Alumni Notes

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ALUMNI NOTES

Dave Ammirata (B.M. Music Technology, 2010) works as a video editor with ACIEM Studios in Montclair, New Jersey. ACIEM handles audio, video and media services for a variety of clients including McLaren Automotive, Home Shopping Network and the Caucus Educational Corporation for Public Television. Dave’s responsibilities include program assembly, graphics and mastering for both high definition and standard definition television broadcasts of several PBS shows. Every day, something is broadcasted on television that the group has worked on.

Ammirata said that ACIEM is currently expanding their office and upgrading their equipment, including building an entire floor of audio equipment with an “Amek Angela recording console, ProAc 100 studio monitors and a Telefunken AR51 to name a few,” he said. “Very exciting times for me!”

Brent Behrenshausen (M.M. Performance, 2011) relocated to Reading, PA where he currently resides as a self-employed musician, educator and arranger. He maintains a private studio of over 20 percussion students and serves as the percussion captain head and arranger at Wilson High School (West Lawn, PA) and the percussion instructor/arranger for Shippensburg University’s Marching Band. In the summer of 2012, Behrenshausen served as coordinator and instructor at The Total Percussion Seminar, a percussion seminar for high school students in Lancaster, PA. He is also an instructor at the Lancaster Bible College where he assists with teaching lessons, performing master classes and instructing the percussion ensemble. For the past three summers, Behrenshausen has performed with the Shippensburg Festival Orchestra and has shared the stage with such world renowned soloists as Sarah Chang (violin), Jean-Yves Thibaudet (piano), and Ann Hobson Pilot (harp). In 2012, he performed Beethoven’s 9th Symphony at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, PA with the orchestra Vox Ama Deus.

Currently, Behrenshausen is completing a recording project of all-percussion arrangements of Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker Suite. The album will be sold on iTunes beginning in the winter of 2012-2013. Brent would like to thank The Mary Pappert School of Music and his teachers Andy Reamer and Chris Allen for their knowledge and guidance during his studies at Duquesne University.

Sielke M. (Kimmel) Caparelli, Ed.D. LPC (B.S. Music Therapy, 1992) received a teaching fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh where she graduated with an Ed.D. in Summer 2012. Her research explores the intersection of school mental health and school leadership and is an active member of a national policy board that promotes school mental health awareness for educational administrators. Caparelli also serves as a special education consultant, supporting local school districts in the area of school mental health and special education policy development. She is also an instructor at the University of Pittsburgh and presents at state and national conferences.

Extremely proud of her roots as a music therapist, she is grateful to Duquesne instructors who continue to mentor her 20 years later!

Preston Dibble (M.M. Sacred Music, 2004) moved to northern New Jersey and has served as the Organist and Director of Music at Church of the Immaculate Conception in Montclair, NJ since September of 2005. At the church, Dibble conducts the 25-voice Chancel Choir and a graded Children’s Choir program for students in K-8 that includes classes in hand bells and recorders. The Chancel Choir toured Italy in 2011, performing concerts at St. Ignatius Church in Rome, a weekend Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica (also in Rome) and in the presence of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. A similar trip to Ireland is planned for August, 2013.

Adrian Galysh (B.M. Music Technology, 1997) is the Education Coordinator for Guitar Center Studios in Los Angeles where he develops educational programming, manages 28 music instructors, teaches private guitar lessons and heads the company’s Be-in-a-Band program. In 2011, he published the instructional book, Progressive Guitar Warm-ups and Exercises. In addition, Galysh is recording his fourth solo CD, entitled Tone Poet.

Active in professional organizations, Galysh serves as Dean of the Metropolitan NJ Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the organization’s District Convener for Northern NJ. For the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, he serves on
Student Spotlight

Alex Toa, a junior music performance major, attended the Eastman School of Music’s Summer Conducting Institute. The Institute, in cooperation with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, provides aspiring conductors with the opportunity to hone their skills both in theory and in practice. Toa won the opportunity to conduct his prepared repertoire and was selected as one of the five winners of an in-program conducting competition, seizing the opportunity to conduct his prepared repertoire with the orchestra during a live performance.

