

# Notations

Volume # 6 Issue #1 Fall, 2007

Saint Xavier University Music Department

## Music Department News

It has been several years since we have published *Notations*, and I'm sure some of you thought you would not see another! We are pleased to once again bring you news of your fellow alums, the Music faculty, and your alma mater! We have lots of exciting things going on in the Music Department, and some of you continue to help us make them happen! We really appreciate the continued involvement of our alums, and particularly welcome your participation in the large ensembles, as you know!

This year, we have new choir robes, new marching band uniforms, a beautifully updated Music Computer Laboratory with new dual processor Apple MacIntosh Computers (they operate on both the Windows and the Apple Platform), a renovated McGuire Hall, and updated offices for the Chair, Dr. Couotts, Annette Adamus, our office manager, and alumna, Ms. Lara Regan, our Coordinator of Music Admissions, as well as an Adjunct Professor of Music. Please stop by to check them out!

I am pleased, in this issue, to be able to introduce you to our new Director of Instrumental Ensembles, Dr. Alicia Neal, who directs the SXU Marching and Concert Band, as well as the Chamber Orchestra, our new Adjunct Choral Director, Ms. Carolyn Brady Riley, as well as several other adjunct faculty I know you will be interested in reading about! Please read about all of them in the New Music Faculty column.

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In addition, of course, I will include information on the other full time faculty members - Professor Morris, Professor Lee, Dr. Couotts, and myself, who have been teaching, as of this year, for a combined 95 years at SXU! I'll include all the exciting information you have sent me regarding your lives and work in the performance field, the schools, churches, and communities where you live! I love hearing from every one of you, and thank you for keeping us updated on your activities and growing families!

The Music Department faculty and students continue to make wonderful music, and we hope you can find time to come and hear some, or all, of our concert presentations! Or, better yet, join us in making great music! We always welcome SXU Music alumni into our ensembles, and look forward to working with you again as professionals!

Our first concert presentation for Fall 2007, was a Contrabassoon Artist Recital presented by Sue Nigro - many of you will remember Sue from her years on our faculty. This recital took place on Monday evening, September 10! We will present five student recitals in the 2007-08 academic year; Justin Antos, Percussion, Jamie Maniatis, Flute, and three vocal recitals; Kojelyte Johnson, Soprano; Andrea Caruso, Soprano; and Carina Spindel, Mezzo-Soprano.

Ensemble concerts will include the Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra, Women's & Men's Ensembles, Chamber Singers, Jazz Ensemble, Saxophone and Guitar ensembles, and a newer ensemble - the SXU Flute Choir! In Spring, '08 we will present an Opera Workshop performance including two of Gian-Carlo Menotti's one act operas, a Hildegard von Bingen Lecture and concert, and the Chorale will sing Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Southwest Symphony Orchestra! Of course, you can see the SXU Marching Band in their new uniforms at each of the five home football games! Check the SXU Website for home game days!

If you're not on our mailing list, and wish to receive information on all our presentations and performances, please contact Annette Adamus in the Music Department at: 773 298-3421, or email Annette at [adamus@sxu.edu](mailto:adamus@sxu.edu). We will be happy to add your name to the mailing list! In the meantime, you may want to check out the Music Department Website at [www.sxu.edu/music](http://www.sxu.edu/music). There are some photos and recordings of ensembles available there for your pleasure. You will also find this *Notations* Newsletter on our website!

Please note that the Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra, and Jazz Ensemble now perform at the Beverly Arts Center!

Dr. Bickel

## Table of Contents

	Page
Music Department News .....	1
Your Faculty at Work .....	2-3
Alumni News.....	4-6, 8
New Faculty in the Music Department .....	3,7
Dr. Alicia Neal, Director of Instrumental Ensembles .....	3
Prof Carolyn Brady Riley, Director of Choral Ensembles .....	7
Prof. Frederick Miller, Director of Guitar Ensemble & Jazz Ens ...	7

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## Your Faculty At Work

**Dr. Jan Bickel, Director of Vocal Studies**, is pleased to tell you that her book - *Vocal Technique, A Physiological Approach for Voice Class and Studio* - is being published by Plural Publishing of California. (www.pluralpublishing.com.) Dr. Bickel had all new illustrations drawn for this new publication (Artist Douglas Klauba is the husband of SXU alumna Daneen Bovino), and has been working since last January to update the book, and reformat it for the publisher. The expected release is November 1, 2007, and the book will be available from the publisher, through major retail stores, and from Amazon.com and other websites.

In her 25th year at SXU, Dr. Bickel continues to perform throughout the Chicago area, singing as Mezzo/Alto soloist in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 for the International Bar Association Conference at Navy Pier and at St. James Cathedral, in Mozart's *Requiem* with the Southwest Symphony Orchestra, concerts with the Lake Shore Singers quartet, as well as performing with the SXU ensembles. This fall she will be alto soloist in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Naperville, celebrating the Mass in "high" fashion! In Spring, 08, she will again be the alto soloist in a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Southwest Symphony Orchestra.

