2000s

**Sandra Abrevaya**, BFA ‘02 (theatre and drama), is currently working in Washington D.C. in the Capitol Building as press secretary for minority whip Senator Durbin.

**Alexandra (Malloy) Backus**, BFA ‘03 (theatre design and production), spent a season as an apprentice stage manager at the Geva Theatre in Rochester, NY. She recently received her equity card and is now the production stage manager for Iron Kisses, a world premiere play, at the Geva Theatre.

**Elliot Bergman**, BFA ‘04 (jazz studies), **Erik Hall**, BFA ‘04 (jazz studies), **Dan Piccolo**, BM ‘01 (percussion) and MM ‘06 (improvisation), **Olman Piedra**, MM ‘05 (percussion and improvisation), **Dan Bennett**, BFA ‘06 (jazz studies), **Justin Walter**, BFA ‘06 (jazz studies), and **Ingrid Racine**, BFA ‘04 (jazz studies), have been performing with the group NOMO since early 2003. NOMO has achieved significant regional success and international press and will release its second record, Newtones, on Ubiquity Records this spring. The record features performances by **Dean Moore II**, BFA ‘01 (jazz studies), **Chilali Hugo**, BM ‘02, MM ‘03 (harp), **Stephen Rush**, and famed Chicago flutist Nicole Mitchell. Following the release, they will embark on a two-month tour of the U.S. to promote the record. In addition to performing at concert venues around the Midwest regularly, NOMO has appeared at the Detroit Concert of Colors, the Chicago World Music Festival, the Springfield, IN, Hootenanny, and were featured at this year’s South by South West festival in Austin, TX. Please visit NOMO on the Web at www.nomomusic.com.

**Megan Besley**, DMA ‘05, MM ‘01 (voice), is currently a Young Artist with Florida Grand Opera in Miami where she sang the roles of Page (Rigoletto) and Frasquita (Carmen) on the main stage this spring. In February, Megan was a finalist in the Eleanor McCollum Competition at Houston Grand Opera. She returned to her hometown, Freeport, IL, in March to perform a recital for the Freeport Community Concert Series. Other recent engagements have included Mozart’s Exultate jubilate with the Palm Beach and Miami Symphony Orchestras, American Musical Theatre Concerts in Omaha, NE, and Vero Beach, FL, accompanied by Stewart Robertson, and art song recitals in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This summer she returns to Glimmerglass Opera for a third season where she will sing the role of Edith in The Pirates of Penzance, and perform an art song recital.

**Margo Brenner**, BFA ‘05 (theatre and drama directing), is currently working for The Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C., as the casting associate and production intern. She is also teaching theater and acting to students in grades 2-12 at Imagination Stage in Maryland.

**Heather Bryant**, BFA ‘02 (theatre design and production), is working as an assistant stage manager up and down the east coast with opera companies including Washington National Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Atlanta Opera, PORT Opera and New Jersey Opera Theatre. She is currently in her second season with Baltimore Opera Company.

**Alix Claps**, BTA ‘02 (theatre arts), is currently stage-managing The Red Box, a new play by Jason Mitchell, at Walkerspace in New York City. This past summer she stage-managed Beau Jest, The Lion in Winter, and My Way at Surlight Theatre, as well as The Last Five Years at MetroStage. Alix has also received her MA in English Literature from DePaul University and joined Actors’ Equity Association.

**Kate Conrad**, BTA ‘04 (theatre arts), lives a strangely charmed life in greater Washington, D.C. She makes her living coordinating continuing medical education programs for the American Society of Hematology, a non-profit medical association that helps hematologists conquer blood diseases.

**Emily Cornelius**, BTA ‘03 (theatre arts), is working as the casting director and literary manager for San Diego Repertory Theatre, a LORT D Theatre. In her spare time (when she finds some), she stage-manages, choreographs, works as dramaturg, and directs. The play she directed for The Fritz Blitz won for best new play.

**Kalena Dickerson**, BTA ‘03 (theatre arts) and BA ‘03 (dramatic writing and history), saw her play The Gunslinger (and a baby) produced in Chicago this summer by Breadline Theatre Group, and the musical Slide, for which she wrote the book, was recently produced by Tantalus Theatre Group. She currently works in development at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, and as a script reader for both the Goodman and Steppenwolf Theatre Company.
Amy Duffy, BTA ’05 (theatre arts), is the stage manager for The Second City Detroit.

Kate Eakin, BM ’04 (oboe), was awarded the position of oboe instructor, Edward Said National Conservatory of Palestine, Jerusalem.

Patrick K.A. Elkins, BFA ’01 (theatre design and production), graduated magna cum laude in 2004 from the University of Houston Law Center and served as the managing editor of the Houston Law Review. Patrick now practices civil litigation in Houston with the law firm of Edwards Burns & Krider LLP.

Brad Fraizer, BFA ’04 (theatre and drama), is working in New York City, currently employed by The Blue Man Group, and was in a production of The Maids and Deathwatch produced by Egress Theatre Company. Brad also was selected to work in the original staged reading of Ping Pong Diplomacy, produced by Reverie Productions, which is in an Off-Broadway run at 59E59 Theatre.

Leena Gilbert, MM ’05 (violin) and MM ’05 (improvisation), is now a member of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra for the 2005-2006 season. In addition, she is taking a stab at the freelance scene in New York City, where she now resides, and teaches privately and at the Bergen Academy of Music in NJ.

Alyson Grossman, BFA ’03 (theatre and drama), is working as an agent with Kazarian Spencer Associates in New York City.

Dorian Payton Hall, MM ’05 (voice), recently made his professional concert debut with the Illinois Symphony Chamber Orchestra in a performance of Fauré’s Requiem. In April, he will sing with Eastern Illinois Symphony as a soloist in Orff's Carmina Burana. Upcoming engagements include Brahms’ Requiem.

Mandy Heuermann, BFA ’04 (theatre design and production), is the Albert Theatre floor manager at The Goodman Theatre in Chicago for the 2005-06 season. She has recently worked as an assistant stage manager at the Spoleto Festival USA 2005 and at the Pine Mountain Music Festival in Houghton, MI.

