

## FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

The Bowling Green winter is in full force this year with lots of storms and cold weather, but the snow has been beautiful and the hearty saxophone students never miss a day of practice in the Moore Musical Arts Center. Their scales just keep getting faster every year.

Last summer, Marilyn and I traveled to Corfu, Greece, for a terrific two weeks of teaching, concerts and "quality time on the beach." BGSU has developed a partnership with Ionian University in Corfu and we hope to offer annual saxophone and instrumental workshops on this beautiful island. Let me know if you have interested university students.

Over Thanksgiving, Marilyn and I also spent a week in Bangkok at the Thailand International Saxophone Conference. We thankfully missed the Tsunami—what a tragedy for this beautiful country, but happily all of our new friends survived the disaster. The people, food and palaces of Thailand were terrific and we were honored to help present the country's first music conference ever. The King is a saxophonist, so the cultural climate was ripe for a gathering of international saxophonists.

Other personal highlights during the past year included concerts in Wisconsin, Illinois, North Carolina, Arkansas and Ohio. Watch for the upcoming release of my new compact disc of Bill Kleinsasser's *Saxophone Concerto* on the Innova label.

I wish you all the best for 2005 and "long live the saxophone."



*John Sampen and Marilyn Shrude at the Parthenon with Dean Richard Kennell and BGSU pianists Maxim Mogilevsky and Svetlana Smolina*



*Marilyn Shrude and John Sampen at one of Bangkok's Buddhist temples*

## CURRENT EVENTS

The Bowling Green "life cycle" continues as our older students have completed their studies and moved on to new adventures. The graduating class included Justin Church, Kim Gedde, Mark Egge, Michael Holmes, Paul Shevock and Chih-Huan Wu.

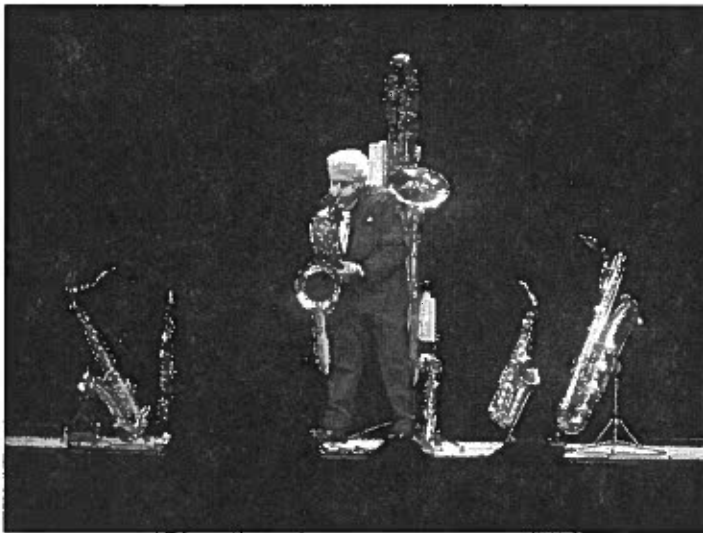
While we can never replace these terrific people, our new class is wonderfully talented and they have already begun their own "quest for that perfect reed." The 2004 class includes six new freshmen, two graduate students and two music certificate students, from the states of Missouri, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and the countries of Canada and Taiwan. Three of our new saxophonists arrived directly from musical studies in Paris, where they won high honors at various music conservatories.

In the fall, we organized six SATB quartets that played a dozen concerts during the semester. Shannon Ford (1995 MM) joined our staff in coaching chamber ensembles. We also assembled our BGSU Saxophone Choir with 26 saxophonists who performed a Young People's Concert titled "Saxophobia," featuring the great music of Rudy Weidoeft and John Philip Sousa. Guest artists to campus included alumni James Umble (1984 MM), jazz saxophonist Jane Ira Bloom and Daniel Kientzy from Paris, who brought all seven instruments of the saxophone family, including the contrabass saxophone.

And our studio social functions included a Christmas dinner at the Beirut Restaurant in Toledo with 26 saxophonists seated at one table. We also enjoyed a lovely Christmas dessert at the home of Shannon Ford. The early morning basketball continues but the saxophone attendance is sparse (we need back our regulars like Kenny, Ku, Wu, Scotty, Paul and Kevin). The main focus for the spring semester will be a studio Ping Pong Tournament (everybody plays) with a coveted "playing and dancing battery-powered saxophonist" as first prize.