Her Compact Disc - *An Art Song Excursion* - recorded with pianist, Dr. Dana Brown of Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and flutist, Martha Morris, is available in the SXU bookstore, and will soon be available in retail stores near you! The CD includes Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben*, Poulenc's *Banalités*, Ginastera's *Cinco Canciones Populares Argentinas*, four songs by Rachmaninoff, and Saint-Saëns *Une flute Invisible*.

Dr. Bickel continues her research work with Professor Martha Morris on the utilization of vocal tract resonance in achieving optimum tone quality in woodwind and brass players, and the two faculty members presented their research at the International Conference of the National Association of Teachers of Singing in Summer 2006. Since then, Dr. Bickel and Prof. Morris have received numerous grants to continue their study and work with the

new *VoceVista* software in order to graph the tone quality of both singers and instrumentalists as they pursue their research. Much of the foundation of their research work was done with the students of the Boston College bands program. It was great to work with David Healey again, and interesting to note that his band members, particularly the brass ensembles, vocalize and sing Bach chorales at the opening of each rehearsal!

In Fall 2006, Dr. Bickel was presented with the Saint Xavier University Award for exemplary service at the University and in the community. She is exceedingly grateful for this recognition!

**Dr. Greg Coutts** continues to keep busy as Chair of the Department of Music and is currently serving his second year as Associate Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences. In addition to his administrative duties, Dr. Coutts is currently teaching Aural Skills III and Contrapuntal Techniques. Dr. Coutts also serves as the Director of Music at Grace Fellowship Church in Oak Forest, where he organizes worship services, leads worship, and rehearses and conducts the Worship & Cantata Choirs, Worship Team and Band, and the church orchestra. The Cantata Choir is currently rehearsing for a Christmas program which will be presented on Sunday, December 16, 2007. Dr. Coutts' two children Courtney (15 in November) and Colin (13) are active in musicals at church and are currently taking piano lessons.

**Professor Patricia Lee, Director of Keyboard Studies**, continues to perform regularly with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as well as being Principal Keyboardist for the Elgin Symphony Orchestra and the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra. She also performs frequently with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, the Northbrook Symphony Orchestra, and the Frankly Music Chamber Orchestra of Milwaukee.

In December 2006 she performed with the Chicago Symphony at Carnegie Hall in New York, playing organ in Bartok's *Miraculous Mandarin* with Pierre Boulez conducting. The same performance was

presented in Chicago as part of the CSO "Beyond the Score" series, and was recorded on video for CSO Resound. The digital recording of this performance can be viewed and downloaded on the CSO website.

In April 2007, Professor Lee performed as harpsichord soloist with the FM Chamber Orchestra (Milwaukee) and conductor/violinist Frank Almond, in J.S. Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto #5*. Her performance received very favorable reviews in both the Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel* and the *Milwaukee Shepherd Express*. This coming November Ms. Lee will be featured as piano soloist in a performance of Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, with the Northbrook Symphony conducted by Lawrence Rapchak.

Professor Lee can also be heard on CD in two new recordings. She played harpsichord and realized the continuo for *Music for Trumpet and Winds* (Albany Records), a recording featuring CSO trumpeter John Hagstrom, which was released in December 2006. She can also be heard in a new recording for the American Classics series on the Naxos label, performing as pianist with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra in music of Aaron Copland, to be released in Spring 2008.

**Professor Martha Morris, Director of Music Education and Instrumental Studies** writes: As the 2007-2008 academic year begins at Saint Xavier so begins my 30th year at the University. I find this somewhat perplexing, somewhat frightful and amazing!!!! Over the past several years I have had students come to study music at Saint Xavier who are the sons and daughters of music alums I taught when I first came to the University and that definitely blows my mind. Where does time go?

As many of you know, a year and half ago I stepped down from the orchestra podium but I have not been idle. Although I am a little grayer now, I am still teaching a full load at the University which includes Music Education classes, Music History, Orchestration, Fundamentals of Music Theory, Flute Choir, Applied Flute and supervising student teachers. I am also doing quite a bit of research with Dr. Bickel on the effects of applying vocal resonance to the production of tone in

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## Your Faculty At Work cont. . .

woodwind and brass playing. This has been an ongoing project, and Dr. Bickel and I have been quite successful in gathering playing samples to support our research; we have presented our work at Boston College, Saint Xavier, and at the National Association for Teachers of Singing International Conference. Our latest project involves the use of new software (VoceVista) that will help us analyze our playing samples and studio research. Very soon we hope to have everything completed so we can publish our findings.