Andrew Horowitz, BM ’05 (composition), and his group Tally Hall, in Ann Arbor for a sold-out show at the Blind Pig, were featured in The Ann Arbor News on February 5, 2006. A two-time Hopwood winner and double major in English and composition, Horowitz is keyboardist and percussionist for the group, which just released its first CD, Marvin’s Marvelous Mechanical Museum. The local press described the band as “quirky/groovy” while band mates describe their music as “wonky rock.” Musical influences mentioned in the article included “Bach to the Beatles and Brian Wilson, Motown to Eminem, Barenaked Ladies and even Queen meets Harry Belafonte.” The group was formed in 2002. The group’s name comes from a now-defunct mini-mall in Farmington Hills near where most of the band members grew up, except for Horowitz who grew up in New Jersey. Horowitz’s song for the group, Goodday, won a 2004 BMI Music Foundation John Lennon Scholarship Award and $10,000 prize. In March, Tally Hall appeared at the South by Southwest music showcase in Texas, attended by record producers and A&R staffers looking to sign up groups. Martin Bandyke, who is now the morning DJ on Ann Arbor’s radio station at 107.1 FM, named the band as one of three favorite up-and-comers. The rest of the band includes Rob Cantor, vocalist and guitarist, Ross Federman, drummer, Joe Hawley, vocalist and guitarist, and Zubin Sedghi, vocalist and bassist.

Leah M. (Richardson) Huber, BFA ’00 (theatre design and production), went on to earn her BS in nursing in 2004. Leah is now working as a pediatric nurse at Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Kelly Irwin, BFA ’02 (theatre design and production), just finished her sixth season on the stage management staff of Radio City Christmas Spectacular in Detroit. She is currently in her third year with Neil Goldberg’s Cirque, alternating between stage-managing and heading wardrobe. In May, Kelly will return for her second season as production stage manager for Light Opera Oklahoma with other School of Music alumni Eric Gibson (BM ’91), Ryan Palmer (BFA ’97), Daniel Neer (SM ’95), and Andrea Leap (MM ’98).

Benjamin Endsley Klein, BFA ’02 (theatre and drama), has been working on Broadway for the past two-and-a-half years as assistant director of

Dorian Payton Hall
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, directed by U-M alumnus Jack O’Brien (BA ’61, MA ’62), and will go on the first national tour of the production in August of 2006. He was recently selected by director Scott Elliott, from a field of nine young directors nominated by prominent members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, to receive the 2005-2006 Mike Ockrent Fellowship. The fellowship is designed to provide young directors the opportunity to develop professionally and artistically by assisting a mentor director in the creation of a Broadway production. Mr. Klein will be mentored by Mr. Elliott and assist him on his upcoming Broadway production of Barefoot in the Park. Following the Ockrent Fellowship project and his work with the Dirty Rotten Scoundrels National Tour, Benjamin will work once again with Jack O’Brien on the U.S. premiere of Tom Stoppard’s trilogy Coast of Utopia at Lincoln Center.

Josh Lefkowitz, BFA ’03 (theatre and drama), played The Dauphin in St. Joan at the Olney Theatre Center in Maryland, Marion Johnson in One Red Flower at Signature Theatre in Virginia, and recorded work for NPR’s All Things Considered. His solo piece, Help Wanted: A Personal Search for Meaningful Employment at the Start of the 21st Century, was performed at the Single File Festival in Chicago and is now at Dixon Place in New York City.

Zach Leland, BFA ’02 (theatre and drama), is working as an actor in Los Angeles. He recently filmed two national commercials for IBM and Sprint.

Caleb Levengood, BFA ’02 (theatre design and production), worked as a props artisan at Baltimore’s Center Stage for one season, before being accepted into the MFA design program at the University of California-San Diego, where he is in his final year.

Aubrey Levy, BFA ’04 (theatre and drama), is working in New York City where he trained and performed for several months in The Blue Man Group. He then played in the critically acclaimed production of Desert Sunrise at Theatre for a New City. He is currently working both in One Man’s War at the Triad Theatre and The Red Box, opening at Soho Repertory Theatre. Composer/Performer David T. Little, MM ’02 (composition), saw the premiere of his hour-long theatre work Soldier Songs, commissioned by the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, in July at the City Theatre in Pittsburgh. Utilizing footage taken by soldiers in Vietnam and Iraq and featuring interviews with veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq, the piece explores the dichotomy between the mythology and the reality of the soldier. Little also recently heard the world premiere of East Coast Attitude by the U-M Symphony Band under Michael Haithcock as part of the School of Music’s 125th Anniversary celebration.

Other recent performances include those by So Percussion, Tetras String Quartet, Dinosaur Annex, Non Zero, eighth blackbird, and the Grand Rapids Symphony, who gave ten performances of Little’s Screamer!, a “three-ring blur” for orchestra, in February 2006. Last November, Little, along with fellow composers Missy Mazzoli and Judd Greenstein, initiated Free Speech Zone (FSZ) Productions. A production company dedicated to advocating social change through interactive and engaging performances, FSZ took the show on tour, filling venues in New York, New Haven, and Boston. In March, FSZ was invited to speak on arts activism at Vanderbilt University as part of the Idealist.org National Conference. For more, go to www.fszproductions.com. Performing as a part of the Free Speech Zone Tour was Little’s newly re-formed ensemble Newspeak. Founded in 2001 as an improvisation-based trio (with Regina Sadowski and Jason Stein), Newspeak was re-organized in 2005 as a New York-based amplified octet, featuring some of the best young musicians from around the city, including U-M alum Jordan Shapiro (BFA ’99, jazz studies). (see www.newspeakmusic.org). Remaining active as a performer, Little plays with The Motion Sick which was chosen as band of the day on Spin.com (www.themotionsick.com).

Marguerite Maiville, BA ’04 (theatre and drama), is working at Walt Disney World Resort giving ten to fifteen safari shows a day as well as guiding Safari Magical Gathering, a Disney World Special Event.

Adrienne Malley, BM ’02 (oboe), performed with New World Symphony Orchestra, Miami, FL, for several weeks.

Melissa Mallinson, BDA ’01 (dance), continues dancing and choreographing professionally in Chicago. She currently works with many freelance artists and companies such as Marquez Dance Project, TJ&Co, and Perceptual Motion. In January 2006 she premiered a new trio A Goddess’ Robe is Seamless in the Rebound Dance Festival. Melissa is also on staff
at the renowned Old Town School of Folk Music.

**Lauren Molina**, BFA ’03 (musical theatre), is currently playing the role of Johanna in the new Broadway production of *Sweeney Todd*. In British director John Doyle’s production at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre, characters are required not just to act and sing, but to play an instrument as well. Laura began training on the cello in the fifth grade, a skill that proved propitious in landing the role. Laura shares the stage with fellow Michigan alum **Alex Gemignani** (BFA ’01), who portrays the Beadle and also plays the trumpet.

