

FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

As I write these few words, I am looking out over the beautiful lakes and mountains of Bellagio, Italy, where we are spending a month "recharging" our creative senses. Marilyn is the recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship to reside (and work) at a lovely villa in northern Italy. We have no assigned activities except to eat meals with other Bellagio fellows. However, Marilyn has undertaken two new commissions (saxophone/guitar and violin/piano), and I am preparing for master classes and recitals in Switzerland and Italy. We also are becoming experts in climbing the surrounding hills and drinking the Italian wine.

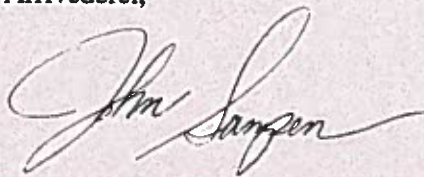
Our other professional trips this year have included a marvelous visit to Armenia, as well as travels and concerts in Alabama, Montana, Montreal, Tucson and Seattle. The 2000/2001 season is still in planning stages but will hopefully include trips to China and Taiwan and a return visit to Italy.

The College of Musical Arts faculty has been plagued with a rash of sickness this year. Many of you know of the serious illnesses of Nancy Lutes, Judith Bentley, Eugene Dybdahl and the recent death of Herb Spencer. Please keep these people in your thoughts.

Retirements and reassignments include Dean H. Lee Riggins and Richard Mathey (finishing his three-year early retirement).

As always, I am excited to learn of your personal news and updates. While I try to accurately change data in our alumni list, I do make errors, so please send corrections as well as new addresses and emails whenever possible. May your lives be passionate and musically fulfilled!

Arrivederci,



John Sampen



John Sampen in Italy

CURRENT EVENTS

Current events for the saxophone studio is always one of my favorite topics. Each year is exciting and unique with our unpredictable, talented and sometimes eccentric saxophone class. Socially we enjoyed a September "ultimate frisbee" party at the Polacek apartment and a Christmas celebration with "saxophone caroling play-along" at the Sampen/Shrudes. We also undertook a series of sporting tournaments in golf, darts and ping pong—Jeff Vickers was dart champion and Kenny Tsai (the "Taiwanian ping-pong king") was favored to win in ping-pong although we were unable to complete the final round. Our thrice-weekly morning basketball games featured the passionate talents of Erik Ronmark, the graceful skills of Po-Yuan Ku, and the dwindling abilities of Sampen.

Our 2000 graduating class included master's candidates Rhonda Taylor (now pursuing a D.M.A. at the University of Arizona), Kenny Tsai (returning to Taiwan to teach at the collegiate level) and Stanley George (who continues his public school teaching at Fort Meigs Elementary School). Other students who will finish later this year include Jeff Vickers, David Born, Bryan Polacek, and (perhaps) Michele Dewald and Steve Leffue. Incoming students hail from Taiwan, New York, Nebraska, Missouri, Florida and Ohio.



Ultimate frisbee

We welcomed a variety of special guests this year including Rick VanMatre and James Umble. Next year's special artists will include Claude Delangle, professor at the Paris Conservatory in France, and Frank Bongiorno from North Carolina.

Last November, Kenny Tsai and Ku participated in the Moscow Saxophone Competition. In March, more than a dozen BGSU saxophone students traveled to Tucson for the NASA Biennial Convention, and at least six studio members attended the World Saxophone Congress in Montreal (July 2000) where our performers included Kenny Tsai, Rhonda Taylor, Sam Fritz, the Sampen/Shrude Trio and many BGSU alumni.

Our award-winning studio for the year earned the following citations:

Lithium Saxophone Quartet

(Chris Blossom, Erik Ronmark, Sam Fritz, Bryan Polacek)

■ Gold Medal winner of the International Fiscoff Competition

Oz Koren - Finalist

■ one of five finalists in the American/Israeli Cultural Foundation Spring Competition (Israel)

Jessica Maxfield

■ Winner of Yamaha Young Performing Artist Competition (woodwinds)

Erik Ronmark

■ Winner of Sweden-American Foundation Award Merit Scholarship (\$10,000) and finalist in BGSU concerto competition

Keith Poynter

■ Finalist in BGSU concerto competition

Kelli Pence

■ First-prize winner of Ohio Federation of Music Clubs (woodwinds)

Bryan Polacek

■ Chamber Music America Rural Residency Award in Selma, Ala. (in-residence for 2000/2001 with his Bicinia duo)



"Killer" ping-pong tournament with Chris Blossom and Sam Fritz

ALUMNI UPDATE

Shyen Lee (1998 MM) was married last fall to Grace! Shyen continues teaching and performing in Taipei. **James Stephens** (1999 BM) is teaching in the Mad River School District. **Beth Bousfield** (1989 BM) has a new job at Mason Middle School (Mason, N.H.) and she had a baby girl (Lillian) last October! She reports that her brother **Bill Bousfield** (1991 BM) is now a carpenter in the Akron area. **Chris Ross** (1998 BM) was married to Shauna in June of 2000! He is now teaching in Brooklyn, Ohio. **Adrienne Welker** (1995-96*) is a new saxophonist in the U.S. Navy Band. **Joel Gronseth** (1996 MM) has moved to a new teaching position at McTigue JH and Rogers HS in Toledo. **Kevin Towner** (1996 BM) started his master's at the University of Cincinnati. He continues his private studio and performs with the Spectrum Quartet. **Craig Young** (1989 BM) soloed on the Ibert *Concertino* with the Jackson Symphony and continues his teaching and band conducting at Mississippi College.

