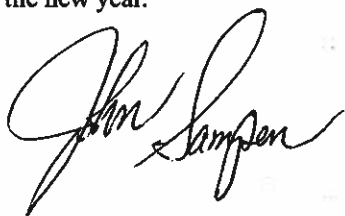
Another year has past, marking my 25th season at Bowling Green. The faculty has welcomed many new faces and we mourn the passing of Nancy Lutes (bassoon) and Frances Burnett (piano). Dean Richard Kennell continues as our leader and Alan Smith has assumed the position of associate dean. Overall the school is in good health with approximately 550 students and many plans for the future.

As usual, I have enjoyed frequent travels and guest appearances. Special activities included a concerto performance at Italy's famous Ravenna Festival, a recital and master class at the Amsterdam Conservatory, an appearance at the Midwest Band Clinic, and concerts in Arizona, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont.

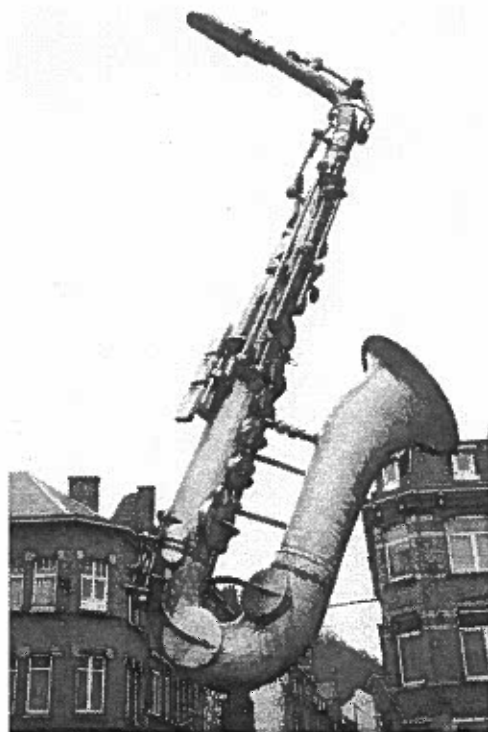
Most recently I returned from Belgium, the birthplace of Adolphe Sax. Distinguished Artist Professor Marilyn Shrude was serving as a juror at the International Adolphe Sax Competition and her *RENEWING THE MYTH* was the required work for all 150 participants! We enjoyed seeing at least six current or former students compete in the concours and we were very proud that Michael Ibrahim (one of only two saxophonists from the Americas) advanced to the semi-final round of 18 performers.

Thanks for your many letters and emails. In case you didn't know, I collect saxophone greeting cards. If you find special cards in your travels, perhaps this would be a great way to send me your personal news and updates.

May we all continue our quest in support of the arts during these troubled economic and political times. Best wishes for the new year.



John Sampen



*Saxophone Statue in Dinant, Belgium*



*John Sampen with Adolphe Sax, Dinant, Belgium*

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## BOHICA QUARTET WINS THE COLEMAN AND MTNA

Congratulations to our own Bohica Saxophone Quartet which captured first prize at the Coleman Awards last May in Pasadena, Calif. Performing music of Xenakis, Del Borgo, Pierne and Florio, the quartet was in competition with saxophone groups from Northwestern, Arizona State and the University of Michigan. This is the second consecutive year that a BGSU saxophone quartet received top honors at the Coleman—our 5th Generation Quartet won in 2001.

Bohica also won first prize at the Music Teachers National Association National Collegiate Chamber Music competition last March. The ensemble had previously won the state and regional levels, and competed for top honors in Cincinnati during the MTNA national convention.

Members of the Bohica Saxophone Quartet were all graduate students and included Michael Ibrahim, soprano (Calgary, Alberta), Jim Flowers, alto (Hermitage, Pa.), Jeff Price, tenor (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) and Lee Michael Morrison, baritone (Miami, Fla.).



