



FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

Recently I have pondered the concept of one's personal "desk". Most certainly we each have this special designated place—perhaps as simple as the kitchen table or as formal as "un bureau" in a dedicated professional space. For me, this primarily represents the rectangular blue piece of furniture in my BGSU office which serves as a focal point for teaching, practicing and research. Orchestral musicians also refer to their music stand as a "desk" and without question, we saxophonists spend many hours behind this important device.

During the current school year, my "desk" has been moveable as I shifted activities between BGSU and other interesting places. I am enjoying a partial leave-of-absence and my many teaching duties are being expertly maintained by graduate students John Cummins, Noa Even and Jim Fusik. Dr. Marilyn Shrude is also on sabbatical in celebration of her recent Guggenheim Fellowship. Marilyn is now "back in the writing saddle" with a renewal of her personal compositional life after twelve years of administrative work.

One special recent experience was our two-week residency overlooking the beautiful wilds of Wyoming at the Brush Creek Ranch near Laramie. This artist colony provided a wonderful retreat for rediscovering the saxophone. Other upcoming trips include concerts and short-term residences in Scotland, France and the states of Washington, Missouri, Wisconsin and Arizona. A highlight of 2011 was our return to Italy with a large contingent of BGSU saxophonists. Nearly half of the BGSU saxophone studio migrated to Florence for six weeks of music and art and we all enjoyed terrific adventures in this magical city of



BGSU Group-Music and Art in Florence 2011

art treasures, beautiful architecture, and mysterious historical legends.

Life at BGSU continues in the same grand fashion. Sampen and Shrude are now the senior faculty after thirty-four years of service. Most of you know that Dean Kennell retired last year and has been replaced by our new leader--Dr. Jeffery Showell. There are also many new music faculty, each bringing fresh ideas, energy, and talent to the College of Musical Arts.

Joie de vivre!



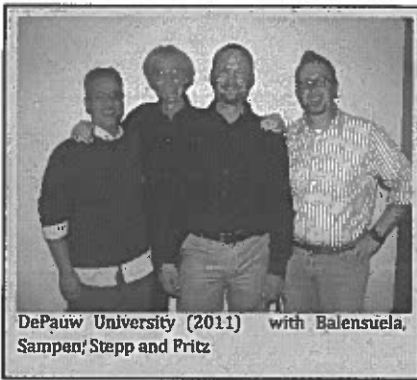
Dr. Sampen's "Desk" with Jim Fusik and the Bass Saxophone

ALUMNI UPDATE

It is always exciting to have alumni "sightings" during the year—you all look and sound great! Here are just a few alumni friends that I have seen just this past year: Emily Bair, Balcetis, Balensuela, Bartz, Blossom, Chamberlin, Conley, Cooper, Diegert, Fairhurst, Ferrante, Flowers, Shannon Ford, Fritz, George, Hartley, Hartz, Headley, Heidbreder, Heisler, Holmes, Ibrahim, Leffue, Coffman-Lewis, Maroon, Mandel, Murphy, Muncy, O'Riordan, Patayanikorn, Pence, Peterson, Price, Rogers, Ronmark, Shilling, Sichner, Solero, Stepp, Taylor, Umble, Van Pelt, Wegehaupt, Wiggins, Will.

Below are personal "update" details. Please keep sending your address changes, job updates, new spouses, growing families and anything else of interest to share with our alumni.

Kelli Pence (2001 BM) reports that she has been teaching music at Broken Arrow High School in Oklahoma for the past three years. Her colleague at Broken Arrow is **James Stephens** (1999 BM). **Matthew Balensuela** (1985 MM)



DePauw University (2011) with Balensuela, Sampan, Stepp and Pritz

has been named one of BGSU's Accomplished Alumni! This is a great honor for Matt who is also Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Music History Pedagogy and a professor at DePauw University. **Oz Koren** (2001 MM) was married to Tali in 2007 and they now have two young boys in their family. Oz resides in Israel where he has worked as a saxophonist, conductor and personal trainer. **David Babich** (2007 BM) was married to Allison in July of 2011. David finished his master's degree at Northwestern University and is currently a member of the US Navy Band. He was the featured classical artist in the November/December 2011 issue of the Saxophone Journal. **Dennis Sichner** (1983 BM) continues freelance playing in Cleveland. Dennis is also music director for KAD Productions, music investigator for ASCAP and an active composer and arranger. He has released a 2010 CD entitled "Xmas Jazz."