Wes Miller (1989 BM) and **Brian Thomas** (1987 MM) are new managing partners of the Columbus Music Academy (Columbus, Ohio) which teaches over 500 students!

Chris Corde (1994 BM) is the new coordinator of Spartanburg (S.C.) District 5 Strings Program and director of the Byrnes High School orchestra, as well as assistant concertmaster of Spartanburg Philharmonic. He also plays saxophone with his girlfriend in an area quartet. Last September, **Adrienne Spencer** (1997 BM) reported that "life is cool" with his performances on Celebrity Cruise Ships in Bermuda and the western Caribbean. Believe it or not, **Mike**



Saxophone class with composer Bernard Rands

Sunkenberg (1995-1997) has completed his college degree—a BA in European history. He continues teaching privately in the Boston area. **Chris Vollstadt** (1993 BM) has relocated to Cleveland where he works for Medical Mutual and is active as a gigging musician. Last fall he was engaged to be married! **Guido Baeumer** (1995 MC) and **Klara Aradottir** (1995) are leaving Lucerne and moving to Iceland this summer. **Preston Duncan** (1999 MM) has a full scholarship to study in the Music Certificate Program at the Boston Conservatory with Ken Radnofsky. **Bill Budai** (1995 MM) was married to Marilee Winfrey in July! He continues his doctoral work in piano in Norman, Okla. **Bill Perconti** (1975 MM) was a first-round Grammy nominee for his recording of Joan Tower's *Wings (America's Millennium Tribute to Adolphe Sax, Volume II, 1999, Arizona University Recordings)*. Bill is coordinator of the music program at Lewis-Clark State College.



Saxophone class and alumni at the Biennial 2000 Convention in Tucson, Ariz.

GOLD MEDAL WINNERS AT FISCHOFF

Bowling Green's Lithium Saxophone Quartet took the gold medal at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in South Bend, Ind. last May! The quartet, which is comprised of Chris Blossom (soprano saxophonist from Michigan), Erik Ronmark (alto saxophonist from Sweden), Sam Fritz (tenor saxophonist from Indiana) and Bryan Polacek (baritone saxophonist from Georgia), won top honors in the woodwind chamber ensemble division and was awarded a \$3000 prize for their accomplishment. Their program featured music by Singelee, Gibbons, Xenakis and Micháns.

The Fischhoff is considered America's premier chamber music competition and it attracts international talent from many of the world's top conservatories and universities. Lithium's gold medal echos the success of BGSU's Black Swamp Saxophone Quartet which won the gold in 1992. Other Bowling Green honors at the Fischhoff include the Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet who won third prize in 1995, and Scotty Stepp with the Millenium Quartet (University of Illinois) which won third prize in the 2000 competition.



*Lithium Saxophone Quartet
Gold Medal winners at Fischhoff*

COLLEGIATE SAXOPHONE PROFESSORS A SAMPLING OF OUR CELEBRATED BGSU ALUMNI

Our records dating back to 1975 show more than 20 BGSU alumni who teach (or have taught) at the collegiate level! We are proud of this growing and impressive list. Names are shown below with their respective current or former university jobs.

Albonetti, Marco (1996 MM)	Bari Conservatory (Italy) and Lawrence Conservatory
Bair, Jefferey (1984 BM)	East Carolina University
Balensuela, Matthew (1985 MM)	DePauw University
Bousfield, Beth (1989 BM)	Albion College
Cook, Susan (1992 BM)	DePaul University
Ellis (Bonaquisti), Kim (1983 MM)	Lamar University
Ford, Christopher (1979 MM)	Peabody Conservatory
Ford, Shannon (1995 MM)	Ohio Northern University
Gubler, Matthias (1988 CM)	Basel Conservatory (Switzerland)
Hartley, Linda (1979 BM)	University of Dayton
Lee, Shyen (1998 MM)	Fu-jen and Tonghai Universities (Taiwan)
McClune, David (1979 MM)	Union University
Murphy, Joseph (1982 MM)	Mansfield University
Perconti, William (1977 MM)	Lewis-Clark State College
Peterson, Russell (1995 MM)	Concordia College
Stepp, Scotty (1999 MM)	Indiana State University (semester replacement)
Umble, James (1984 MM)	Youngstown State University
Vinci, Mark (1977)	Skidmore College
Winemiller, Roberta (1978 BM)	Temple University (former band director)
Young, Craig (1989 MM)	Mississippi College
Young, Keith (1975 BM)	Indiana University of Pennsylvania