

## FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

A beautiful day in Bowling Green with the leaves at the height of their fall colors, the weather a perfect 70 degrees and the saxophone students hard at work on the third floor of the Musical Arts Center—life could not be much better!

Marilyn and I are celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary and our 26th year at BGSU. The year was an emotional roller coaster, as our daughter, Maria, was married last August (she is professor of violin at the University of Puget Sound) and our son, David, graduated from BGSU and moved to Nashville where he is interning with a recording studio.

BGSU is carefully monitoring its financial affairs as the state of Ohio (and most other states in the U.S.) experiences a budget crisis. However, the College of Musical Arts continues to grow, and we are even optimistic that a new doctoral degree in contemporary music may be approved in 2004.

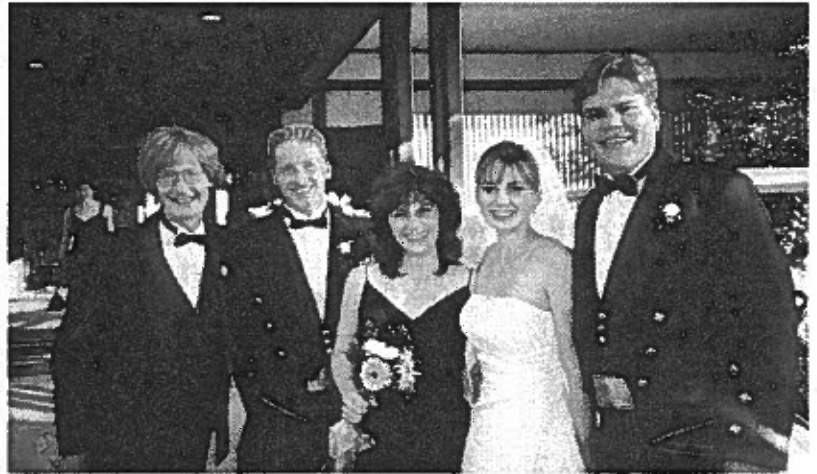
Last summer Marilyn and I spent a month in Riva del Garda, the lake region of northern Italy, where we joined our tuba professor Velvet Brown, music historian Cristina Fava and 12 BGSU students. Our group, which was comprised of saxophonists, composers and tuba/euphonium specialists, enjoyed an exhilarating experience with trips to the Dolomite mountain range; historical explorations in Trent, Florence and Venice; and multiple concerts in castles, villas, and churches.

Other personal highlights for the past year included the release of *Shadows and Dawning*, a compact disc on the Albany record label. I also presented concerts in West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, and was a featured soloist with orchestra at the 13th World Saxophone Congress in Minneapolis.

It is gratifying to watch the terrific success of our students and alumni—I am very proud of your creative careers being shaped every day. May we all continue to support the arts in this troubled time of war and unrest.



John Sampen



*Wedding of Maria Sampen and Timothy Christie*



*The Riva Quartet "On The Street" in Italy*

## WORLD SAXOPHONE CONGRESS 13 MINNEAPOLIS • JULY 9-13, 2003

Bowling Green State University made an impressive showing as 30 BGSU faculty, alumni and students converged on Minneapolis and the 13th World Saxophone Congress from July 9-13, 2003. The Congress, which convenes every three years, drew many of the world's finest saxophonists, as well as an audience of 1,800 people for performances, master classes, lectures and demonstrations. BGSU alumni and student representatives traveled to Minnesota from Taiwan, Cyprus and Canada, and the states of Arizona, Michigan, Texas, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Ohio.

John Sampen was one of the featured evening soloists as he presented the American premiere of Dr. Marilyn Shrude's *Memories of a Place* for saxophone and string orchestra. Also honored with an evening performance, the Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet with Russell Peterson (1995 MM), Yiannis Miarlis (1995 MM) and Scotty Stepp (1999 MM) performed David Stock's *Concerto* for saxophone quartet and wind symphony. World premieres were played by James Umble (1984 MM) and Carey Valente (2002 BM). In addition, James Flowers (2003 MM) performed the world premiere of *Prediction* by alumni composer Matt Brazofsky.



*Late night BGSU gathering at the World Saxophone Congress:*

*Top – Sampen, Miaralis, Stepp, Blossom, Backes, Babich, Egge, Price, Brazofsky*

*Middle – Shrude, Ford, Taylor*

*Bottom – Cheng-Yu Lee, Balcetis, Shyen Lee, Chmielewski, Po-Yuan Ku*

*Missing from photo – Morrison, Ibrahim, Peterson, Lindsay, Murphy, Vickers, Flowers, Valente, Young, Ronmark, Balensuela, Mandel*

## HOMECOMING HONORS FOR LOU MARINI

Former BGSU saxophone professor Lou Marini Sr. received special recognition on October 10th and 11th as he returned to the Bowling Green campus for homecoming festivities. Marini was professor of saxophone and assistant director of bands at BGSU from 1964-1977. Marini currently resides in Arapahoe, North Carolina, where he is an active arranger, performer and golfer.