This December, the Flute Choir and University Chamber Singers will join forces to perform Saint Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*; several years ago I arranged the string parts for flute choir and we performed the work at one of the Xavier Classics at Noon concerts. I am looking forward to presenting the work again. The Flute Choir members include six University flute students, and three community members. Collectively, they have a beautiful resonant sound. Our instrumentation includes alto flute, bass flute, C flute, piccolo, and Eb soprano flute. It would be great to have some of the flute alums come to Xavier for the concert - I would love to see you again.

I am particularly pleased that this past Spring I was nominated for and accepted into "Who's Who Among American Teachers." And in 2005-06 I became an "Honored Member" of Empire's Who's Who of Executives and Professionals, representing the professional women of Chicago.

We love it when you come back to visit, and tell us all about your achievements! Please come knocking on our doors!

## New Music Faculty



**Dr. Alicia Neal,**  
Director of Instrumental  
Ensembles

Dr. Alicia Neal, grew up in the suburbs of Houston, Texas, where she played trumpet in the middle school and high school bands. She attended the University of Colorado at Boulder on a trumpet scholarship and completed a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1998. Following graduation, she returned to Texas, where she taught in the public schools for three years, teaching at her own high school! She returned to the University of Colorado to pursue a Masters degree in Wind Conducting, where she studied with Allan McMurray, and graduated in 2004. She moved to Evanston in the Fall of 2004, to begin a Doctor of Music degree in conducting, studying with Mallory Thompson. She graduated with conducting program Honors in June 2007 after completing her doctoral dissertation: *Traveling of the Mind: An Interview with Michael Colgrass and an Analysis of Raag Mala*.

Dr. Neal tells me: "I am thrilled to be teaching at SXU and have really enjoyed collaborating with the students and faculty members. Thus far I have found the faculty to be passionate and dedicated to both their art and to their students, and I have found the students to be very thoughtful and extremely willing to offer their spare time to help out for the good of the program."

About the band, she states: "The SXU Band is off to a roaring start and is currently preparing for performances at all five home football games. The students have been working very hard since the beginning of the school year and I am very excited to see where this solid start will take us!" "The program shows much promise and we are looking to increase the number of students participating in the program. We would most certainly benefit from some additional brass personnel to enhance the solid foundation we have already established. My vision for the band program includes a significant increase in numbers, a sincere focus on having fun while still making good music, and to provide a musically and intellectually stimulating rehearsal setting. I believe one-hundred percent in the stellar reputation of the SXU band program and the students who participate in it! I am excited to help the program continue to succeed, thrive, and discover its potential!"

Regarding the **SXU Chamber Orchestra**, Dr. Neal says: "Although my degree emphasis is in wind conducting, I believe myself first and foremost to be a *musician*, not a *wind conductor*. This pervading desire to explore other areas of music is why I found the SXU job description so appealing.

I thoroughly enjoyed conducting the Chamber Orchestra while I was a master's student at the University of Colorado, and as a result I am very excited to have been afforded the opportunity to conduct the SXU Chamber Orchestra for the 2007-08 season."

Dr. Neal goes on to say: "I've always been drawn to the compositional language of many of the masterful Classical and Romantic era composers, such as Mozart, Haydn, Brahms, and Beethoven. Experiencing the works of these composers, as well as many others, with the students and community members of the SXU Chamber Orchestra brings me great joy and excitement! I believe that the SXU orchestra provides both the students and the surrounding communities with a much-needed, local connection to the classical music scene."

Dr. Neal told me that one of her principal goals for the 2007-2008 school year is to significantly increase the string section numbers in the orchestra. There are already dozens of talented and passionate musicians participating in orchestra rehearsals each week, and adding even more players to the ensemble will enhance the experience for the ensemble members, the SXU students, and the community. The only prerequisite for joining the ensemble is the ability to play an orchestral instrument and a genuine love and passion for music and music-making!

**New Music Faculty info  
continues on page 7**

**Thanks to all who sent me  
information for *Notations!***

Music Department alums, and faculty may send news for inclusion in *Notations* at any time! Please send information electronically whenever possible!

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# Alumni news

The following news from SXU Music Department Alumni is self-reported. The Music Department at SXU is pleased to share all the good news with our friends and supporters in the community!

The following information is in alphabetical order by last name of the Music Department alumni member.

**Rose Trahey Breckenridge**  
[rbreckenridge@alltel.net](mailto:rbreckenridge@alltel.net)

Since I was not acquainted personally with Rose, I asked her to fill me in. She told me she studied with Sister Albert (piano), Sister Venardine (piano, music appreciation, music history, and her senior paper), and Sister Charlene (harmony, form and analysis, counterpoint, Baroque music literature), LaVerne Dalka (keyboard harmony, ear training, piano literature), Sister Evangeline (Gregorian chant, liturgical, and Sister Gabriel McShane (Art appreciation). and also stated: I am a graduate of St. Xavier University (1967) with a BA in music (piano & music history). After I taught elementary school music I went on to graduate school to earn my MA in music history and my PhD in music. I pursued the study of music history & its relationship to culture/ideas and other arts (especially art history). My MA thesis was on Stravinsky, with a chapter on Picasso. My PhD dissertation was actually a study in aesthetics - how theories of art influence our study of works of art (in music and art history especially). And especially the questions of if and how works of art reflect culture and ideas. Of course music has always been my central focus, but this broader approach of related arts & ideas has helped me in my work

with audiences who follow symphonic performances. So I am deeply indebted to the SXU liberal arts education that launched me.