**Nicholas Phan**, BM ’01 (voice), will make his New York City Opera debut in April singing the role of Damon in Handel’s *Acis & Galatea* and make his European debut singing the role of Fracasso in Mozart’s *La finta semplice* with Opera Frankfurt in June. Earlier this season, he performed the role of Lindoro in *L’italiana in Algieri* with both Opera Pacific and Arizona Opera and appeared in concert with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and the Pacific Symphony. He also appeared in recital with **Shannon McGinnis** (DMA ’04, piano accompanying and chamber music), at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO.

**Christopher Shand**, BFA ’05 (theatre performance), worked on an NBC pilot with Paul Haggis, director of *Million Dollar Baby* and *Crash*, and has acted in two episodes of *Law and Order: SVU*. He will appear in the new Robert DeNiro movie, *The Good Shepard*, opening in December, and has filmed two commercials, including one playing nationally for Champs. Chris is signed with the Endeavor Agency and his manager is One Entertainment.

**Michelle Sherry**, BFA ’03 (theatre design & production), is the assistant master electrician for the National Tour of *Dora the Explorer*. Prior to *Dora*, she was the assistant electrician for the *Blues Clues* national tour. She has been the assistant production manager for the Sphinx Foundation annual competition for three years.

**Melissa Spengler**, BFA ’01 (theatre and drama), is working as a freelance stage manager in New York City after three years in regional theater. Melissa has worked with Classic Stage Company, Reverie Productions, New York Music Theatre Festival, Center Stage in Baltimore, Hartford Stage Company, and Weston Playhouse. She has also venue-managed at Olympus Fashion Week in Bryant Park, NY.

**Katryna Tan**, MM ’02 (harp), received the 2005 Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council of Singapore in the category of performing arts for her contributions in harp to the country. Introduced in 1992, the award is earmarked for artists 35 or younger who have shown particular artistic promise in the areas of film, literary arts, performing arts, or visual arts. Bestowed on 71 artists to date, the Young Artist Award provides a grant to be used for projects or study.

**Heather Chockley Ward**, BFA ’01 (theatre design and production), is currently the props master for the national tour of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She spent most of last year in Asia working on an international tour of *The Sound of Music*.

**Erin A. Whipkey**, BFA ’05 (theatre design and production), has been working around the country with Light Opera Oklahoma, Tri-State Actors Theatre, and the Detroit Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. She is currently working as assistant stage manager for *Harvey* with Cedar Creek Repertory and will move to East Haddam, CT, later this year to begin work at the Goodspeed Opera House. The September after graduation, **Noella Yan**, MM ’05 (cello performance and chamber music), married and settled down in Melbourne, Australia where her husband currently lectures and researches in micro/nanophysics at Monash University. Noella continues to enjoy performing, working with kids and teaching actively. In October 2005, she was invited as one of two Singaporean representatives at the Asean-Republic of Korea Workshop where she was invited to tutor and perform with them. In November 2005, she made her debut of the Shostakovich.
ich Cello Concerto in Seoul with the Hankook Symphony Orchestra. Since moving to Melbourne, she has been invited to join the faculty of teachers at the School of Christian Performing Arts. She continues to commute between Melbourne and Singapore for recitals and workshops. She has also been invited to perform a cello recital in Dorset, UK, this May 2006.

1990s

**Becky Baeling**, BFA ’99 (voice and musical theatre), has moved to Los Angeles from New York as her career as a recording artist with Universal Records takes off (#1 and #3 on the Billboard Dance charts and Best New Artist at the International Dance Music Awards). She guest starred on UPN’s *All of Us* late last year and is currently hosting the new music TV show on DirecTV, *CD:USA*. “This is the stateside version of *CD:UK,*” Baeling writes, “which has been the number one music show overseas for seven years. It features seven live performances every week, in the studio, with interviews and backstage access into the music industry.” Since hosting the show she has interviewed Clive Davis, Jamie Foxx, Black Eyed Peas, Alicia Keys, Ashlee Simpson, Kelly Clarkson, Coldplay, Mary J. Blige, Pussycat Dolls, Jewel, Mariah Carey, and more. For more information, visit cdusa.com. Becky will also be releasing her sophomore album (following *Becestasy*, her first) before the end of 2006.

**Mary Beth Barber**, BA ’91 (playwriting), is communications director of the California Arts Council and co-author of the recently published *Acting: Advanced Techniques for the Actor, Director, and Teacher*, with Terry Schreiber (foreword by actor Edward Norton). She was also part of the event-planning team for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger prior to joining the California Arts Council. Mary Beth started out as a political journalist and was a freelance communications and public relations expert for over a decade in New York and California, specializing in e-commerce, major event production, direct marketing, outdoor events, and public-value campaigns. While active in journalism and public relations, her artistic specialty and passion remains theater and film. As an actress, she has been seen on stages in Sacramento, San Francisco, and New York. Her play *Minha Rosa* was presented at the New York International Fringe Festival in 1999. She was also a guest speaker for the Sacramento Film and Music Festival in August 2005 on the topic of directing actors. Her shorter plays have been read and staged in New York and California.

**Jonathan Berry**, BFA ’97 (theatre performance), will complete his MFA in directing at Northwestern University in June of this year. His directing work at Northwestern includes *Mud* by Maria Irene Fornes, *Wintertime*, by Charles Mee, Chekhov’s *Three Sisters*, and an upcoming thesis production of Leonard Bernstein’s *Candide*. He continues as associate artistic director of the Griffin Theater in Chicago where he recently directed a critically acclaimed production of William Inge’s *Picnic* and J B Priestley’s *Time and the Conways*.

**Gabrielle Brechner**, BFA ’98 (theater) has been the general manager since 2001 of the BB King Blues Club, a 1,000+ capacity music venue in Times Square. In addition, she is also a founding member of Wakka Wakka Productions, Inc, a non-profit Lecoq-based company which has created, produced, and performed original works in and around New York City since 2003, including *Fattie & Skinny Show! and Beer and Puppet: the Untold Story of Monkey*, both off-off Broadway. The production company just finished its first film, *The Birdman*, and has received overwhelming public funding for their upcoming May production of an original grotesque puppet-based piece, *The Death of Little Ibsen*, which will run at the Sanford Meisner Theatre in May. Wakka Wakka also has a children’s company, The 42nd Street Puppets, which has been performing *Erik the Amazing and the Shallaballah* at various venues around NYC since March of 2005 and has been seen on CBS News and NY1 News and mentioned in *The New York Times*. www.wakkawakka.com; www.42ndstreetpuppets.com.