During the homecoming weekend, several of his band arrangements were presented in concert by the BGSU Wind Ensemble and the BGSU Falcon Marching Band.



*BGSU Blues Brothers—Richard Kennell, Dennis Sichner, John Sampen*

His son, Lou Marini Jr. (noted jazz musician and cast member for the "Blues Brothers" movies), made a surprise appearance and soloed with both the concert band and marching band.



*Lou Marini (center) with Lou Marini, Jr. and John Sampen*

In honor of both Marinis, the College of Musical Arts chose a "Blues Brothers" decoration theme and featured saxophone alumni Dennis Sichner (1983 BM), who presented his blues impersonation with the aid of Dean Richard Kennell and John Sampen.

## CURRENT EVENTS

It was another terrific year for the saxophone studio as we graduated five students (Eva Egolf, Greg Cornelius, James Flowers, Michael Ibrahim and Lee Morrison) and watched Kollister Williams creep closer to his collegiate "finale" (hopefully only one more year to go). For the fall 2003 semester, we welcomed three new freshmen, a graduate student and one music certificate candidate for a total of 25. Current saxophonists hail from the countries of Canada and Taiwan and from the states of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Arizona and Virginia.

Our five student quartets performed at least 25 concerts on and off campus, plus a featured performance (one of six collegiate quartets) at the U.S. Navy Band's 26th International Saxophone Symposium in Fairfax, Va. On-campus guest saxophone clinicians included Joseph Murphy (Mansfield University) and Paul Cohen (Oberlin Conservatory).

Nearly one-third of our student saxophonists performed and studied abroad during the past summer. Erin Rogers worked in Paris and Chih-Huan Wu presented concerts in Taiwan. Justin Church, Kim Gedde, Michael Holmes and Katie Schuh participated in the Italian Riva del Garda workshop, while Allison Balcetis and Chris Chmielewski attended the Faenza Estate Workshop in Italy.

And—our studio enjoyed various social functions, often at the infamous Lee Morrison house. These special activities included saxophone Christmas caroling, a Halloween costume party, ultimate frisbee and basketball.



2003 Halloween Party

## COMPETITION WINNERS – 2002/2003

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

David Babich	Coulon Special Woodwind Achievement Award VunCannon Memorial Music Scholarship
Justin Church	Winner—MTNA State Woodwind Competition (2003) Finalist—U.S. Marine Band (2002) Finalist—BGSU Competitions in Music Performance (Ibert, 2002 and 2003)
Greg Cornelius	Winner—BGSU Competitions in Music Performance (Composition Division)
Eva Egolf	Winner—BGSU Competitions in Music Performance (Husa, 2002) Alternate—MTNA State Artist Award (2002)
Erin Rogers	Winner—BGSU Competitions in Music Performance (Tomasi, 2002) Finalist—BGSU Competitions in Music Performance (Composition Division)
Chih-Huan Wu	Finalist—BGSU Competitions in Music Performance (Dubois, 2002 and 2003)

## CREATIVE TRAINING FOR THE NON-MUSICAL CAREER

There is much pride in being a BGSU saxophone alumni and one can note the outstanding collegiate and public school music positions and the wonderful performances that our former students have enjoyed. One can also note the impressive record of those alumni who have found personal fulfillment in non-music related positions such as insurance, finance, medicine, public service, management and religious education. It is interesting to consider how the study of music has contributed to the successful careers of these individuals.

Russ Carpenter (1979 BM) writes that his music education degree was valuable in organizational skills, which he uses every day in his teaching of anatomy, physiology and pharmacology at Southern Ohio College. Amanda Materne (1994 BM), who has worked as a poet, book publisher and veterinarian's assistant, suggests that the music degree gave her confidence in being a teacher, leader and follower, as well as personal insights about life skills in working together as a team. And several years ago, Dan Hart (1985 BA) discussed his music performance training, which prepared him for success in public speaking and leadership as a manager for software productivity. There is no question that the creative training and the discipline of musical study can be valuable assets for any professional career.

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Michael Ibrahim** (2003 BM) is an instructor at the Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta. **Amanda Blevins** (1993 BM) is the instrumental music teacher at the Tri-Valley High School in Zanesville. **Michael Sunkenberg** (1995-1997\*) is working as a finance administrator in the Boston area. He also maintains a private saxophone studio and enjoys rebuilding and repairing saxophones. **Jason Yost** (1993 BM) is in his second year as director of music at the Stone Bridge Church of God in Findlay, Ohio. **Yiannis Miralis** (1995 MM) was married last year in Greece to Doretta, a research physicist. They are presently residing in Cyprus where Yiannis is teaching music in the public schools. **Diana Schmid Goodwin** (1987 BM) teaches music to 70 children in a homeschool co-op program in Piqua and plays saxophone in praise bands in the area. **Mike Burns** (2002 BM) is engaged to Karen Kleve with a wedding planned for next summer.