I have lived in Cleveland for many years and work as an independent contractor for The Cleveland Orchestra. I am administrator and lecturer for their Music Study Groups, which are adult education classes on their current concert series at Severance Hall. I also do concert previews at Severance Hall. Last summer the Cleveland Plain Dealer's chief music critic interviewed me about the Cleveland Orchestra Music Study Groups. I am not doing this to call attention to myself, but rather as an act of gratitude to St. Xavier's. It was there that I received a superb education that launched me on a lifetime of learning. I deeply appreciate all that SXU did for me. I had amazing teachers that I will never forget.

**Alice Cate** [acate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acate@sbcglobal.net) is in her fourth year in School District 194 in Illinois, where she teaches music for students from Kindergarten through 5th grade, and directs the 4th and 5th grade choir. She reports that her music budget has been bumped up, she has shared this photo from her Spring, 2007 1st & 2nd grade musical - *A Race to the Finish!*



Alice Cate (2nd from left)

**Kristi Finn** [kfinn728@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kfinn728@sbcglobal.net) writes: After graduating from SXU, I continued in graduate school and earned my MA degree in Clinical

Psychology. I have been working for nearly four years at Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital in Hoffman Estates, initially as a child/adolescent case manager and currently as a child/adolescent family therapist. In addition, I worked for several years at Streamwood Behavioral Health Hospital in Streamwood, Illinois as a child/adolescent therapist as my second job. I have received both of the professional licenses in my field (LPC and LCPC) and plan on taking some courses this fall to work on earning my CADC (Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor license). In my spare time, I enjoy running and playing the violin and piano. I have run two marathons so far (Milwaukee 2003 and Chicago 2005) and will be running the Chicago marathon again this fall. I have played the violin and piano for several weddings since graduating.

**Catherine A. Horan, PhD.**  
[horanc@ada.org](mailto:horanc@ada.org) writes:

Though I live on the north shore, I have still been able to participate in activities sponsored by the SXU Alumni Association - a taping of Wheel of Fortune at Navy Pier, just minutes from where I work, and a Cubs baseball game at Wrigley field. Also, I have provided alumni comment to the SXU Presidential Search Committee. I am likewise grateful for these opportunities to stay connected with SXU in addition to those offered by the Music Dept. Recently, I attended a show featuring digital photography by Mel Theobald, a successful graphic artist in the Chicagoland area, who was a member of the faculty of SXC's Art Department for almost ten years in the 70s and 80s, and who received a Teaching

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## More Alumni News

Excellence Award. Mel and I worked together on an award winning poster back in 2001, which won top prize at a scientific exhibition, sponsored by the American Assoc. of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

**Lee Kanne** writes: I am an SXU Music Dept alumni, (76')...I was a voice major with a degree in performance. Immediately after graduating St. Xavier College, I sang for various churches and temples in the area, then went on tour as the lead male vocalist with the Wayne King Orchestra, performing all over the US. I also sang with the Grant Park Chorus under Thomas Peck and the Northwestern U Chorus under Margaret Hillis...I also began to perform with various theatre groups in and around the city, and performed in summer stock around the country, both musical and straight drama....not long after, I moved to NYC and studied acting and performed in cabaret and clubs as a vocalist there. Returning to Chicago in the 80's, I performed on many Chicago stages, and also appeared in a few films, commercial, etc. and continue to do so...I've done voiceovers and jingles commercially, and produce voiceover demos and coach voiceover/acting in my home studio...Most recently I've recorded TV and Radio spots for the Miami Dolphins currently airing in the Miami, Palm Beach/Ft. Lauderdale area...I've also done composing for film and local TV advertising...Next month I will be performing at the Theatre Building in Chicago in a show called "The Brother", the story of the 1953 Rosenberg trial, where people were tried and executed for passing on nuclear secrets to the Russians...Robert Breuler of Steppenwolf Theatre plays David Rosenberg and it's directed and written by John Hancock, who directed the Academy Award winning film "Bang the Drum Slowly",

starring Robert DeNiro in 1973....

