

GREETINGS FROM CULLOWHEE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Classes are now in full swing this fall, and we are looking forward to a great year of making music! You'll read about all the good things going on in other places in this newsletter, but here are a few highlights.

We welcome new faculty member Dr. Damon Sink, who will be teaching in the commercial and electronic music area. He comes to us from the University of Dayton, where he helped to build a similar program. In January, Dan Gonko returns as recording engineer in the Center for Applied Technology recording studio after teaching in Elizabeth City, N.C.

On Sept. 4, Chancellor David Belcher, a concert pianist, and his wife, Susan, an operatic soprano, gave a fine performance at the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

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The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet Tours Jamaica

The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet made a seven-day educational tour of Jamaica this past summer. The quintet (comprised of School of Music faculty Travis Bennett on horn, Dan Cherry on trombone, Brad Ulrich on trumpet and Michael Schallock on tuba, along with WCU alum and trumpeter David Ginn, BA '92) performed six concerts in Kingston and Montego Bay for more than 7,000 Jamaican school children. In addition to performing for children in grades 1-12, the quintet also performed with a community band at Sam Sharpe Teachers' College in Montego Bay.

Along with the mission of bringing brass instruments into the schools, the quintet provided support for an already active education program through WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions. This program has been in existence for 38 years and offers instruction to Jamaican educators both in Jamaica and each summer on the WCU campus.

The SMBQ Jamaica tour included appearances at the Immaculate Conception Preparatory School, Immaculate Conception High School, and Holy Childhood High School in Kingston; and Mount Alvernia High School and Sam Sharpe Teachers' College in Montego Bay. In fact, quintet members met many Jamaican educators who graduated through the WCU Jamaica Program and had spent time on the Cullowhee campus.

Also performing on this tour was Will Peebles, director of the WCU School of Music, who performed a bassoon solo with brass quintet accompaniment at each concert.

While classical brass instruments were unusual to many of the students, music does play a major role in the everyday life of the Jamaican people, as demonstrated through student involvement during and after the performances. After many of the concerts, students initiated discussions and even played some of the instruments. Several school administrators and many of the students expressed a desire to begin school band programs. While impoverished and massively in debt, Jamaica boasts a population committed to educating their youth as a means to escape poverty, school administrators there told quintet members.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Nicholas Gattis, BSED '10, presented his paper titled "Shape Notes: An American Sacred Music Tradition" at the International Conference of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association from March 22-24 in Asheville, N.C.



Sarah Hutchings (formerly Sarah Reneer, BM '07) is currently working toward a DMA in composition at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Sarah graduated with an MM in music theory/

composition from Florida State University in 2010 and received her BM degree in Commercial and Electronic Music from WCU. She is currently president of the Graduate Student Governance Association at the University of Cincinnati. In this capacity she serves as graduate student body president to all graduate students throughout the entire University of Cincinnati system. The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music will be premiering the first act of her opera, "Carmilla," in April. Her tenor song cycle "On Faith and Life" was premiered at CCM in March 2012. Also in 2012, she was the Boston Metro Opera International Composer Competition winner. In addition to her accomplishments as a composer, Sarah serves as the choir director/music minister at Alexandria United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Ky.

The performing career of **Jeanne Jolly**, BA '01, recently has taken a return home. After receiving her master's degree from New England Conservatory of Music, she toured



with Grammy winner Chris Botti, recorded with songwriters Lowen and Navarro and sang at Carnegie Hall and the Monterey Jazz Festival. Now, Jeanne is home in North Carolina. In

2010 she released a CD titled "Falling in Carolina," an album with a Carolina country theme, where she is featured on vocals, ukulele, piano and guitar. In response to "Falling in Carolina," *NC Metro Magazine* awarded her "Best Local Musician" in 2010 and 2011. Also in 2011, she was a featured artist at the International Folk Alliance in Memphis, Tenn. This past June, Jeanne was featured as part of the Mountain Home Music concert series in Boone. In October 2012 she released another album, "Angels." *Photo by Celeste Young*

James Rudisill, BM '06, attended the Royal Academy of Music in London from 2007-09, earning an MA degree in orchestral, solo and chamber performance. He regularly performed with professional ensembles such as the London Chamber Orchestra while living in London from 2007-11. He is now back in Raleigh and freelancing with

the North Carolina Symphony, Asheville Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony and others. James has been invited to attend the solo horn audition for Quebec Symphony Orchestra in September.

ALUMNI INVITED TO NCMEA CONFERENCE RECEPTION

The NCMEA In-Service Conference will take place Sunday-Tuesday, Nov. 11-13, in Winston-Salem, N.C., at the Benton Convention Center. We will have our customary booth in the exhibit hall, so please drop by and say "hello." Our alumni reception/dinner buffet will be from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 11 at the Foothills Brewing Co., downtown Winston-Salem, 638 W. Fourth St. (336.777.3348). A cash bar will be available. See you then!

Employment Update of Recent Graduates

Jennifer Anderson is now teaching choral music at North Buncombe Middle School.

Joshua Belvin is currently band director at Lincolnton High School.

Justin Carter is currently band director at Southeastern Stokes Middle School.

Lindsey Costner teaches chorus and general music at Ledford Middle School.

Will Freeman teaches band at Cranberry Middle School and serves as assistant director at Avery County High School.

Brittany Howes teaches chorus and general music at Table Rock Middle School, Burke County.

Taylor Jandes is currently band director at East Henderson High School.

Andrew Jenkins is music teacher at the Orlando Science Schools, grades six through eight.

Dustin King is the band director at Batesburg-Leesville High School in Batesburg-Leesville, S.C.

Kevin Kimbrough is the new band director at Bethel Middle in Haywood County.

Kelly Litfin is an assistant band director in Jackson County.

Kyle Maples is now band and chorus director at East Rutherford High School.

Angie Pegram teaches choral music at West Lincoln High School.

Carmen Ramsey is the band director at North Guilford Middle School.

Rachel (Rimmer) Murray teaches chorus and general music at Woodington Middle School in Kinston.

Victor Saenz is currently band director at Dixon High School, Holly Ridge.

Ashley Setzer is now teaching choral music at Spring Hill Middle School, Laurinburg.

Frances Stover teaches band at Johnson-Williams Middle School and serves as an assistant band director at the high school in Clarke County, Va.

Ryan Summers is currently band director at Madison High School, Marshall.

Valerie Templeton teaches K-5 music at Mountain Crest Elementary in Burke County.

Chris Wilson teaches band at East McDowell Junior High and is an assistant at the high school.