*"Saxophobia Concert" with the BGSU Saxophone Class of 2004/2005*



*French saxophonist Daniel Kientzy on the Kobacker stage with his contrabass saxophone and the entire family of seven saxophones (Kientzy performing on the baritone saxophone)*

## HONORS AND AWARDS

In 2003, 17 of our saxophone class auditioned for the BGSU Competitions in Music Performance (concertos). Unfortunately there were no winners that season, but in 2004 we are proud that two of the four concerto winners were saxophonists. We were also delighted that spring semester of 2004 found 14 of 19 undergraduate saxophonists on the Dean's List! Here is a breakdown of specific honors for the year:

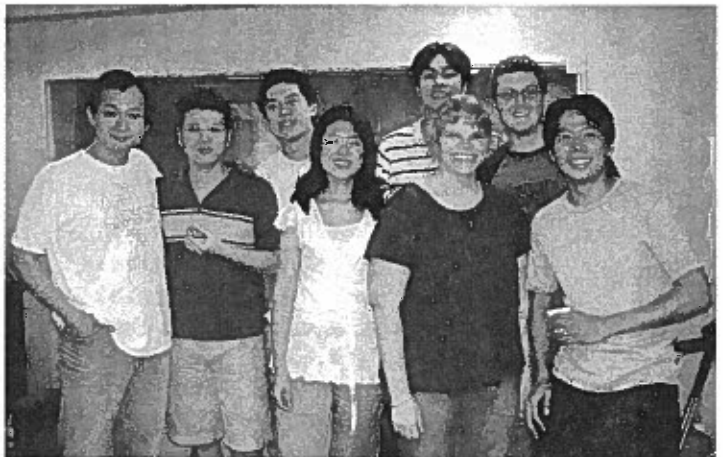
David Babich	Competitions in Music Performance Undergraduate Winner (Ibert) (2004)
Allison Balcetis	Dorothy Robertson Christensen Memorial Scholarship (2004) Music Education Talent Award (2004) Competitions in Music Performance Finalist (2004)
Christopher Bartz	National Winner of the MTNA HS Woodwind Competition (2004) Honorable Mention in the USA Talent Search Competition (2004)
Blue Square Qt.	Regional Winners of Music Teachers National Association Chamber Competition in Madison, Wis. (2005)—Jeff Heisler, Nathan Mandel, Chris Chmielewski, Allison Balcetis
Justin Church	Arden Yockey Scholarship Winner from the Akron Tuesday Musical Association (March 2004)
Ryan Muncy	Semi-Finalist—BGSU Competitions in Music Performance (2004)
Katie Schuh	Second Round Participant (Certificate Winner) at the Kingsville International Competition in Texas (2004)
Yu-Wen Wang	BGSU Competitions in Music Performance Graduate Winner (Tomasi) (2004)

## SAXOPHONE STUDENTS ABROAD

Besides our local recitals and ensemble programs, BGSU saxophonists actively toured internationally. Here is a run-down of some highlights:

- Erin Rogers and Chih-Huan Wu played recitals in Canada and Taiwan, and worked at the 2004 Taiwan Saxophone Camp with Kenny Tsai (1998 MC & 2000 MM) and Jimmy Lee (MC 2001).
- The Raven Saxophone Quartet performed five concerts in Taiwan in late May. Members included Michael Holmes, Kim Gedde, Chih-Huan and Jimmy Lee.
- Katie Schuh spent a week in Corfu, Greece, during March. Katie attended classes, practiced her saxophone in the ancient fortress of the city, and particularly enjoyed the beautiful beaches.
- Yu Wen Wang traveled back to Taiwan in December for a master class with Nobuya Sugawa and for the presentation of a solo recital in Taipei.
- Jeff Heisler, Nathan Mandel, Ryan Muncy and Jessica Simms are off to Florence, Italy, in May 2005 for five weeks of "Music & Art in Italy"

*"The Taiwan Connection"*  
Kim Gedde and Michael Holmes in Taipei with  
BGSU's Taiwanese saxophonists.  
(L-R Shyen Lee, Kenny Tsai, Sean Huang,  
Yu Ting Tung, Chih-Huan Wu, Kim Gedde,  
Michael Holmes and Jimmy Lee)





*BGSU Class of 1979  
(Free CD for the person who recognizes the most names in the photo)*

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**David Lichtman** (1999 BM) has decided to pursue a law degree as a full-time student in Chicago. He enjoyed an interesting summer studying international law in Mexico City. Believe it or not, Staff Sergeant **Christopher Blossom** (2002 BM) just completed his basic training and has joined the United States Army Field Band based in Maryland. Chris finished his master's degree at the University of Michigan last year and his classmate **Erik Rönmark** (2001 MM) completed his DMA from the University of Michigan. **Kelli Pence** (2001 BM) has been an instructor of saxophone at Marshall University for the past two years. **Kim Gedde** (2004 MM) is now teaching elementary music in Maple Grove, Minn. Kim and the Raven Saxophone Quartet, with **Michael Holmes** (BM 2004), **Chih-Huan Wu** (2004 MM) and **Jimmy Lee** (2001 MC), played five concerts on tour in Taiwan last summer. Wu is currently a DMA candidate at the Eastman School of Music, where he recently soloed with the orchestra on the *Dubois Concerto*. Jimmy Lee and his wife Hsin-Yueh have a new five-month-old baby. Jimmy is back in Taiwan, where he teaches saxophone at the Nation Sun Yat-Sen University. **Kenny Tsai** (1998 MC, 2000 MM) performed the *Creston Concerto* with the Dong Wuy University Band in early March.