### **Brendan & Jessica (Yehling) Koch** [jkoch@vandercook.edu](mailto:jkoch@vandercook.edu)

Brendan and I have been doing very well. We were married in 2004, and we bought our first home in Darien, IL. Brendan is now the Director of Bands at Eisenhower High School in Blue Island. He has commissioned Dr. Stuart Benkert to write his marching drill for the last two seasons. Brendan also directs the Tinley Park-Park District "Arts Alive!" Community Band, and judges marching band competitions for the United States Scholastic Band Association. He is working towards a Masters in Music Education degree at VanderCook College of Music, and will graduate in 2009. For the past three years, I have held the position of Director of Music at Our Lady of the Brook Parish in Northbrook. Two years ago, I began pursuing teacher certification and a Master's degree at VanderCook College of Music where I was granted a Full Assistantship to Dr. Robert Sinclair, Director of Choral Activities. This summer, I was elected Senior Class Secretary/Treasurer, and I will graduate *summa cum laude* later this month with a Masters in Music Education degree. Upon graduation, I will be endorsed to receive State of Illinois Type 10 teacher certification with a choral music endorsement. I have enjoyed seeing other St. Xavier alums at VanderCook, especially Nicole (Caum) Durkin who will also graduate this summer.

**Kathryn Mantoan** has just begun a masters program in vocal performance at Roosevelt University, and writes: I took a diction exam on Wednesday with Dana Brown and completely passed out of diction! I was very happy about that and almost a little surprised. I also took the theory/history exam and passed out of pre-tonal music history. They divide the history/theory class into three sections in one semester. They

combine theory and history and separate the class into pre-tonal, tonal, and post-tonal music. Because I passed out of pre-tonal, I will not join the class until October when they start tonal music. Even though I have to take some of that class, I'm still pleased by how I did! The test was EXTREMELY difficult!! Especially the theory portion. Everything seems to be going well so far! I sang *So'anchio la virtu magica* for my audition piece on Tuesday. The audition was for placement in choir, solos in choir, and opera roles. We are singing Beethoven's 9th in choir and they were assigning solos based on the audition.

### **Ed Miller** [ejmiller1@cps.k12.il.us](mailto:ejmiller1@cps.k12.il.us)

I just finished teaching my eighth year of music at Kelly High School. In those eight years I taught beginning and intermediate band. On average, I taught about 85 people per class period. I also took our Intermediate Band to competition each year, and received 7 superior and 1 excellent rating. Starting Fall '07, I will be working in the main office (promotion) and doing the scheduling for the entire building. Within the next year I'm going to be starting my administrative degree at either Northeastern University, or Chicago State University.

**Opha Mulrenin** writes: Three years ago, at the encouragement of family and neighbors, I began giving piano lessons in my home. Never before had I realized such joy and fulfilment in teaching. Most of my life has been spent teaching in the classroom, often with little gratification. Although I studied piano and voice from an early age, never did I see myself as a piano teacher. Now I spend at least three hours a week at the piano, working to "stay in shape." Life is good!

## More Alumni News

### Patricia Reilly Nemec '67/'78

writes: I'll be 80 soon, and was pleased to be the featured person in our Senior Condo newsletter this month! September is National Piano Month, and the article, chronicles Pat's life as a musician, including her bachelor's degree in piano, and a second degree in organ performance, under the direction of Harry Krush!

**Cecilia Olejniczak** writes: I am well and retired as Director of Music at St. Gerald's after 52 years! I now live with my son and his family, and now have a pacemaker, but I still "sub" as organist at St. Gerald's and sing in the choir. My grandsons are busy learning to play the piano, singing in the choir, and playing trumpet in the school band. Yes, I'm their teacher in piano. I'm still a member of the southwest side musicians and attend all the meetings

### Carmen Rogge

[tomandcarm@netzero.net](mailto:tomandcarm@netzero.net)

writes: Well, things are busy here! I now have a 14 month old little boy who keeps me hopping. I still sing for funerals and weddings several times a month, and I am an at-home voice teacher. Performance has been put on the back burner for now; my little guy was a preemie and it has been a difficult first year for him.

### Maureen Ross [msmoross@aol.com](mailto:msmoross@aol.com) wrote me in 2003 the following:

I am doing so well. I do not live in Oregon, but now reside in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It is totally awesomely beautiful out here. No wonder Georgia O'Keefe decided to spend her last years as an artist painting in Northern N.M. I'm literally 5 minutes from the mountains and 10 minutes from the S.F. opera house. My apt. faces the Sangre de Cristo mountain range and I couldn't ask for a more lovely view. I have recently finished teaching for 5 years in Oregon - all gen. elem. music and

now am pursuing other interests. I will probably work for Santa Fe public schools in the fall of '03. I have taught for 10 years. Since moving to Santa Fe, I have written a book, *Songs of Praise*, that I am expecting to have available in Fall '03. It is inspirational writing based on the book of psalms that the everyday person can use to help them along their path. I'm also in the process of opening my own company - M and C Ross, LLC. I'm making and distributing homemade chocolates that will be available in the local stores in Santa Fe, someday around the US. I also volunteer at the St. Francis Cathedral - the music director is a close friend of mine, and I play the flute, cantor, help with choir sectionals and accompany choral groups.