Toa has aspirations to enter the conducting field of music. During his freshman and sophomore years, he conducted Duquesne’s Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Band and Wind Symphony and he studied conducting with Dr. Robert Cameron, director of bands and chair of ensembles at Duquesne. In 2011, Toa participated in master classes with Pittsburgh Symphony principal bassist Jeffery Turner and Maesta Nicoletta Conti and made his public concert debut with the Duquesne University Wind Symphony conducting his transcription of Liberty Fanfare by John Williams. In 2012, he served as assistant and off-stage conductor in the Duquesne University Opera Workshop’s production of Mark Adamo’s Little Women.

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the Executive Board of the Newark Chapter and as a member of the NPM National Council, Chairing the Interest Section for Organists.

Ryan Gilligan (B.M. Music Technology, 2006) began his career by interning at Quad Studios in New York. He assisted sessions there for about one year then, in 2007, took a gig as Busta Rhymes’ main engineer. Gilligan worked with Rhymes and artists such as Pharrell, Akon and Lil Wayne at studios in New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Atlanta.

In June of 2008, Gilligan started working with record mixer Michael Brauer in Quad’s Studio B and, in early 2009, moved to Electric Lady Studios where he has been working as Engineer and Mix Assistant. He earned a Grammy Certificate for work on John Mayer’s Battle Studies and credits on albums for artists including Coldplay, Dave Matthews, Patti Smith, Regina Spektor and others. In his freelance work, he has worked with Green Day, Hole and The Fray and has earned another Grammy certificate for engineering on Kanye West’s My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy.

In January, 2012, Gilligan started Four Thirds Music, LLC, through which he does all his freelance work.

Diana Gomes (B.M. Music Technology, 2006) has been involved with many aspects of the music industry since graduating from the Mary Pappert School of Music. After a stint in live radio, Gomes took a job in the licensing business and discovered a profound interest for helping other musicians to further their careers. For several years, Gomes has worked for Getty Images Music (previously known as Pump Audio), handling matters such as A&R, quality control, editing and content management. In addition, she still composes and performs regularly with both solo acts and local bands in New York.

The achievement Gomes is most proud of is self-releasing a full-length solo album in 2012 that she produced herself from beginning to end. Additionally, she began work on a small label/production company where she helps other D.I.Y. artists achieve this as well. She has many fond memories of her time at Mary Pappert School of Music, “it was always so inspiring to be in the company of so many talented musicians!”

Briana (Bailey) Gresco (B.S. Music Education, 2007) is choir director and teacher of AP Music Theory and piano classes at Arundel High School in Gambrills, Maryland. She has presented and co-presented sessions at the Maryland Music Educators Association fall conference and the American Choral Directors Association Voices United Conference, as well as at in-service sessions for Anne Arundel County Public Schools vocal music teachers. Gresco has also served as an adjudicator for nearby county choral assessments and solo and ensemble festivals. Currently, she volunteers on the Maryland Choral Educators Association Board as the manager and regional audition site coordinator of the Maryland Junior All State Chorus, and also serves as the piano accompanist for the Voices in Praise youth choir in Friendship, MD and the AACPS Choral Music Camps.

Lisa (Belczyk) Hoak (B.S. Music Education, 2006), senior director of education and community programs at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO), oversees the education and community
engagement department and works directly with students, parents, teachers, musicians and conductors in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the PSO’s education and community programming. Hoak earned her B.S. in Music Education from Duquesne University in 2006 and an MBA, with an emphasis in Leadership, in 2011 from Waynesburg University. She has completed both the introductory and advanced work in the Lincoln Center Institute’s Aesthetic Education and Imaginative Learning Methodology program. Hoak is also a graduate of the Arts Education Collaborative’s Leadership Academy and is currently enrolled in the Sam Deep Leadership Academy. She serves on the Arts Education Collaborative’s Professional Development Committee as well as her township’s Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Kendra Whitlock Ingram (B.S. Music Education, 1997) is currently working in Omaha, NE as vice president for programming and education with Omaha Performing Arts (OPA). OPA presents cultural performing arts and commercial entertainment in the Omaha area and also manages two major venues: Holland Performing Arts Center (a 2,000-seat concert hall and 300-seat recital hall) and the 2,600-seat Orpheum Theater.

In her role, Kendra oversees all aspects of programming for OPA’s main series: Broadway, jazz, dance, family, 1200 Club and showcase. She also oversees education and community engagement programs associated with OPA’s programming activity.