Rachel Clark (2002 BM) is the mother of twin baby boys! **Allison Balcetis** (2005 BM) was married last June to her Canadian husband Dustin. Allison is teaching saxophone at the University of Alberta. **Bill Budai** (1995 MM) and his wife Marilee had a baby boy last year. Bill is on the piano faculty at Campbellsville University in Kentucky. **Joel Diegert** (MM 2008) progressed to the final round of the 2011 Dutch Gaudeamus Competition and won 3rd prize in a pool of eighty candidates. He also won fifth place in the Londeix International Competition. Joel has studied in France since 2008 and has recently moved to Vienna where he per-

activities including a barbershop quartet. **Michael Holmes** (2004 BM) left his position with the Conn-Selmer Company and has accepted a new post as Director of Enrollment Management and Clinical Associate Professor of Music (saxophone) at the University of Illinois. **Chia-Hsiu (Kenny) Tsai** (1998 MC; 2000 MM) and his wife Vedell have celebrated the birth of their second child. Kenny continues his teaching/performing at the National Taipei Art University, the National Taiwan Art University and the National Chiao Tung University. **Gary Harper** (1992 BM) is working with autistic children in Gahanna, OH where he also teaches privately and has a photography gallery. Check him out at www.GarysArtGallery.com And **Jeff Heisler** (2006 MM and 2010 DMA) has accepted a full time band directorship and saxophone position at Kent State University. Jeff is also the new director of the BGSU Super Sax Camp.



Bianca Sharkus Murphy with her family of saxophones (2011)

forms with former BGSU pianist Mariam Vardzelashvili in the Solaris Duo. **Bill Perconti** (BM 1975; MM 1977) has released a CD on Albany Records entitled "The Saxophone Music of Allan Blank." Bill is Director of the Music Department and saxophone professor at Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho. **Matt Voress** (1996-2000; 2011 Applied Health Science) is currently completing his BA degree in Health Science at BGSU. Matt has been working in Lima as a X-Ray technologist but he continues to participate in music



Cleveland Concert with Barry Hartz, John Sampan and Eric Fairhurst (2011)

APPLAUSE FOR OUR DMA STUDENTS

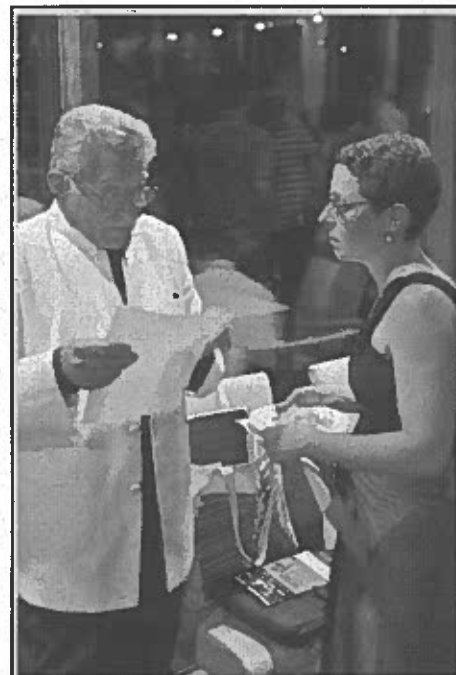
LONDEIX COMPETITION & THAILAND

by Noa Even

In July of 2011, I participated in the 3rd Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition on the beautiful campus of Mahidol University just outside Bangkok, Thailand. The jury included saxophonists Jean-Marie Londeix, Lars Mlekusch, Daniel Kientzy, Debra Richtmeyer, Arno Bornkamp, and composer Narong Prangcharoen. Overall, the competition was a wonderful opportunity to hear high-level saxophone playing from all over the world. I had a great time meeting musicians from Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Austria, Spain, France, Thailand, and elsewhere. After preparing for the competition for a full year, I was delighted and honored to advance through all three rounds and to receive the third prize. After the competition, all competitors received valuable feedback from the judges about our performances.

Following the competition, I performed and conducted workshops for young saxophonists in Songkhla, Thailand and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with Phil Pierick, my saxophone duo partner. We concluded the tour in Singapore with performances at the First Singapore Saxophone Symposium. Phil and I formed Ogni Suono Saxophone Duo in 2010 and had commissioned and premiered many new works that were included on our program. I was surprised and encouraged by the excitement of the Asian students who were so receptive to new music.

Noa Even is a second year DMA student at BGSU. She also holds degrees from the University of Illinois and Northwestern University.