*Bohica Saxophone Quartet*

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## COMPETITION WINNERS – 2001/2002

We are always proud of our competition winners for the year. Congratulations to:

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|--------------------------|--|
| Bohica Saxophone Quartet | Winner – Coleman Award for Woodwinds (Pasadena, Calif.)<br>Winner – MTNA National Collegiate Chamber Music<br>(Michael Ibrahim, Jim Flowers, Jeff Price, Lee Michael Morrison) |
| Eva Egolf                | Alternate Winner – State MTNA Woodwind Soloist (11/02)   |
| Michael Ibrahim          | Semi-finalist – International Adolphe Sax Competition (Dinant, Belgium)  |
| Lee Morrison             | Winner – BGSU Competitions in Music and soloist with BGSU Philharmonia (Ibert)   |
| Carey Valente            | Winner – BGSU Competitions in Music and soloist with BGSU Philharmonia (Dahl)  |

## CURRENT EVENTS

For aspiring performing artists and teachers, the musical adventure requires countless hours of rehearsal and private practice. Between sessions, the college's third-floor hallway and the mushroom couch are the main meeting spots for the saxophone studio, but the downstairs locker area and the new computer lab also attract students on break. There are the occasional brave saxophonists who need physical activity and join our 8 a.m. basketball games (especially Ku, Wu and Paul Shevock) and our studio certainly enjoyed its usual fall and spring parties, this year featuring ultimate frisbee and softball.

Many in the saxophone studio enjoyed special trips throughout the year, including an outing of at least 15 students and alumni who gathered in Denton, Texas, for the 2002 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial. Several people attended Marco Albonetti's "Faenza Estate Workshop" in Italy last summer and at least six current or former students flew to Dinant, Belgium, to compete in the International Adolphe Sax Competition in September.



*2002 Softball Saxophone Team*



*Faenza Estate Workshop in Italy  
(L-R: Scotty Stepp, John Sampen, Eva Egolf,  
Marco Albonetti, Chiah-Huan Wu)*

We graduated 11 saxophone students—a big loss to our program. Nearly all of these new alumni are now teaching or pursuing advanced graduate degrees. However, the tradition continues and we have welcomed an outstanding 2002/2003 saxophone class featuring 27 students (eight master's candidates and 19 undergraduates). The studio members hail from the countries of Canada and Taiwan and from the states of Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. Shannon Ford (1995 MM) is assisting me this year as a part-time instructor working with four of our five saxophone quartets.

Special recent guest artists to campus included Marcus Weiss (Switzerland), Cliff Leamann (South Carolina) and jazz saxophonist Richie Cole (New York).

## SHADOWS AND DAWNING

John Sampen and Marilyn Shrude have just released their latest CD titled SHADOWS AND DAWNING on the Albany label (Troy 526). Selections include Albright's SONATA, Beerman's CONCERTO 1, and Shrude's RENEWING THE MYTH and SHADOWS AND DAWNING. Also included on the album is Shrude's EVOLUTION V, featuring a musical collaboration with the Sax 4th Avenue Saxophone Quartet. Please check Sampen's web site for further details (<http://mustec.bgsu.edu/~jsampen/>).

# THE LEGENDARY BGSU SAXOPHONE QUARTETS



## THE LEGENDARY BGSU SAXOPHONE QUARTETS

The preceding collage represents a sampling of Bowling Green State University's Saxophone Quartets from 1977-2002. Personnel in the corresponding numbered photos read from left to right.

Many former quartets were not included in this collection because photographs were not available in Dr. Sampen's archive. Additional historical pictures would be welcomed for future publications.