**Po-Yuan Ku** (2002 MM) has entered the doctoral program at the University of Alberta where he studies with Dr. William Street. **Amanda Materne** (1994 BM) was married last August to Brian Sheaffer. **Matt Balensuela** (1985 MM) won the Distinguished Professor Award for sustained excellence in teaching and service at DePauw University. A CD titled *Music for Saxophone* was just released on Barkling Dog Records by **Russell Peterson** (1995 MM) and received a wonderful review in *Gramophone*, saying that Peterson's "highly charged sound is riveting." Russ and his wife Jennifer had a baby girl last spring. **Dennis Lindsay** (1989 BM) is director of bands at Stillwater High School in Minnesota. Dennis and his wife Nancy McMillan recently adopted their second daughter, Tatiana, who is from the Ukraine.

**Adrienne Welker Carter** (1995\*) had a baby girl last March. She con-



*Musicians at performance of Cage's Four<sup>s</sup> at the Art Gallery – 1994*

*(L-R) Wells, Fiorelli, Sunkenberg, Gilliland, Pehlke, Rickenberg, Towner, Barnes, Sharkus, Miralis, Peterson, Albonetti, Budai, Polacek, Spencer, Sampen, O'Riordan*

tinues her work as saxophonist in the United States Navy Band. **Marco Albonetti** (1996 MM) presented his 5th Faenza International Saxophone Festival last summer in Italy. Marco is professor of saxophone at the Bari Conservatory in southern Italy. **Jeff Meyers** (1983 BM) teaches music in the Amherst Schools, as well as saxophone at Lorain County Community College. **John Alpeter** (1979 BM) has re-emerged on our alumni files and reports he is the planning/scheduling officer for the Atmel Company in Colorado Springs. Besides teaching clarinet at Union University, **David McClune** (1979 MM) is now in the clarinet mouthpiece business. Check out his website at [www.uu.edu/personal/dmclune/mcclunemouthpiece/](http://www.uu.edu/personal/dmclune/mcclunemouthpiece/). **Gregory Cornelius** (2003 MM) has relocated to Chicago, but is spending spring semester teaching two music technology classes at BGSU.

**Dennis Sichner** (1983 BM) was on the BGSU campus September 30th to help the music office celebrate their "Blues Brothers" theme for homecoming. **Leah Kesner Lechliter** (2002 BM) recently completed her master's degree in business at the University of West Virginia, and is now interning with a community theatre and looking for arts administration positions. **Kirk O'Riordan** (1994 MM) is the new instructor of saxophone and music theory at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania. He also is in the final stages of completing his DMA from Arizona State University. **Steven Leffue** (2001 BM) is back from France, where he studied with Jean-Michel Goury. Steve is now serving as graduate saxophone assistant at the University of Florida. **Scotty Stepp** (1999 MM) has also returned from France (Fulbright scholar) and is teaching this year at Indiana State University. **Preston Duncan** (1999 MM) reports that he is in the army (based in Alabama) and is engaged to be married.

**Cheng-Yu (Jimmy) Lee** (2001 MC) was married last August to Hsin-Yueh. They are residing in Denton, Texas, where Jimmy is pursuing his DMA in performance. **Kevin Towner** (1996 BM) recently completed his music education certification and has accepted a teaching position at the Campbell County Middle School in the Cincinnati area. **Rhonda Taylor** (2000 MM) is the new instructor of saxophone at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. **Kelli Pence** (2001 BM) has accepted a one-year instructorship at Marshall University (WV), where she teaches applied saxophone and chamber ensembles. **Narda Hyter Wishka** (1980 BM) reports that she is a paraplaner for American Express in Ann Arbor, Mich., where she has been married to Mark Wishka for the past 11 years. Narda continues performing in various community bands and quartets. **Chris Ross** (1998 BM) is director of choral activities and assistant band director at Brooklyn High School near Cleveland. Chris also started a master's degree at Kent State. And finally, the news of the week—**Carey Valente** (2002 BM) and **Bryan Polacek** (1993-2000\*) are engaged!



*BGSU Saxophone Ensemble with Christian Lauba – 1986*

*Front (L-R): Young, Heidbreder, Huston*

*Middle: Thomas, Lauba, George, Bousfield (standing)*

*Back: Esterle, Schmid, Dianich, Bain, Mausser, Sampen, Murphy*