**Mark Broomfield**, MFA ’96 (dance), is currently in his second year as a doctoral student at the University of California-Riverside Department of Dance History and Theory. He spent last summer in New York on a research grant awarded from the university to interview Robert Tracy, archivist at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.
and author of several books, in addition to many dancers of the company in their new home in New York. In Spring 2006, he will co-chair the annual interdisciplinary graduate conference called Dancing Under Construction being held at UC-Riverside. This year’s theme, “Breaking It Down,” will feature keynote speaker André Lepecki from NYU’s Department of Performance Studies. He has also been commissioned to create a new dance piece for Cypress College as guest choreographer, and still maintains a focus on developing his own choreography in a new work called Dance of the Male Goddess, to be performed this spring.

**Jonathan Donahue**, BFA ’97 (theatre and drama), continues to work as a stage manager in New York City. He recently served as assistant stage manager on the Broadway productions of Twelve Angry Men and The Constant Wife, the latter starring Kate Burton and Lynn Redgrave. This spring, he is assistant stage manager for the Primary Stages production of A Safe Harbor For Elizabeth Bishop, starring Amy Irving.

**Ingrid Eggertsen**, BFA ’96 (theatre performance), played the role of Artsy Woman in Quinceañera, a full-length film written and directed by Wash Westmoreland and Richard Glatzer and shown at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival in January. A quinceañera is a Mexican rite-of-passage marking a girl’s fifteenth birthday. The movie explores life in the main character’s Echo Park neighborhood in Los Angeles, creating a “tender portrait of a changing world” [John Cooper, Sundance reviewer]. The film won two major awards at Sundance: the grand jury prize, and the audience award for drama. In the meantime, Eggertsen has also appeared on Style Network’s What Should You Do? Ingrid now lives in Los Angeles and works for a talent management company.

**Alex Farino**, BA ’90 (theatre), has been production stage manager at the Minnesota Opera in Minneapolis for the past ten years. Before settling in Minnesota, he freelanced as stage manager for Seattle Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Dallas Opera, San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera, Opera Pacific, Los Angeles Opera, Opera Carolina, and for six summers at Glimmerglass, working each of those summers with Mark Lamos.

**Alexander Frey**, ’90 (organ), was invited to conduct the official orchestral concert in Prague in celebration of Mozart’s 250th birthday. The sold-out performance took place on the actual day of Mozart’s birth and was held in the Rudolfinum, the city’s main concert hall which is also the home of the Czech Philharmonic. The orchestra was the Stern Chamber Orchestra, one of the Czech Republic’s finest, and the soloist was Christiane Engel, who, in addition to being a great pianist, is also the granddaughter of Albert Schweitzer. They were very close and Christiane followed in her grandfather’s footsteps, becoming a full-time physician with a practice in Los Angeles. She also somehow found time to record and perform all of the Mozart piano concerti. Writes Frey, “She is an amazing person, a great musician and a wonderful colleague. She also is a great deal of fun to be with. The orchestra played absolutely beautifully and Christiane played gorgeously. It was a fantastic evening and I felt very blessed to be conducting this great music in the city where Mozart had worked. My hotel was a half a block away and on the same street as the theater in which Mozart conducted Don Giovanni.” The program included the overture to the Marriage of Figaro, the piano concerto in D-minor, symphony #25 in G-minor, and the piano concerto in B-flat major.

**Stephanie Glickman**, BDA ’97 (dance), has been living in Melbourne, Australia since late 1997 where she works as the dance critic for The Herald Sun, one of Melbourne’s two daily newspapers. She writes about contemporary dance, circus, and physical theater. Stephanie sits on the board of Ausdance Victoria, a peak government body for dance in Australia. She just finished a stint as a tutor in a dance course at the University of Melbourne, where, in 2000, she completed an MA in cultural studies doing research on contemporary Australian choreographers. She has taken this research to conferences in Singapore and Malaysia. Her ‘day job’ is as a pilates instructor; she just opened her own studio, armaturepilates (www.armaturepilates.com). While no longer working on contemporary dance, Stephanie and her partner train seriously in salsa and have
been selected to perform at the West Coast Salsa Congress in Los Angeles in May. Three years ago, Stephanie married an Australian sculptor named Michael who is helping her run the pilates studio. She can be reached at s_glickman@hotmail.com.

In November, Damon Gupton, BM '94 (music education and trombone), had the pleasure of conducting members of the Juilliard Orchestra along with Grammy winners Herbie Hancock and Marcus Miller in the AVANTI project at Jazz at Lincoln Center. The project was conceived by fellow alum, tenor Ken Hicks (MM '74), and combined classical arias and gospel with orchestra and jazz ensemble, led by Marcus Miller. In December, he guest conducted the New York University Orchestra in a program that included Verdi's Nabucco Overture, the Mendelssohn G minor piano concerto, Andrew Beall's Testament for Marimba and Orchestra, and Tchaikovsky's fourth symphony. It all went very well and Damon was approached about handling orchestra activities full time for the Steinhardt School at NYU. Also in December, he was guest conductor for four concerts with the Toledo Symphony. Damon is currently filming episodes of Law and Order and the new NBC television show Conviction, both from Dick Wolf.