1. 1988 Kevin Heidbreder, Brian Thomas, Matthias Gubler, Kim Bain
2. 1995 Bill Budai, Guido Baumer, Joel Gronseth, Klara Aradottir
3. 1984 Valeri Conley, Kevin Heidbreder, Aaron Smith, Beth Shirk
4. 2001 Lee Morrison, Carey Valente, Leah Kesner, Jimmy Lee
5. 1992 Dennis Sichner, Lori Moorehead, Jeff Bair, Kevin Heidbreder
6. 1995 Carrie Gilliland, David Lichtman, Adrienne Welker, Lisa Fiorilli
7. 1982 Richard Kennell, James Umble, Matt Balensuela, John Sampen
8. 1980 Scott Cooper, Theresa Witmer, Greg Patko, Eric Fairhurst
9. 1986 Greg Ruffer, Sandy Bowman, Diana Schmid, Rob Esterle
10. 1986 Stan George, Beth Bousfield, Wes Miller, Craig Young
11. 1993 Jason Yost, Kevin Heidbreder, Shannon Ford, Stan George
12. 2001 Kollister Williams, Steve Leffue, Erik Ronmark, Jeff Price
13. 1998 David Born, James Stephens, Michelle DeWald, Jessica Barnes
14. 1982 Lori Moorehead, Kristi Niblack, Shari Kubn, Allen Fisher
15. 1979 Chris Ford, Russell Carpenter, John Alpeter, Linda Hartley
16. 1992 Wes Miller, David Rice, Brian Thomas, Susan Cook
17. 2001 Greg Cornelius, Jeff Price, Kelli Pence, Jeff McLemore
18. 1994 Russ Peterson, Marco Albonetti, Amanda Materne, Yiannis Miralis
19. 2000 Sam Fritz, Bryan Polacek, Erik Ronmark, Chris Blossom
20. 1978 Barry Hartz, Greg Karpoff, Joe Murphy, Dennis Sichner

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Beth Bousfield** (1989 BM) is director of high school bands at Mason, Michigan, and she continues as saxophone instructor at Albion College. Beth and her husband, Jon, are expecting their second child soon. **Amanda Materne** (1994 BM) is engaged to be married in August. She has relocated to Chicago, where she is a free-lance editor and a Chicago community college instructor. **Jason Yost** (1993 BM) has undertaken a new job as director of religious music in Findlay. **Greg Ruffer** (1987 BM) has become the director and touring coordinator for the Southern Ballet Theatre. He continues as director of the Gulf Coast Men's Choir.

**Kevin Heidbreder** (1985 MM) was married last year to Diane. **Steve Leffue** (2001 BM) is studying in France with Jean-Michel Goury. He lives in the same building in Paris with **Scotty Stepp** (1999 MM) who just completed his Fulbright studies with Jean-Yves Formeau. **Shyen Lee** (1998 MM) and his wife, Grace, have a new baby girl. **Dan Rider** (1998 MM) and **Allison (Burt) Rider** (1998 MM) had a baby boy in January. Dan is a woodwind instructor at Judson College and Allison teaches public school in Geneva, Ill.

**Jeff Vickers** (1999) and his wife, Trish, have a new baby girl—Layla Cassidy. Jeff is currently a doctoral teaching assistant at Indiana University and also teaches at Vincennes Community College. **Carrie Gilliland** (1997 BM) has been promoted to the Information Technology Department of Amazon.com (Seattle) and is completing an internet programming certificate. **Jeff Price** (2002 MM) and his new wife, Jessica, are both doctoral candidates at Michigan State University. **Rachel Clark** (2002 BM) is the new band and choral director in Beloit, Ill. **Michael Ibrahim** (2002 MM) teaches applied saxophone as a sabbatical replacement at the University of Calgary. **Matt Balensuela** (1985 BM) continues his appointment as professor of musicology at DePauw University and is musically active with area community bands and theatres. He has also joined a local saxophone quartet.

We heard that **Preston Duncan** (1999 MM) has joined a United States Service Band in Germany. **David Lichtman** (1999 BM) is teaching for Merit Music in Chicago but is "threatening" to enroll in law school. **Susan Cook** (1992 BM) and her husband, Shawn, had a baby girl last August! Susan continues to work as a music program director for Merit Music in Chicago. **Chuck Keane** (2002 MM) and his wife, Heather, had a baby boy last June. **Craig Young** (1989 BM) is founder and conductor of the Mississippi Wind Symphony. Craig continues his work as conductor and saxophone teacher at Mississippi College. **Yiannis Miralis** (1995 MM) is the new professor of saxophone and music education at the University of Idaho (Moscow). **Richard Will** (1986 BM) had a baby boy last August. Richard continues teaching at Bryan High School and is completing his Master of Music at BGSU.

**Phil Berg** (1982-84\*) has re-emerged and is playing with his own band at the 2001 Night Club in Myrtle Beach, SC. Phil was married two years ago. **Jennifer (Rickenberg) Menz** (1996 BM) had twins last year. She is a stay-at-home mom and her husband, Paul, is a member of the Artic Warrior military band. **Adrienne (Welker) Carter** (1995\*) is expecting a baby in March.