### Ellen Marie Ryan, RSM

[eryanrsm@comcast.net](mailto:eryanrsm@comcast.net) and [eryanrsm@aol.com](mailto:eryanrsm@aol.com)

Sister Ellen Marie writes: Just want to let you know my new status -- retired! I retired from McAuley at the end of the 06-07 year. Right now I have not made any future plans because I'm preparing for a trip to Italy Sept. 8-18. I'll be going with Kitty Ryan and Fr. Gubbins.

### Lorie Conn Stultz

[lstultz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lstultz@sbcglobal.net) says:

I received my M.Ed. from the McCormick-Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National-Louis University in 2004. I had owned and operated The Little School for Fine & Performing Arts, a center for early childhood from 1993 to 2003, when the building was sold to a developer and I had to close. Since then I have worked as an independent consultant for curriculum and national accreditation of centers, and just generally helping center administrators with their daily issues. I am also a trainer for Illinois' Trainers Network, a division of INCCRRA (Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies). I am also

currently adjunct faculty for the National College of Education at National-Louis University in the Early Childhood Department. On a personal note, I am still married to Jeff (26+ years now) and we will be grandparents next month, Sept. 2007 -our daughter Diane is giving us a baby boy to spoil. Diane is an event planner for the Society of Critical Care Medicine. She and her husband live in Naperville. Our son Brian is now 29 years old. He is an apprentice carpenter and currently living in Midlothian. I share the care of my mother, who is now almost 88, with my sister Linda. Mom goes back and forth between us weekly. Life is good! I would love to hear from any of my classmates from SXU Music Dept.!

### Kim (Yoksas) Swaekausti

[plbbt78@yahoo.com](mailto:plbbt78@yahoo.com) writes:

I completed my Master's Degree in Special Education at SXU in 2005. I married Anthony in May of 2005, and we moved to Naperville. I currently work as a 4th grade special education teacher at Prairieview School in Center Cass School, District 66 in Downers Grove. Tony and I welcomed our daughter, Abigail, on October 26, 2006. I currently perform with the Lisle Community Band.



Kim and baby Abigail!

**Continues on page 8!**

### Kathryn (Kate) Swem

[katswem@yahoo.com](mailto:katswem@yahoo.com) is back in the Chicago area, and wrote me: After I graduated with my Music Education degree in 2003, I wasn't quite sure

## New Music Faculty cont. . .



**Carolyn Brady Riley**  
**SXU Choral Director**

Saint Xavier University's Department of Music has appointed **Carolyn Brady Riley** to serve as choral director for the University Women's and Men's Ensembles, and Chorale. Riley will conduct the University Women's and Men's Ensembles in a Christmas program in December, and will prepare the University Chorale to perform in two spring programs, including an April performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Southwest Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of David Crane.

Riley earned her master's degree in vocal performance with honors from Chicago Musical College at Roosevelt University, where she studied with Metropolitan Opera soprano Judith Haddon, and her bachelor of music in vocal performance with a minor in theater from Illinois State University. Since graduation, she has been active as a singer and pianist as well as a musical and theatrical director.

Riley's singing credits include membership in the Grant Park Symphony Chorus as well as operatic and musical theatre roles with Intimate Opera, Circle Theatre, Porchlight Theater Chicago, the Vocal Arts Group, Effective Theatre and the Brevard Music Center. She was invited to perform at inaugural ceremonies for the Lieutenant Governor of Illinois and has sung as both a soprano and alto with the Grant Park Symphony Chorus. She served as performing arts director at St. Francis High School in Wheaton, Ill., for five years.

During the 2006-07 academic year, Riley served as staff accompanist in Saint Xavier's Department of Music, and most recently has directed the Jeff-nominated *Meet Me in St. Louis* for Circle Theatre in Forest Park. She has been a theatrical director for productions at Moraine Valley Community College, Triton College and Circle Theatre's Emerging Young Artists Program. In spring 2008, she will be the theatrical director for the SXU Opera Workshop. Riley has directed choirs that have performed throughout Illinois and at Disney World. She was a Suburban Catholic Conference Honors Chorus conductor, and served as a judge for the Illinois Music Educators Association Honors Choir and Illinois High School Association Solo and Ensemble contests.