I am sorry to report that **Doug Brokaw** (1985 MM) passed away last November from complications of a chest injury. Doug and his wife **Valeri Conley Brokaw** (1986 MM) had been teaching for the last few years at the Dalat International School in Malaysia. They have two daughters. Condolences can be sent to Valeri at [brokawmemorial@dalat.org](mailto:brokawmemorial@dalat.org).

**Nathan Nickens** (2000-2004\*) recently ran for state Senate in Wood County on the Democratic ticket. He was unsuccessful, but did take 40% of the district's votes. Nathan is hoping to join the Peace Corps or UNICEF next year. **Claudia Schaetzle** (1997 MC) has just released a new compact disc for organ and saxophone titled *Secrets of Music* (Haas Classic Cologne Label in Germany). **Jeff McLemore** (2002 BM) completed his master's degree from LSU and is now director of bands at Northside High School in Jackson, Tenn. The Meta4 Saxophone Quartet, with alumni **James Flowers** (2003 MM), **Jeffrey Price** (2002 MM) and **Lee Morrison** (2003 MM), continues its performing and commissioning activities with the addition of a new soprano saxophonist. Jim just recently returned from a tour with the Tommy Dorsey Band.

**Carey Valente** (2002 BM) and **Bryan Polacek** (1993-2000\*) were married last September. Both are teachers for the Merit School in Chicago. **Bianca Sharkus Murphy** (1997 BM) is the proud mother of two-year-old son Sean. Bianca has been teaching in the Barberton City School District and she continues saxophone activities as a member of the Medina Community Band, where she has been a frequent soloist. **Michael Ibrahim** (2002 MM) was second prize-winner of the 2003 CBC Young Performers Competition, which earned him a solo concert at the Ottawa National Arts Center and \$10,000 in prize money. You can visit his web site at [www.michaelibrahim.com](http://www.michaelibrahim.com). **Chris Scinto** (1997 MM) is Chair of Fine and Performing Arts at the Paradise Valley Community College.

**Jeff Vickers** (1999-2000\*) is lecturer in woodwind methods at the University of Louisville. Jeff and his wife Trish just delivered Haylee, their second daughter, in January. Speaking of new babies, **Chuck Keane's** (2002 MM) second child, Kyla Belle, was born last May. **Michael Sunkenberg** (1995-1997\*) was married in 2003 and **Mark Egge** (hopefully MM 2005) married Kelly Iverson in July 2004. **Paul Shevock** (2004 MM) is a new music teacher in the Oil City School District in Pennsylvania. **Yiannis Miralis** (1995 MM) is a visiting professor at the University of Cyprus.

**Adrienne Welker** (1995\*) has been a saxophonist with the Navy Band for five years and has recently soloed with the band (Puccini *Tosca Fantasy* and the Milhaud *Scaramouche*). We recently heard that **Don Conry** (1991 MM) is director of Campus Ministry and Student Activities at St. Francis de Sales Catholic High School in Toledo. After leaving BGSU in 1991, Don spent 10 years in California, where he completed a Master's of Divinity degree at Berkeley and several years of temporary vows in the Franciscan Order.

Sax 4th Avenue Saxophone Quartet, with **Stanley George** (1989 BM), **Shannon Ford** (1995 MM), **Kevin Heidbreder** (1985 MM) and **Jason Yost** (1993 BM), celebrated their 14th year as a group by playing the Philip Glass *Concerto* with the Lima Symphony last November. **Eric Fairhurst** (1981 BM) continues his duties as worship pastor at West Hill Baptist in Wooster, but he also actively performs jazz saxophone and flute in the community. **Eva Egolf** (2003 BM) is getting married this summer in Oak Park, Ill. Her future husband teaches with Eva at the Brandis High School in New York City. **Kollister Williams** (1998-2004\*) has joined the army and is stationed at the Military Music Academy in Norfolk, Va.! **Carrie Gilliland** (1997 BM) is now in her seventh year with Amazon.com in Seattle where she is program manager of Seller Communication and Operational Planning. Carrie writes that her music training at BGSU was valuable in preparing her for "experience dealing with abstract languages." "Computer programming is similar to learning new music." **Chris Corde** (1994 BM) writes that he married saxophonist Leah Howe in 2002. Chris is currently director of the orchestra program at Gilbert Elementary, Middle and High School and he conducts a select youth orchestra in Columbia, SC. Besides being a saxophonist, you may remember that Chris also plays violin and he currently performs with the South Carolina Orchestra as well as free-lance work throughout the state.



*BGSU Saxophone Quartet of 1982  
(L-R Phil Berg, Jeff Bair, Dennis Sichner, John Sampen and Kevin Heidbreder)*