

FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

In the lazy, hot summer days of July it's hard to remember the frantic and exciting school term of 1998/1999. Besides the traditional university activities, my personal highlights included guest teaching at the Paris Conservatory (and dinner at the home of

Claude Delangle), exploring Mozart's opera houses in Prague, Czechoslovakia, visiting the Grand Ole Opera in Nashville, and sharing saxophone gossip at the saxophone convention in Terre Haute. Naturally Marilyn and I also presented concerts in these

cities and many others throughout the midwest. Our upcoming adventures include trips to China, Armenia, Montreal, Arizona, Alabama and Montana.

The College of Musical Arts has almost outgrown the Moore Musical Arts Center! In 1998 the freshman class numbered about 125 with nine talented freshman saxophonists (eight of them return this fall as sophomores) and we expect nearly 140 new students in August. The college also has a more "youthful" faculty look with new instructors in trumpet, trombone, voice, composition (2), assistant band director, clarinet, piano (3), and string bass. I know our alumni will enjoy meeting and hearing these outstanding new faculty as the musical tradition continues at BGSU.

Marilyn starts her second year as Chairperson of Composition/History—she also has been juggling duties as Director of the Center for Contemporary Music and composition teacher. Our son David is a sophomore at BGSU (medicine or biology) and our daughter Maria finished her masters degree at Rice and is starting her violin performance doctorate at Michigan. And, as you all know, I am President of the North American Saxophone Alliance so please keep your memberships current!

I always appreciate notes and cards—keep sending your updates and new addresses. Congratulations to all our alumni for their wonderful successes—thanks for helping keep the arts alive in your own communities!

Best wishes.



Dr. John Sampen



John Sampen in Prague

CURRENT EVENTS



"Les Six" BGSU participants in the 1998 Adolphe Sax International Competition (Dinant, Belgium). (L-R) Chia-Hsiu Tsai, Preston Duncan, Steve Leffue, Chris Blossom, Scotty Stepp, Ron Stabinsky (piano). Missing from photo is David Lichtman

During the 1998/99 school year twenty-five percent of our saxophone class participated in the BGSU Honors Program! These high academic achievers included Michael Maiher, Carey Valente, Rachael Clark, Leah Kesner, David Vitale, and Wade Harwood. The 1998/1999 season was a also banner year for competition "finalists" and "runner-ups". While we didn't see any big award winners, we certainly are proud of the many "near-wins".

Preston Duncan

- Semi-finalist for Heidi Hermanns Competition (CT)
- CD recording for Arizona State Recordings

Scotty Stepp

- Semi-finalist for Adolphe Sax International Competition (Belgium); Honorable mention for Crane School Annual Solo Performer Competition (Potsdam, NY); New tenor player with Transcontinental Sax Quartet

Kollister Williams

- State winner for MTNA Woodwind Division

Polaris Saxophone Quartet

- Semi-finalist in the International Fiscoff Competition (IN)

Carey Valente

- 2nd prize winner of Lima Young Arts Competition

Chris Blossom

- Finalist in BGSU Concerto Competition

The 1999 graduating Bachelor of Music students included Jessica Barnes, Michelle DeWald, Oz Koren, David Lichtman and James Stephans. Our Master of Music graduates were Preston Duncan, Scotty Stepp and Shannon Williams. Bryan Polacek STILL has not finished but we think he will complete his work during the 1999 summer term!

Special saxophone guest artists included Jean-Marie Londeix, Bill Street, Jean-Michel Goury, Dan Goble, and Sax 4th Ave Saxophone Quartet (Super Sax Camp). As for highlights of the year, six of our saxophonists traveled to Dinant, Belgium



BGSU students and alumni at the NASA Region 5 Convention at Terre Haute, Indiana

for the the 2nd Adolphe Sax International Competition (Scotty Stepp was one of only two American semi-finalists). Twelve BGSU sax students attended the Region 5 NASA Conference in Terre Haute, Indiana and presented concerts, performed on master classes and reveled in the "ambiance" of a saxophone convention.

Socially we gathered for a spring party at the Sampen/Shrude home to enjoy special "southern" cooking by Steve Leffue and Kollister Williams and a marathan Monopoly game. At an earlier fall party, the saxos feasted on rabbit and squirrel courtesy of Scotty Stepp who hunted, prepared and barbecued the meat. The 8:00 am basketball games continued all year but the only regulars were Sampen and Stepp. (Most of the saxophone class sleeps late after practicing all night). And finally, my surprise 50th birthday celebration was orchestrated by Preston Duncan, Kelli Pence and Scotty Stepp and featured more than 900 balloons! Lessons the following week were a particular challenge since Sampen's office was entirely filled with balloons and the overpowering "aroma" of rubber.

The educational cycle continues as we welcome a talented new class next fall. Our incoming saxophone students include freshmen, transfers and graduate students from Japan, Taiwan, Denmark, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

ALUMNI UPATE



Panoramic view of the 1993 BGSU Saxophone Class

In August of 1998 **Craig Young** (1989 BM) was the proud parent of his 2nd child (Noah). Rumor has it that Craig accepted a college band conducting position in Mississippi. **Sandy (Bowman) Bennett** (1987 BM) was married in December of 1998!!! **Klara Aradottir & Guido Baumer** (1995 MC) are now teaching at the Musikschule der Stadt Luzern and play in the Mit Links Saxophone Quartet. **Marco Albonetti** (1994 MC/1996 MM) won 3rd Prize in the WW Division of Midland Odessa's Symphony Competition. Marco was sebatical professor at Lawrence Conservatory (spring of 1999), director for the summer Faenza Estate Musica workshop in Italy, and continuing DMA candidate at Michigan State. **Kevin Towner** (1996 BM) won a position as saxophonist with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra.