Noa Even and Jean-Marie Londeix

STOCKHAUSEN COURSES & CONCERTS

by James Fusik



James Fusik and Kathinka Pasveer

In early August 2011 I had the pleasure of attending the annual *Stockhausen Courses and Concerts* in Kürten, Germany. This nine-day gathering was a time where instrumentalists, musicologists, composers, dancers, and sound engineers could deeply interact with and learn about the works of the late composer from his closest collaborators. Each day was filled with lectures, master classes, free time for study of the Stockhausen-Verlag collection, and every evening there were culminating night concerts featuring all Stockhausen programs. As the only saxophonist this particular year, I split time in master class coachings with both clarinetist Suzanne Stephens (*In Freundschaft*) and flutist Kathinka Pasveer (*Edentia*). These two artists are world famous for their performances of Stockhausen's music.

One of my great pleasures from the workshop was my recognition as performer of *Edentia* on the participants' public concerts. In this rural area, it was remarkable to see a full audience of 300 people attending the new music concerts every night. At the close of the week, the Stockhausen Foundation

awarded prizes for the performers, and I shared 1st prize for my interpretation of *Edentia*. This was a nice personal bonus, since my goal for the trip was primarily focused on education and research.

The organizers of the festival and my host family were warm, gracious, and eager to have the participants and myself return in the future. Both Suzanne and Kathinka remembered Dr. Sampen and Dr. Shrude and praised their teaching and artistry. For me, the Stockhausen workshop was a temporary immersion into another artistic world, and it has absolutely increased my knowledge of and connection to the music of this major icon of postwar music. I close with a quote from Kathinka after my performance of *Edentia*: "Stockhausen loved the saxophone, and especially its versatility. Spread his music to all your students."

James Fusik is a third year DMA student at BGSU. He holds an undergraduate degree from the Central Michigan and a master's degree from BGSU.

HONORS AND AWARDS

3rd International Jean-Marie Londeix Competition in Bangkok, Thailand (July 2011)
Noa Even – 3rd prize winner | **Joel Diegert** – 5th prize winner | **Pin-Hua Chen** – semi-finalist

Four Corners Quartet (Han, Hurd, Whitt, Nicolia) - Winner of the Undergraduate Division of the BGSU Chamber Music Competition 2011

Ying Quartet (Cummins, Sevel, Cheng, Kana) - Winner of Graduate Division of the BGSU Chamber Music Competition 2011; Semi-finalists in the 2011 Coleman Competition (Pasadena, CA)



Harmonium Quartet (2011)

Four Corners Quartet (2011)

Concerto Winners Han and Johnson (2011)

Ying Quartet with David Sampen in LA (2011)

Harmonium or Bojangles Quartet (Chang, Conn, Johnson, Stegeman) - Co-winners of the Arriaga National 2011 Chamber Music Competition (Stamford, CT); shared honors with a Juilliard piano trio

WCJC Quartet (Conn, Wiggins, Chang, Johnson) - Winners of the Graduate Division of the BGSU Chamber Music Competition 2010

Boreales Quartet (Frakes, Lang, Hinson, Kopcienski) - Winner of the Undergraduate Division of the BGSU Chamber Music Competition 2010

River Rouge Quartet (Cummins, Kana, Even, Fusik) - Semi-finalists in the 2012 NASA Quartet Competition (Arizona State)

John Cummins - Finalist in the 2010/2011 Competitions in Music (Concertos); Semi-finalist for the 2012 NASA Solo Competition (Arizona State)

Noa Even - 3rd Prize Winner of the 2011 Londeix International Saxophone Competition in Bangkok, Thailand; Finalist for the 2011/2012 BGSU Competitions in Music

Dan Frakes - 2011 President-Elect of the Bowling Green chapter of the National Band Association; Christensen Memorial Scholarship (2011)

James Fusik - Semifinalist (one of only two Americans advancing to this level) for the 5th International Adolphe Sax Competition – Dinant, Belgium (November, 2010); Co-winner (special performance and 800 Euro) for “Interpretation” at the 2011 Stockhausen Workshop in Kürten, Germany

Xiao Han - Winner of the 2010/2011 BGSU Competitions in Music and soloist with the BGSU Philharmonia (Dubois); State winner of the 2011/2012 MENC Solo Competition and Alternate winner of the 2011/2012 MENC Regional Competition

Zach Hinson - Rusher Music Education Scholarship (2011); Coulon Special Achievement Award (2011)

Sheldon Johnson - Winner of the 2010/2011 BGSU Competitions in Music and soloist with the BGSU Philharmonia (Larsson)

Elissa Kana - 2nd prize winner for the 2011 Tuesday Musical Society; Semi-finalist for positions in the US Navy Band and the US Air Force Band

Jacob Kopcienski - 2nd place winner of the 2011 State of Ohio VSA Arts and Disability Competition (\$750 and winners concert) in Columbus; Winner of the 2011/2012 Competitions in Music and soloist with the BGSU Philharmonia (Mays)