Gregory Hamilton, MA '90 (musicology) and DMA '01 (organ), is now living in Houston, TX, working as Music Director of St. Theresa’s Catholic Church. He directs a handful of choirs, including a schola dedicated to the performance, revival, and dissemination of Gregorian chant. The choirs of St. Theresa have presented a number of major works with orchestra, including the Vivaldi Gloria, and the Fauré Requiem, along with works by Mozart, Bruckner, and several of Dr. Hamilton’s recent choral works. Hamilton and the parish will be installing a new 51-rank Aeolian-Skinner/Quimby pipe organ (designed by Hamilton and the Quimby organ company) in December 2007. He continues his compositional activities, with his organ, choral, and chamber music published by CanticaNova, Augsburg Fortress, MorningStar Music, and others. His Breath of the Spirit, a work for organ, flute, and narration, with poetry by Kenneth Gaertner, was commissioned by Duo Pnuema and features Marilyn Mason, organ, and Donald Fishel, flute. The work has been performed numerous times throughout the U.S., France (Notre Dame de Paris, Festival Toussaint), and at the church of St. Augustine. Other performance venues include Lisbon, Brussels, and the U-M organ conference in Ann Arbor on October 1, 2006. Several other premieres took place during 2005, including Hymn of Peace for piano and cello, premiered by Eastern Michigan University faculty member Diane Winder at the Eastern Michigan New Music Festival. His Concerto for Cello and Orchestra was also premiered by Dr. Winder with the Ypsilanti Symphony in October 2005. A new piano piece, Icon of the Nativity, was premiered in Ann Arbor in September 2005, and Romance for Harp was premiered by concert harpist Joanna Elliot in Houston. A new CD featuring chamber music by Hamilton will be forthcoming on the RosaMystica label and will feature a number of new works, including Fantasy-Variations on a Theme of Schubert for flute, violin, viola, and cello. Dr. Hamilton invites you to visit his website at www.GregoryHamilton.org.

Chris Jamros, BFA ’99 (theatre design and production), is currently a stage manager for Wicked on Broadway. He is also working in print and broadcast design while pursuing a master’s degree in digital imaging and design at NYU.

Deborah Keller, BFA ’95 (theatre performance), has lived in New York City for the past ten years. She received an MFA from New York University under Ron Van Lieu and Zelda Fischandler. She has been working at “creating an actor’s life in the East Village” through a variety of activities: writing, acting, and producing shows, doing voice-overs and commercials, acting as production assistant on films and commercials, doing stunt work, and choreographing stage combat and teaching it with Steve White and Rick Sordelet. She is also involved with the NYU Alumni Lab Groups as a “brain-storming member.” She is currently a member of the cast of Unspeakable, an acclaimed NYC Fringe Show directed by Rod Gailes, a “dramatic fantasia” about the life of Richard Pryor. She returned to Michigan for a while to train with Detroit’s Kids Kicking Cancer program, a foundation that works with terminally ill children through the use of martial arts. Deborah is a 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Once training is finished, she plans to return to NYC.

Mina Kinukawa, BFA ’99 (theatre design and production), has worked for the Denver Center Theatre/Royal Shakespeare Company’s production of
Tantalus as the assistant scenic designer. Since completing her MFA in design at the University of California-San Diego, she is living in LA where she works as a production designer and art director on independent films and music videos.

**Greta (Schnurstein) Kolcon**, BA ’90 (theatre and drama), is a partner in the law firm of Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP in Rochester, NY, where her practice focuses on litigation and dispute resolution (see www.woodsoviatt.com). Greta and her husband **Jeff Kolcon** (BA ’90, theatre and drama), have two children, Maggie, 10, and Adam, 5.

**Kevin Judge**, BFA ’99 (theatre design and production), taught for one year in the undergraduate program in theater design at University of California-San Diego, after completing his MFA in design there. Currently he works as a full-time design assistant in New York City.

**Ann Kessler**, MFA ’93 (theater and drama), is Assistant Professor of Costume Design at Valparaiso University, where she has taught since 1996. She teaches costume, makeup, and design for the stage and is resident costume designer and costume shop manager. She is an award-winning designer who has created costumes for European Repertory Company and the Shattered Globe Theatre, both in Chicago, Oakland University, Moorhead State, Flint Youth Ballet, and the Flint School of Performing Arts.

**Robert Knopf**, Ph.D. ’96 (theatre), published two books over the past year: *The Director as Collaborator* (Allyn & Bacon) and *Theater and Film* (Yale). He’s currently Chair and Professor of Theatre & Dance at University at Buffalo and will be directing *Loot* at the Irish Classical Theatre Company this spring.

**James Lee III**, BM ’99 (piano) and MM ’01 and DMA ’05 (composition), who teaches theory at Morgan State University in Maryland, recently met with Leonard Slatkin, conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. His dissertation, *Beyond Rivers of Vision*, will receive its world premiere with the NSO on October 19-21, 2006 in the concert hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For further information, please visit the Kennedy Center Web site at www.kennedy-center.org/nso and look for the 2006-2007 Classical Concert Series.

**Katie Marchyok**, BFA ’99 (theater design and production), recently graduated from Boston University with a master of science in arts administration. During her graduate studies, she interned with the Museum of Fine Arts in the department of strategic research & analysis. Currently Katie works at the Boston University School of Medicine and will begin law school this fall in Boston or Washington, D.C., to pursue a career in public interest law.

**Aimee McDonald**, BFA ’96 (dance), is Artistic Director of Terpsichore’s Kitchen Dance Theatre, and produces the annual showcase of independent choreographers’ work, Dancing in Summer, in Ann Arbor. Among other projects, she has presented work in Edinburgh, Scotland, and in Montréal. While primarily focused on choreography, she has continued to perform for various choreographers including Christina Sears-Etter, Whitley Setrakian, Lourdes Bastos, Beth Wielinski, and Gay Delanghe. In recovering from dance injuries, she began training in pilates which then led to a passion for gyrotonic. In 1999 she opened The Movement Center in Ann Arbor where she still teaches pilates, gyrotonic, and gyrokinesis. Upcoming plans include projects in New York and Avignon, France.

**Ryan Palmer**, BFA ’97 (theatre design and production), is working at MTV as a designer and art director for their special events department. Most recently he was the art director for the new MHD Studio in Vail, CO. MHD
is MTV’s new high definition cable station. The project is featured in the February 2006 issue of Live Design (formerly Entertainment Design). Described by The Boston Globe as “charismatic and clearly gifted”, Scott Parkman, BM ’95 (percussion), is completing his third year as Assistant Conductor of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra (SLSO) and as Music Director of the Saint Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra (SLSYO). In celebration of the milestone 35th anniversary of the SLSYO, Parkman shared the podium with conductors Nicholas McGegan and SLSO music director David Robertson; presented a 35th anniversary world premiere, Fêtes and Fireworks, by American composer Robert Pound, and the world premiere of his own work, Untitled (2006), for orchestra; a collaboration with internationally acclaimed soprano, Christine Brewer; and performed at Missouri’s state capitol as part of the Missouri Citizens for the Arts Day. He also performs regularly with the SLSO in all education, family, and run-out concerts. Parkman held positions with the Minnesota Orchestra, Oakland East Bay Symphony, and Oakland Youth Orchestra prior to his appointment in Saint Louis. Following a recent performance of Bruckner’s Fourth Symphony with the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the San Francisco Classical Voice wrote, “Scott Parkman ... allowed [the] performance to evolve with a surety that one associates with mature Brucknerians. This performance ... stressed other worldliness.” In the Bay Area, he regularly conducted the Festival Opera of Walnut Creek, including performances of Le Nozze di Figaro and premiere productions of L’Elisir d’Amore and Aida, as well as performances with the Sacramento and Palo Alto Philharmonic Orchestras. Nationally recognized as an educator, Parkman has led the U-M All-State Orchestra at Interlochen, and, in 2006, will lead all-state orchestras in Florida and Texas. Additionally, he has conducted music clinics and performances at Truman State University, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Dickinson College, and is regularly invited to appear in primary and secondary school music classrooms. Mr. Parkman is a committed advocate for arts education, working personally with local, state and national leaders to promote greater inclusion of the arts in public school education.