Juan Jaramillo (B.M. Performance, 2000, A.D. Performance 2005) recently organized his own chamber music project, which opened with the great Trout Quintet by Schubert with Mr. Glenn Lewis (piano) and the principal strings of the Wheeling Symphony. Juan, who is starting his second year as artist-in-residence at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Wheeling, WV, continues to perform with the Pittsburgh Opera and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater. Jaramillo also serves as the Principal Second violinist for the Wheeling Symphony, making him a prime freelance violinist in the area. He was the concertmaster for the recent premiere of The Alkonost and Infinity ballets presented at Pittsburgh CAPA. In addition to his musical activities, Juan enjoys regular outdoor runs, cooking and socializing.

Tom Lynn (B.M. Music Technology, 1993) is a member of the first Recording Arts and Sciences program graduating class. Since that time he has worked as a musician, orchestrator and recording engineer in the U.S. and abroad. Lynn currently lives in Berlin, Germany where he works as the audio supervisor for Golden Alligator Interactivities and is a freelancer in various aspects of audio production. His professional site is www.audioproberlin.com. Some of his original music can be heard at www.tomlynnmusic.com and information about an original series of acoustic ambient CDs he made with a fellow Duquesne alum can be found at www.stillsounds.com.

Brian McCowin (M.M. Music Education, 2008) is currently a music educator in the Corry Area School District in Corry, PA where he teaches band to grades 4-12 and guitar to 9-12. He is also the conductor of the Gem City Concert Band in Erie, PA, a 501(c)3 non-profit community band and is a trombonist in the affiliated Gem City Brass Quintet.

Amy Miller (B.M. Performance 2006) earned a Master of Music in Oboe Performance from Temple University in January 2009 and studied with Jonathan Blumenfeld of The Philadelphia Orchestra. For three years, Miller has served as assistant director of institutional relations at the Curtis Institute of Music, raising funds for the school by writing grants to corporations, foundations and government entities. She also runs the organization’s young patrons group, the Curtis Crescendo Club.

Amy performs regularly with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem and Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra, including solo appearances with both ensembles last season. On New Year’s Eve 2011, she programmed and performed a chamber recital at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (featuring another alumna, Catherine Schaefer) prior to The Philadelphia Orchestra’s concert that evening. Additionally, Amy performed with the Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, Lancaster Symphony, Philadelphia Virtuosi and Symphony in C (formerly called Haddonfield Symphony). Her article, Cut Time, was recently published in the quarterly journal of the International Double Reed Society and she has launched a corresponding blog, recoveringoboist.blogspot.com.

Cory (B.S. Music Education, 2007) and Amanda (Fisher) Neville (B.S. Music Education, 2007) are teaching music in the Pittsburgh area. After three years as the middle and high school chorus director at Forest Hills School District in Sidman, PA, Cory is now the Director of Instrumental Music at Quaker Valley High School, where he directs the band, orchestra and music theory programs. He
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is currently pursuing his Master of Music in Music Education at Boston University.

Amanda taught for three years in the Richland School District in Johnstown, PA and served as the Orchestra Director for grades 5-12 before accepting her current position as the string specialist in the Moon Area School District. She currently directs the high school orchestras and teaches fourth-grade beginner string lessons. Amanda is also pursuing her Master of Music in Music Education at Duquesne.

Cory and Amanda are thrilled to be expecting their first child, a girl, in December.

Ben Pachter (B.M. Percussion Performance, 2002) has earned a Master of Music in Percussion Performance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX and a Master of Arts in Ethnomusicology from the University of Pittsburgh. Currently, Ben is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Music at the University of Pittsburgh, working on his dissertation on the development of contemporary Japanese taiko drumming repertoire.

In addition to his academic activities (which have included teaching, lecturing and conference paper presentations), Ben is a founding member of Pittsburgh Taiko, a Japanese drumming group. As a member of Pittsburgh Taiko, he has given performance, lecture/demonstrations and workshops for schools and organizations across Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Mindy (Fleming) Padworski (B.M. Music Education, 2011) is a K-6 general music and chorus teacher at Buzz Aldrin Elementary school in Reston, VA. Additionally, she is a returning staff member of the Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C. where she educates students in grades K-5 in Orff-based general music and musical theatre. She was married this summer to Brian Padworski, a CPA who studied both business and music in college. Together, they provide in-home lessons to students interested in voice, piano and saxophone.