James Lang - Winner of the Music Education Scholarship from the Tuesday Musical Society (Akron, OH) – Local Division (\$1400); Finalist in the 2010/2011 Competitions in Music (Concertos); Presser Scholarship (2011); Music Education Talent Award (2011)

Matt Shirey - Semi-Finalist for the 2012 NASA Solo Competition (Arizona State)

Drew Sevel - Winner of the BGSU Coulon Award (2012)

CURRENT EVENTS

Among our many studio highlights this year was the production and performance of "La bocca, I piedi, il suono" by Salvatore Sciarrino. Performed on the 32nd Annual BGSU New Music Festival, Sciarrino's work required the forces of a solo saxophone quartet and 100 assisting saxophonists. Alumni, students and guests joined forces to perform a spectral flash mob at the BGSU Union plus a full forty-five minute concert production in Kobacker Hall.

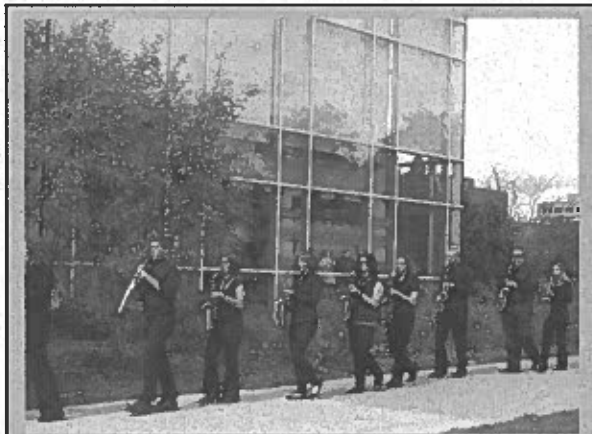
Our students were particularly active last season in various national and international trips. Nine BGSU saxophonists traveled with Sampen/Shrude to Italy last summer for a study abroad program entitled "Music and Art in Florence." In the fall of 2010, six of our graduate students were hired for an outdoor Detroit film production of Matthew Barney's "Ancient Evenings." Five BGSU saxophone quartets have performed regularly at regional sites and also enjoyed tours to the East and West coasts. Additionally, many



Barney's "Ancient Evenings" in Detroit

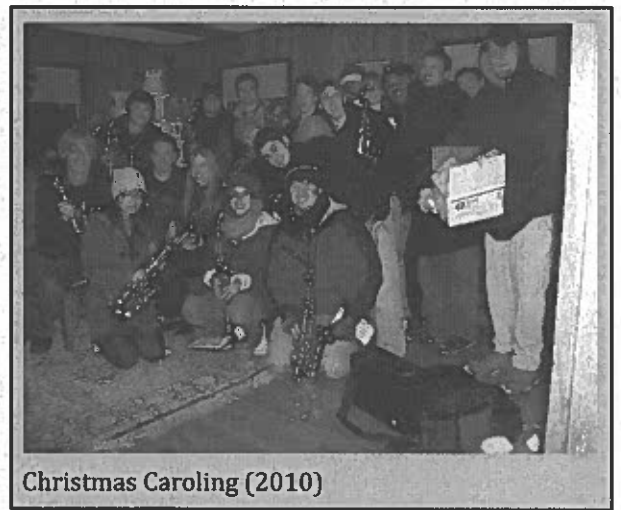
members of the class participated in a variety of other important workshops, competitions and conventions.

Frequent potluck studio dinners were hosted by the Fusik/Chang apartment and by the Sevel/Hinson house. A special 2011 Canadian Thanksgiving turkey extravaganza was organized by Devon Munro and family. Sampen & Shrude orchestrated their 2010 Christmas party during a December snowstorm; the participating 25-piece choir of saxophonists enjoyed a fifteen-minute "window" of outdoor caroling before our literally freezing reeds created interesting extra squeaks and unexpected altissimos for "Silent Night."