Mary Resing, Ph.D. ’97 (theater), recently dramaturged two wildly different world premieres at Washington, D.C.’s Woolly Mammoth Theatre: Grace, by Craig Wright, and Big Death and Little Death, by Mickey Birnbaum. She was awarded a 2005 Offstage Honors Award by the League of Washington Theatres for her work at Woolly Mammoth. Dr. Resing serves on the artistic advisory board of the Emigrant Theatre in Minneapolis and as a panelist for both the Prince Georges County Arts Council and the Theatre Communications Group. In June she organized and chaired a panel on institutional dramaturgy for the conference of the International Federation of Theatre Researchers (Robyn Quick, Ph.D. ’99, was a panelist). She is currently a Fulbright Scholar to Armenia, working on an international marketing/institutional dramaturgy project.

Erin J. Riggs, BTA ’99 (theatre arts), has stage-managed or assisted on Broadway for The Producers, A Christmas Carol, and Carnivale, on the National Tour of Movin’ Out, Off Broadway for De La Guarda, Boy, and My Old Lady, in Regional Theatre for North Carolina Theatre, Opera Illinois, Skylight Opera Theatre, and Peterborough Players, and in Opera for Sarasota Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Yale Opera. She has worked in various capacities for Radio City Music Hall, Spoleto Festival U.S.A., AWA, the Ring of Steel, and the Michigan Theater Foundation.

Maria Sampen, BM ’97, DMA ’02 (violin), is in her fourth year as Assistant Professor of Violin and Chair of the String Department at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. In August 2005 she received the university’s Thomas A. Davis Teaching Award for excellence in university teaching. In addition to maintaining a studio of twenty-five violinists, Maria continues to travel throughout the country as a soloist and chamber musician. 2005 concerts included performances in Washington, Oregon, Maine, Michigan, Ohio, New York, and Ontario, Canada. Along with fellow University of Michigan grads Katri Ervamaa
Maria performs as violinist with the Brave New Works Ensemble (www.braveworks.org). Over the past three years, the ensemble, dedicated to the promotion and performance of new music, has given concerts and held residencies throughout the United States and Canada. The group has commissioned and premiered dozens of works showcasing its unique instrumentation of string quartet, piano, clarinet, flute, harp, and voice. Brave New Works made its New York City debut in March 2006 as the guest ensemble of the International Society for Contemporary Music. The group plans to release their first CD in the coming year. Maria and her husband, Tim Christie (BM ’98, MM ’01), are expecting their first child in April of this year.

Laura Schnitker, BM ’98 (clarinet), is currently pursuing a doctorate in ethnomusicology at the University of Maryland. She earned her master’s in ethnomusicology from Tufts University in 2004. While at Tufts, she received a grant to conduct research in St. Helena, SC, for her master’s thesis on Gullah music and cultural preservation. Laura has presented papers at the Boston Area Graduate Symposium, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, and most recently at the Society for Ethnomusicology’s 50th annual conference in Atlanta. She also hosts a radio show featuring American music on WMUC, and works as an archivist at the Library of American Broadcasting.

Samantha Shelton, MFA ’94 (dance), will spend her ninth summer on the ballet faculty for the American Ballet Theatre Summer Intensive in Detroit. In addition to teaching technique, pointe, and variations, she will be setting a piece from ABT’s classical repertoire and choreographing an original work for the final performance at the Detroit Opera House.

Miriam Shor, BFA ’93 (theatre performance), is appearing in a new play at New York City’s Daryl Roth Theater. A romantic comedy by John Cariani, Almost Maine uses four actors to portray nearly twenty different roles in a series of two-character scenes. Comprised of a collection of loosely linked stories, the play looks at love and heartbreak in a remote northern town—the playwright grew up in rural Maine. Gabriel Barre directs.

Rebecca Shubart, BFA ’92 (dance), is still out on the road as the performance director for Sesame Street Live, Elmo’s Coloring Book.

Mandy Siegfried, BFA ’94 (theatre and drama), performed on Broadway in Noises Off at the Brooks Atkinson Theater and Off Broadway in Adam Rapp’s Blackbird at The Edge Theater Company. Other Off-Broadway appearances include The Minneola Twins (Roundabout/Outer Critics Circle nomination for featured actress), Refuge (Playwrights Horizons), Stupid Kids (WPA/Century Theater), and Anne Frank and Me at American Jewish Theater. Mandy has also worked at the O’Neill Playwrights Conference, South Coast Repertory, and L.A. Theaterworks. Film appearances include School of Rock, Two Weeks Notice, St. Andrews Girls, Liberty, Maine and The Out-of-Towners.

Darryl Taylor, MM ’91, DMA ’95 (voice), saw the February 2006 release of his new CD, Poetry Preludes: Music of Richard Thompson, with fellow U-M alum Louise Toppin. Fields of Wonder: Songs and Spirituals of Robert Owens, Robert Owens, piano, with string orchestra, is forthcoming this fall. Both are on the Videmus/Albany Records label. Taylor is co-director for vocal arts at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts at The University of California in Irvine (UCI). He performed at the African American Music Festival in October 2005 at UCLA, along with George Duke, Patti Austin, and Kenny Burrell; for Sundays Live, broadcast live from the Los Angeles County Museum, in February 2006; at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA, in late February; at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on their Millennium Stage, and for Aaron Davis Hall’s International Series in New York City, both in March. He will perform in the Songs Across the Americas Festival in Conway, AR, May
14-20. He performed to the choreography of dance legend Donald McKayle at UCI Dance Visions in February and will perform at the Paris Conservatoire de Musique May 1-8, 2006. His organization, the African American Art Song Alliance, turns ten in 2007. He will convene a conference on African American Art Song at UCI on February 11-14, 2007, which will feature performances from international caliber singers, lectures, master classes, panel discussions, and paper presentations.