Saint Xavier's choral ensembles are open to SXU students, staff and faculty members as well as talented community members. Experienced community singers should contact the Saint Xavier Department of Music at (773) 298-3421 for more information. The Women's Ensemble rehearses from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, and the Men's Ensembles rehearses from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Professor Riley welcomes all singing music alumni to return and participate in the vocal ensembles! **You can email her at [bradyriley@sxu.edu](mailto:bradyriley@sxu.edu).**

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### **M. Frederick Miller, Guitar Soloist, and professional jazz musician,**

has been an adjunct professor at SXU for several years, teaching the guitar classes, and directing the University Guitar Ensemble. This year, Fred has taken over as **Director of the SXU Jazz Ensemble**. As a professional musician, Fred performs with several professional theater orchestras in the Midwest. He has been a member of the *Swing Shift Orchestra*, performing Thursday nights at the Green Mill Lounge in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, since 1998. Fred has also performed at the Chicago Jazz festival, Taste of Chicago, and on the stage of the SXU Xavier Classics at Noon Concert series. He is currently completing doctoral work in jazz studies!

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## Adjunct Faculty in Applied Music and Classes

We are very pleased to welcome several adjunct instructors in applied music to our campus! Please welcome the following new faculty members to our Music Department:

**Ray Bibzak, Bassoon**

**Carolyn Brady Riley, voice**

**Kevin Carroll, Low Brass**

**Janet Cramer, Percussion**

**Chia-Ying Hsu, Violin/Viola**

**Peter Jirousek, French Horn**

**Lisa Kleis, String Bass**

**Monica Kropidowski, Piano**

**Michael Madonia, Trumpet**

**Emily Mantell, Cello**

**Lara Regan, Saxophone, and Clarinet** (Lara "Ochoa" Regan is an SXU Music Dept. alumna, and is also **Coordinator of Music Admissions!**)

We welcome the following adjunct faculty members to our music classrooms!

**Michael Becker, American, and Nonwest Music**

**Kirsten Broberg, Theory**

**Jeffrey Hunter, Intro to Music**

**Lara Regan, Woodwind Methods**

**David Nuccio, Intro to Music, and History of Rock and Roll**

**We welcome all our new Music Department faculty members! It takes many excellent teachers to develop a fine musician and we are pleased to have their expertise!**

## More Alumni News

where I was headed in my career path. I decided to pursue social services and currently work at a foster care agency called Kaleidoscope. At Kaleidoscope, I help assist in stabilizing foster families who are having difficulties coping with the child's trauma based behaviors. In the long term, I have aspirations to become a therapist in a non profit organization. I was accepted into Roosevelt University's community counseling program and plan on getting my Masters and becoming a licensed clinical professional counselor once I complete school. I haven't really been singing but still hope to jump back into it once I have more free time or some interesting leads.

### Amy Smith Switalski

[Philnamy@wideopenwest.com](mailto:Philnamy@wideopenwest.com)

The Switalski's have been busier than ever it seems. I am expecting our third at the end of August. I'm realizing as I get older how much more difficult it is to bounce back to "normal" in a timely fashion. I've still been able to perform...I just have to sit more often and not move around as much. Breath support has been a challenge. **Phil's Mom passed away in August after a lengthy illness, and the Switalski's now have a new baby Luke!** Peter is now 12 1/2 and Lucie will be 10 in September. Peter is an aspiring percussionist and engineer, Lucie is becoming quite the pianist and violinist. They're both a little reluctant to exercise their vocal cords... except for yelling at each other! Phil & I still share the position of Music Ministers at St. Christopher Church in Midlothian. We are going on our 16th year there and our 3rd year with a new Pastor. We recently purchased a new Nordiska Grand Piano for the church...just in time to use for our cantata, "Once Upon a Tree", performed the 5th Sunday of Lent. It was a huge undertaking but so worth the work. Our choir did

fabulously and for me it was a thrill to "break in" the new piano and play with our chamber orchestra. Phil and I continue to entertain for various kinds of private functions, performing our Broadway and Nostalgia music. Publicly, we've sold out 3 shows at White Fence Farm. We're working on our 2nd album...it's so much more difficult to devote time to it though with raising a family and keeping up our many endeavors. In addition to St. Christopher we play a weekend Mass at St. Walter's church in Blue Island, teach Religious Education Music Classes at St. Bernard's in Homer Township, serve as Music Directors for the 8th Grade Musical each year at St. Damian School (Guys and Dolls '07) and play for weddings and funerals throughout the City and surrounding suburbs. We've also continued planning and hosting motor coach tours...most recently to the Great Smoky Mountains and Mackinac Island.

I teach piano out of our home studio...really for the pleasure of it. I only teach on Mondays, so I just have 8 students ranging from child beginner, advanced and adults. I also have a couple of flute students.

August 12th Phil & Amy performed in Crestwood with the Franz Bentler Orchestra, for about 10,000 people, at their outdoor concert. Our biggest thrill this year was singing the National Anthem at the commissioning ceremony for the Air Force Academy Graduation this past Memorial Day week in Colorado Springs, CO. The entire 4 days of events were spectacular!

### Mary Shutway Thompson '78

Mary's daughter, Rachael, writes: My mom is no longer working due to disability, but she was a piano teacher until '91, and a freelance drama instructor. She also played piano for several churches over the years.