Congratulations to **Kevin Heidbreder** (1985 MM) for his new job at Defiance Middle School and to **Kathy McGrady** (1981 BM) for her new position as head band director at Springfield High School. Other job changes include **Stan George** (1989 BM) who is now at Fort Meigs

Elementary in Perrysburg and **Jason Yost** (1993 BM) who moved to Bath High School in Lima. Jason also celebrated the birth of his 2nd daughter last year. Jason and Stan continue performing with **Shannon Ford** (1995 MM) and **Kevin Heidbreder** in the Sax 4th Avenue Quartet which recently presented important concerts at the Navy Band Symposium and at the Toledo Zoo. **Chris Ross** (1998 BM) reports a great experience as first year teacher at Laker High School in Pigeon, Michigan.

Kelly (Coffman) Lewis (1989 BM) is back in Findlay, Ohio where she plays with the University of Findlay Concert Band! Kelly was more than happy to leave Georgia—while living in the south she reported a series of misadventures including one flood, one near flood, one serious illness of a child, two miscarriages, one explosion and fire, the death of four grandparents, and two major car accidents.

Now a full time computer programmer (Karmak Software), **Chris Vollstadt** (1993 BM) is also playing in a rock band with the sons of the

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Earth Day 1989 with Sampen providing "important" instructions for Jason Yost and the saxophone class. Shown (L-R) are Stan George, Amanda Blevins, Jason Yost, Chris Vollstadt, Craig Young, Bill Bousfield and Phil Wells.

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Lennon Sisters and is a substitute player with the Lawrence Welk Orchestra in the Ozarks! **Matthias Gubler** (1988 MC)—continues to present his annual summer saxophone camp in Switzerland. **Gary Harper** (1992 BM) has completed his masters degree at Ohio State University and has a new job in Deerfield, IL. **Amanda Materne** (1994 BM) has regrettably left the Transcontinental Sax Quartet and is pursuing a full time job with the James Levine Communications company in New York City (book publishing and man-

agement). The new tenor player with the Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet is **Scotty Stepp** (1999 MM). He will also serve as visiting lecturer at Indiana State (spring of 2000) and he is beginning doctoral work at the University of Illinois.

Barry Hartz (1982 BM) reports a serious interest in cooking. A middle school teacher in the Cleveland area, Barry has been spending portions of his summer working as a chef in Chicago (e.g., Frontera Grill). **Greg Ruffer** (1987 BM) is now interim music director of the Gay Men's Chorus in Washington DC. He con-

tinues his job at Kennedy Center and is also director of Potoma Fever (a cappella choir). **Tom Woods** (1981 BM) has been promoted to Vice-President of Sabre Inc. (airline computer systems)! Tom and his wife Tracy (pianist) still perform as a saxophone/piano ensemble for local parties. **Preston Duncan** (1999 MM) and **Chia-Hsiu (Kenny) Tsai** (1998 MC) performed summer concerts and master classes in Taiwan. **Shannon Williams** (1999 MM) was married to Matthew James and is now living in Athens, Ohio!

RANDS COMMISSIONING PROJECT

We are delighted to announce the successful progress of our first studio commissioning project. Pulitzer prize-winning composer Bernard Rands has agreed to create a special solo alto saxophone composition for our BGSU saxophonists and alumni. Twenty-seven current or past students are officially participating and each has contributed \$125 to fund the project. Exclusive membership in this consortium brings name recog-

nition on the score's dedication as well as the privilege to "premiere" Rands' music on or after December 5th, 1999. Performances are tentatively scheduled in at least ten states and the countries of Cyprus, Germany, Italy and Taiwan. Watch for concerts in your region as these people present Bernard Rands new MEMO 6.

Participants: Marco Albonetti, Beth

Bousfield, Allison Burt, Susan Cook, Preston Duncan, Todd Gentzel, Wade Harwood, Leah Kesner, Shyen Lee, David Lichtman, Michael Maiher, Jeff McLemore, Yiannis Miralis, Joe Murphy, Kelli Pence, Russell Peterson, Bryan Polacek, Dan Rider, John Sampen, Claudia Schaetzle, Chris Scinto, Scotty Stepp, Rhonda Taylor, Kevin Towner, Chia-Hsiu Tsai, James Umble, Kollister Williams

LOST SAXOPHONE ALUMNI

As various alumni move to new homes and cities, we frequently loose track of their address and phone. If you have information for any of these saxophone alumni, please forward to John Sampen (jsampen@bgnet.bgsu.edu)

Tom Augello, Phil Berg, Brent Cejda, Betsy & Melanie Conn, Scott Cooper, Melody Corkill, Kevin Dunipace, Anne Harrison, Dan Hart, Beth (Ogden) Heidenreich, Gina Hersek, Mike Huth, Narda Hyter, Greg Karpoff, John Kurakawa, David Laub, Dennis Lindsay, John Mausser, Lori Moorehead, Kathy Mrzena, John Palen, Greg Patko, Roy Renzenbrink, Jim Roman, Ed Scavone, Melinda (Dicke) Smith, Ed Wallace

Sampen's 50th Birthday Celebration