**Louise Toppin**, DMA ’90 (voice), presented a concert of Art Songs for the 21st Century on March 24 at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York as a tribute to the late tenor William Brown whose notable career focused mainly on recital and concert performance and who left an impressive discography of new works written for his voice and artistic skills. Toppin was accompanied by Joseph Joubert, Ann Sears, and violinist Sanford Allen. The program included a tribute to Brown of works composed in his honor, among them Aspects of Bill by William Banfield (DMA ’92, composition). Other works were composed by Gary Smart, Adolphus Hailstork, Olly Wilson, Julius Williams, Leroy Jenkins, T. J. Anderson, Alvin Singleton, Donal Fox, and Dwight Andrews, many of whom have Michigan connections.

**1980s**

**Siobhan Archard**, MFA ’84 (technical theatre and theatre design), is living in St. Petersburg, FL. After leaving Michigan, she taught technical theater at Eckerd College for four years and has been acting department chair of the Technical Theatre Department and teaching design classes at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts magnet school. She recently designed the high school version of Les Misérables after getting the back stage tour in New York City. Along with teaching, she is a construction consultant for a new $54 million campus & theater complex at Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg.

**Eric Barnes**, BM ’85 (education-choral/piano), has been assistant artistic director of Seattle Men’s Chorus since 2000. His ensemble, Captain Smartypants (part of the SMC family), has warmed up for Margaret Cho and Lea Delaria and has performed with Megan Mullally, Kristin Chenoweth, Ann Wilson (of Heart and the Lovemongers), and Melissa Manchester. Their CDs UnderCover and Fruit of the Month Club can be found on iTunes. Eric’s musical show Fairy Tales played off-Broadway after several successful runs in Chicago, and has gone on to successful runs in many American cities as well as a stint in London’s West End. His children’s show based on Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel completed a successful two-year national tour out of TheatreWorksUSA in New York City. Eric continues to write commissions for various choral groups across the country and the world. His newest show The Stops opens in Richmond, VA, in the spring of 2006. Eric lives with his partner Paul and their dog Andy.

**John C. Fluker**, BM ’84 (music theory/piano), is currently the musical director for Gladys Knight. John has traveled extensively throughout the world with the renowned vocalist as her pianist, including Oslo, Norway, for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony. On the 2006 Grammy-nominated One Voice: Gladys Knight & the Saints Unified Voices CD John sings the duet Did You Know with Gladys Knight and shares co-arrangement credit for all songs performed. John recently released an ambient instrumental piano CD entitled The Sound of Peace. Sample clips are available on his Web site: www.johnfluker.com.

**Catherine Gorder-Seifert**, MA ’86, Ph.D. ’94 (musicology), musicologist, harpsichordist, and Associate Professor of Music at Providence College, was awarded the 2005 American Musicological Society Noah Greenberg Award. The Award was established by the trustees of the New York Pro Musica Antiqua “to stimulate active cooperation between scholars and performers by recognizing and fostering outstanding contributions to historical performing practices.” With financial support from the award, Dr. Gorder-
Seifert will publish a commercial CD entitled *The Lyric Art of Bénigne de Bacilly: From Drinking Songs to Spiritual Airs*, featuring Swedish-born soprano Elisabeth Belgrano, lutenist, theorist, and guitarist Stephen Stubbs, and keyboardist Catherine Gorder-Seifert. The CD is the first recording of compositions by Bénigne de Bacilly, 17th-century French composer and theorist. It will also include a booklet, written by Gorder-Seifert, with specific instructions on Baroque performance practices related to the airs recorded on the CD. The Pasadena POPS Orchestra has announced the appointment of John Hancock, DMA ’83 (French horn), as executive director. Hancock was most recently vice president and chief operating officer of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, prior to which he spent five years as executive director of the Spokane Symphony. From 1980 to 1999, Hancock played French horn in the Toledo Symphony, where he also served as operations and personnel manager and director of concert production and grants. In addition to music degrees from the University of Michigan, Boston University, and Simpson College, Hancock’s educational credentials include the Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business.

Pauline Martin, DMA ’82 (piano), continues as assistant professor of piano at Michigan State University, where she headed the piano pedagogy program for the 2005-2006 academic year. Highlights of recent seasons include her April 2005 performance at the Max M. Fisher Center in Detroit with Canadian virtuoso violinist James Ehnes, and performances of works by U-M composer Susan Botti (with Botti, soprano) and the Detroit-born composer Paul Schoenfield with the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings. She was the featured soloist in the Fauré Bal-lade with Orchestra London Canada, Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Michigan Pops Orchestra, the Ravel Concerto with the Warren Symphony, Rachmaninov’s 2nd Concerto with the Alma Symphony and the Gershwin Concerto with the International Symphony. As pianist of the St. Clair Trio (with violinist Geoffrey Applegate and cellist Marcy Chanteaux) and the newly formed Duo Vivant (with pianist Miori Koga), Martin appeared in recital throughout Michigan and Ontario. Further collaborations with violinists Paul Kantor, Emmanuelle Boisvert, Kimberley Kolyanades, and Adrienne Jacobs, violists Robert Dan and James Van Valkenburg, and cellists Robert deMaine, Suren Bagratuni, and Debra Fayroyian have filled out a busy concert schedule. She will record James Hartway’s *Three Myths* in May, having performed the piece at the 2005 Michigan Composers concert at Oakland University. Martin was the featured artist-teacher profiled in the June 2005 issue of the national Korean publication, *Piano Music Magazine*. She served as artist performer, judge, and clinician at the 2005 South Dakota Music Teachers’ Association State Convention and Competitions and, in 2006, judged the Music Teachers National Association East-Central Division finals of Artist Level Chamber Music at Ball State University and the Michigan Music Teachers Association State Concerto Competitions at Michigan State University. In February, she performed and presented master classes for the Gilmore KeysFest in Kalamazoo and the Livonia Area Piano Teachers’ Forum. She was guest lecturer to composition students at Oakland University, Michigan State University’s Journalism Department, and to the East Side Pianists Round Table in Detroit, and judged the Windsor International School’s Piano Competition, the John Irwin Piano Competition at Central Michigan University and the Ohio Music Teachers Association “Buckeye” auditions at Bowling Green University. She is chair of the MMTA State Junior Competitions.