### Lee VanSickle

[l.h.vansickle@gmail.com](mailto:l.h.vansickle@gmail.com) writes: I am getting married to Jennifer Marquardt (also an SXU alum, '02) on November 23, 2007. We both reside in Oak Forest, with our little dachshund, Ollie. I am an Assistant Director at Saint Xavier University Media Services. I have also been actively freelancing in the video industry, working on a wide range of productions from weddings, to sporting events and television broadcasts. I try to find time for music performance opportunities when my work schedule allows by participating at church, and singing with the Saint Xavier University Chorale and Chamber Singers.

**Send me even more news for the next newsletter! We love hearing from you!**

## We Need Your Help!

**As an alum of the SXU Music Department, we respect and value your opinion and will greatly appreciate your recommendation for new students! If you know of a student whom you feel would benefit from our program, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Music Department faculty members with the name, phone number, and address of that student!**

**Please Contact:  
Music Department Office  
(773) 298-3421  
Dr. Greg Coutts, Chair  
(773) 298-3424  
Coutts@sxu.edu**

**or any Music Department  
faculty member!**

*Notations* is the official newsletter of the Saint Xavier University Music Department

Info for the Music Department  
*Notations* Newsletter  
***Continuing the Good News!***

Dear Music alumni and friends,

There is so much good news to share, that I don't want to wait for a once a year Newsletter. With the help of Stacy L. Dean, MACS, Director of Web Development, University Relations, I will keep a page entitled "***Continuing the Good News!***" attached to the *Notations* Newsletter online.

If you have good news about your life as a musician, or continuing on to become successful in some other area, please let me know! Yes, we can include digital photos of good quality. I will post the good news on this page on our website, so that SXU alumni, current students, faculty, staff, administration and friends of the Music Department can share in your good news! Please feel free to share your email address if you wish to hear from your former college classmates, but know that this page is open to the public!

I look forward to hearing from many of you, and posting your "good news!" See the current "good news" below!

Best regards,

Jan E. Bickel, D.M.A. Editor  
*Notations* Newsletter  
The Official Music Department Newsletter  
Saint Xavier University  
bickel@sxu.edu

*Notations*  
*Continuing the Good News!*



**Rose Breckenridge**  
[www.cleveland.com](http://www.cleveland.com)

The Plain Dealer: Friday, July 28, 2006 – The goal of longtime educator is turning out lovers of music. **Rose Breckenridge** pours her artistic passion into the Cleveland Orchestra’s Music Study Groups. The groups meet weekly at six locations during the Severance Hall season to explore works in the orchestra’s programs.

As chairwoman of the Music Study Groups since 1991, Breckenridge has developed a stellar reputation for her ability to communicate the essence of a composer’s creation.

She brings a long list of musical credentials to her job: bachelor of arts as a double major in piano and music history from Saint Xavier University in Chicago, her hometown; master of arts in music history from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL; and a doctorate degree in music from Case Western Reserve University.

She states: "I’m all about bringing the music alive so that the people who go to the concerts will have a more intense and meaningful aesthetic experience. It’s my life, and I love it."

Read more of the interview by Don Rosenberg of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, at [Cleveland.com](http://Cleveland.com).

**Jose Rodriguez** has been promoted to Assistant Principal at Curie High School in Chicago. He completed his MA in Administration at SXU following his graduation in Music Education from the Music Department. Congratulations Jose! Jose and wife Michelle Gliottoni-Rodriguez shared this great picture of their 14 month old son – Noah!



**Noah Rodriguez, future tenor?**

**Elaine Phillips '44** writes from St. Petersburg, FL:

“It’s been quite a few years since you and a fellow music professor (Prof. Morris) stopped by to see me...and each day I think of good ole St. Xavier College days when seated at my dining table and looking up at the lovely sketch montage of old and new St. Xavier you gave me...it helps to start out the day with happy thoughts...At my age now (85) life goes along with day to day actions and so far I sure have had to overcome some rare happenings.

Please keep stressing to your students how great it has been to have music a part of my life...I am still an avid listener, and have some 125 classical CDs of major concertos, symphonies and tone poems. (Elaine recently donated her opera collection to the St. Petersburg library.)



*Luke Switalski*

Just tell your students for me to enjoy their music and it will be something that will accompany them all through their lives.

**Linda Gervain's** daughter Beth is performing with Evanston Light Opera! Great article in the Chicago Tribune and also in the Beverly Review! I know Linda is proud!

**Phil and Amy Switalski** sent me pictures of their new little Luke Switalski - so I thought I should share! This is definitely a Smith-Switalski baby! Congratulations!

Here are a couple shots of the 2007 Marching Band in their new uniforms! They marched two separate shows this fall!



*Fall 2007 SXU Marching Band*



*Fall 2007 SXU Marching Band "before the game clowning!"*