Joel Panian (B.M. Performance, 2010) went on to do graduate work at Cleveland State University, where he studied with Tom Freer of The Cleveland Orchestra. During this time, he performed with several groups, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic and Erie Philharmonic. In June 2012, Panian joined the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and, in July 2012, joined the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.

Brandon Pyles (B.S. Music Education, 2005) recently began his eighth year teaching music in the Penn Trafford School District and his fourth year as the band director at Penn Middle School. On a personal note, he is “now a happily married man,” after being wed on St. Patrick’s Day, 2012.

Charisa (Dowe) Rouse (B.M. Performance, 2004) was able to follow her dream of being a performing violinist from Duquesne to New York City, building on her solid classical and jazz foundation. She regularly performs and improvises on violin, viola, and vocals in multiple styles and specializes in jazz and soul music. In recent years, her string stylings have lead to collaborations with artists such as Mos Def, Diana Krall, Terence Blanchard, Joey McIntyre from NKOTB, Wynton Marsalis, and Musiq Soulchild, among many others. Rouse has performed at the Apollo, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and was the featured artist for the Apollo’s Presidential Debate Viewing Party on October 16, 2012. Most excitingly, Rouse’s debut EP project the Prelude released on November 13, 2012, under her stage name ‘the ViolinDiva”. Rouse co-produced the project with her husband, James ‘Biscuit’ Rouse (who is a drummer and singer for Ms. Lauryn Hill). Connect with Charisa Rouse via her website at www.theviolindiva.com.

Christie Solomon (B.S. Music Education, 2011) is currently the Middle School/High School Choir Director at the McGuffey School District in Washington County (Claysville, PA). In addition to choir, she teaches 6th grade and 8th grade general music and feels very fortunate to have her dream job. Solomon says that she was completely prepared for her first years of full-time music teaching, attributing that preparedness to the high standard of excellence upheld by the Mary Pappert School of Music.

David Sykut (B.M. Music Technology, 2001) is currently on staff at the Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center, serving as managing director of venue and audience development. He is also a guest lecturer and clinician on topics related to music technology and is endorsed by industry leading manufacturers sE Electronics, Rupert Neve Designs and Telefunken USA. Sykut is currently completing a thesis in fulfillment of the Master of Science in Music Technology degree at
Anthony Rankin (B.M. Music Technology, 2006) relocated to Nashville in the fall of 2011, where his skills and education have rapidly led to his becoming an in-demand musician. In the last year, he has landed touring gigs as a guitarist for country music star Randy Houser and multi-instrumentalist for singer Chelsea Bain. His résumé includes session work on Music Row, as well as songwriting sessions with notable writers such as Tony Stampley.

During the 2011-2012 basketball season, Rankin was a member of the Philadelphia 76ers house band, accompanying American Idol semifinalist Ayla Brown as she sang the national anthem at home games at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia.

Emily Wardle (B.S. Music Education, 2010) is currently a K-5 General Music and Elementary Chorus teacher in the Washington School District in Washington, PA and was recently appointed as the PMEA District 1 advocacy representative. She provides woodwind, piano and brass lessons both privately and through Accent Music of West Mifflin and serves as a woodwind band camp staff member for the South Allegheny and Belle Vernon Area marching bands. Wardle is the Music Director and pianist of Olivet Presbyterian Church in West Elizabeth, PA, and performs for area musicals and events. She is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Curriculum & Instruction through Clarion University.

Victoria Sieffert Temiz (B.M. Performance, 2006) is the manager of marketing and development with the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, MD. Her other activities include volunteering for “Easels in Frederick,” with the Delaplaine Visual Arts & Education Center; serving as a Marketing Committee Member with both Celebrate Frederick and the Tourism Council of Frederick County; and as a Group Tour Committee Member for the Tourism Council of Frederick County. Most recently she was named as one of “Frederick’s Finest” through the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Frederick. Before relocating to Maryland, Temiz worked at the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh. She and her husband, Dr. N. Alpay Temiz, have a two-year-old Pug/Chihuahua named Wolfgang Amadeus.

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