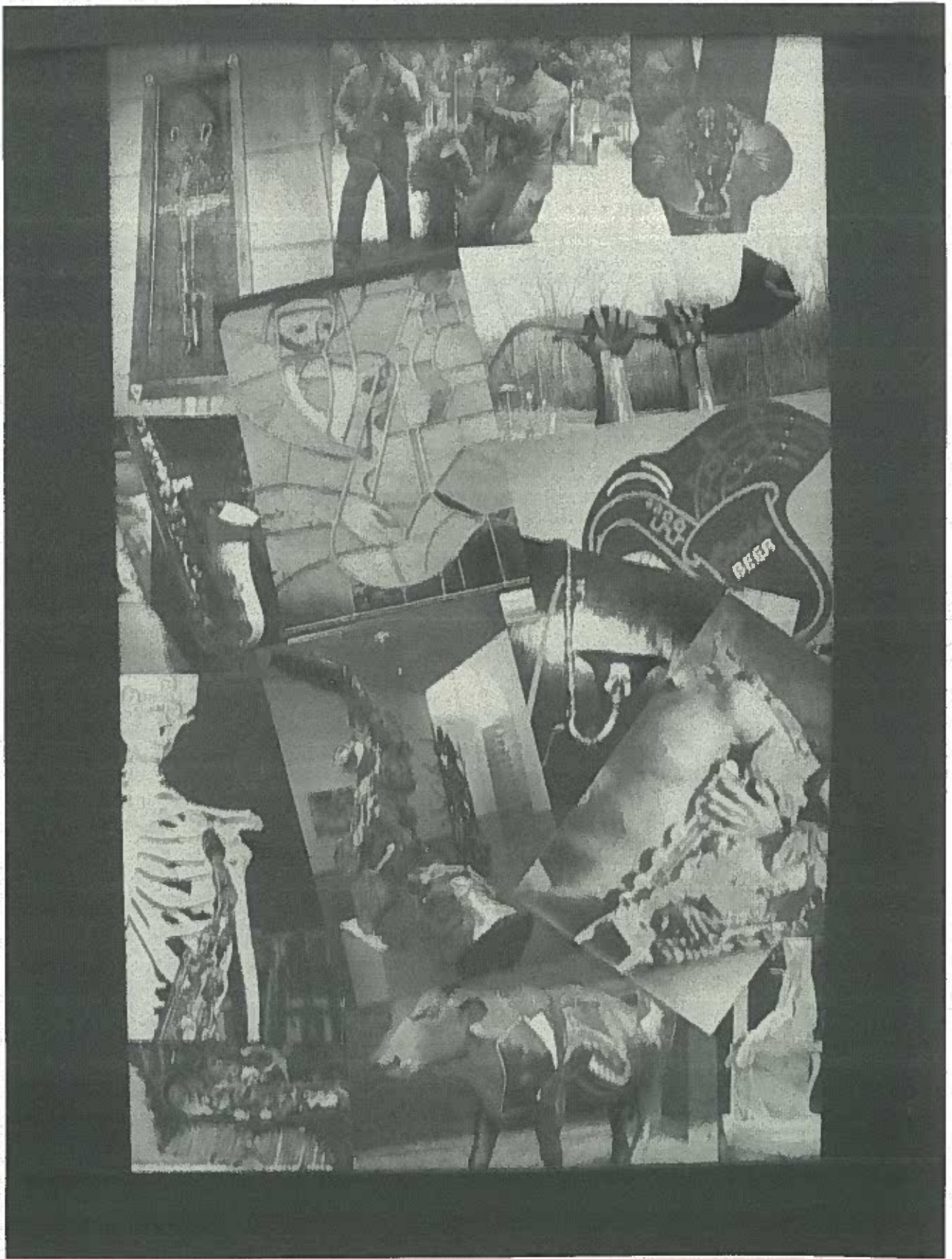
Sciarrino's "La bocca, I Piedi, il Suono" - BGSU Union

Studio guests during 2010 and 2011 included the famous XASAX Quartet (France) on one of their rare tours to the USA. Also visiting was the celebrated Anubis Quartet—a virtuosic young ensemble comprised of former BGSU saxophonists who are primarily based in Chicago. Other campus guests were the jazz great Branford Marsalis, soloist/clinician Clifford Leaman (University of South Carolina), the US Field Band Saxophone Quartet with alumni Chris Blossom, the wonderful repair technician Jerry Kuo from Taiwan, and alumni soloist Steve Leffue.



Christmas Caroling (2010)

Graduating students William Conn and Sheldon Johnson have relocated to East coast where they are pursuing various freelance activities. The current 2011/2012 saxophone class features terrific performers and scholars from China, Taiwan, Canada and eight states of the USA.



Top Row - Coltraine Memorial (St. John Devine); Sax Sculpture (Sichuan Conservatory in China); Cannonball's Neckstrap
Second Row - Charlie Parker's Plastic Saxophone (Kansas City); Stained Glass Window (Adolphe Sax Memorial in Dinant); Sax Sculpture (Hartford); Coors Neon Light (Canada)
Third Row - Skeleton Saxophonist (Florence); Oldenburg Soft Sax Sculpture (Kansas City); "Smiling" Toy Sax; Roulin Sax Sculpture (Dinant)
Bottom Row: Sax Cake (Thailand); Sax Cow (Kansas City); Marble Sax Sculpture (Thailand)