William Neil, DMA ’86 (composition), saw his commissioned work, *Sleep, The Room and Seven Poems*, premiered by the renowned Duo Sereno, Robert Nathanson, guitar and Nancy King, soprano. The new work, a setting of poems by the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Mark Strand, premiered in a live broadcast over the NPR affiliate network in Honolulu, HI, in March. Neil and Strand met while they both were in residence in Rome at the American Academy in
the 1980’s. Neil has also set Strand’s poem, From a Litany, in another commissioned piece for a cappella chorus. The Ridgetones will premiere the work in May at the Temple Theatre, Viroqua, WI. TheComposerStudio.Com, LLC has also been collaborating with the virtuoso jazz musician, Tom Gullion, in a series of jazz concert performances entitled Project Fourth Stream. Their music is an aggressive blend of contemporary classical and jazz improvisation. Project Fourth Stream performed at the The Flame of Hope Foundation Disaster Relief Benefit Concert in La Crosse in January.

**Suzanne Sheppard**, MM ’85 (composition), DMA candidate ’91, released her debut, solo piano CD, On Dove’s Wings, in August 2004. This relaxing CD features Suzanne’s arrangements of familiar favorites along with two originals. The CD appears on her new Web site, www.suzannesheppard.com, where visitors may listen to sound samples. Linked to this site is her own page at CD Baby (cdbaby.com/suzannesheppard) where visitors may listen to additional sound samples and purchase the CD if they so desire. Suzanne invites all of her classmates, friends, and professors to visit her site and say hello.

**Kate Trevino**, BDA ’89 (dance), is living in Los Angeles where she works as director of publicity for Crossroads Films (www.crossroadsfilms.com). She is expecting a third child, a son, due in June; her daughter, Ivy, will be eight in March, and her son, Alexander, turns six in May. Trevino writes that she is “tremendously saddened to hear that the FABULOUS Gay Delanghe is planning to retire. She was a major inspiration to me (and to so many others) and an absolutely marvelous teacher—one of a kind. I hate to think of the school without her there, but I wish her all the very best for a fabulous retirement.”

**Joseph Urla**, BA ’80 (theatre), participated in his 11th summer at the National Theater Conference under new Artistic Director and U-M alumna Wendy Goldberg (BA ’95, theater and drama) playing the lead in work by Lee Blessing. He continues to live and work in New York, teaching acting at the National Theatre Institute.

**Jeffrey Work**, MM ’89 (trumpet performance), has been selected as the new principal trumpet of the Oregon Symphony in Portland. His duties will begin in August 2006.

**1970s**

**Donna Coleman**, MM ’75 (piano), who studied with Gyorgy Sandor and Charles Fisher, is head of keyboards in the School of Music Victorian College of the Arts of the University of Melbourne and is co-principal of L’Accademia Pianistica Internazionale “Ferruccio Busoni” in Bologna (San Lazzaro), Italy, where she gives summer master classes. Ms. Coleman has achieved worldwide recognition for her recordings and performances of the music of the twentieth centuries. She received the French press Diapason d’Or for her Etcetera recording of Charles Ives’s Concord Sonata and Soundscape’s Editor’s Choice for her first ABC Classics disc, Rags to Riches: A Syncopated Century. Rags to Riches: Havana to Harlem, Volume II in the same series, was released in July 2005 and is available from Amazon.com. Among her numerous prizes are the Solo Recitalist Fellowship from the United States Information Agency, three Rockefeller Foundation grants for touring in the U.S., and a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award that funded her first residency in Australia in 1992. The Celestial Railroad Tours, featuring her eclectic repertory encompass
Alumni News

Linda L. Gardner, MM ’77 (organ performance), retired from teaching in 2001 from the Cleveland (OH) Public Schools. She continues as organist at the United Methodist Church of Berea-Berea, OH, where she also gives weekly brown bag lunchtime concerts. She continues to play principal horn with the Lorain County Community College Civic Orchestra as well as with the Baldwin-Wallace College Alumni Brass Collective and in the United Methodist church brass ensemble, which she also directs. She is also a member of the American Guild of Organists, Cleveland Chapter, serving as newsletter editor of the AGO Cleveland monthly newsletter.

Elaine Guregian, BM ’79 (music history, musicology), spent eleven days in New York City last fall as a funded fellow in the National Endowment for the Arts Institute in Classical Music and Opera. She was one of 25 journalists selected nationally to participate in the session, which was held at Columbia University. Participants attended concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and had sessions with administrators and performers from these organizations. Classes in music history gave Elaine a chance to reconnect with Elaine Sisman who had taught at the School of Music during Elaine’s undergraduate days at Michigan and now teaches at Columbia. Elaine is the classical music and dance critic of the Akron (OH) Beacon Journal. She and her husband, Dale Dong, a photographer who studied saxophone and music history at the School of Music, are the parents of Zoe, 10, and Quinn, 7.

Jack Sharrar, MA ’77 (speech and theatre), went on to earn a Ph.D. in theater history and dramatic literature from the University of Utah. Since 1989, he has served in various capacities with the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, where he is director of academic affairs for the professional actor training programs. He is also a core faculty member in the MFA program and teaches in ACT’s Young Conservatory. His book, Avery

and didgeridu), created a sensation in its May 2003 debut streamed onto the net and broadcast nationwide by ABC Classic FM. At the Castlemaine State Festival in April 2005, Dr Coleman premiered Stephen Cronin’s new work, Echo, created for her, in which film and prerecorded sounds sampled from her recording of Ives’s Concord Sonata serve as the inspiration for free improvisations. In July 2005, OutBach collaborated with the Shell-Darwin International Guitar Festival to present the world premiere of the Concerto in D minor for piano, didgeridu and guitars, originally composed by J.S. Bach. Plans are underway for a July 2006 OutBach production in Nitmiluk Gorge in Australia’s Northern Territory, a site sacred to the indigenous peoples of the region and so remote that a grand piano will have to be airlifted by helicopter. Also in progress is a project between Dr Coleman and world-renowned Swiss percussionist and composer Fritz Hauser, with whom she is creating a new work in collaboration with Melbourne-based Speak Percussion, to be premiered in 2007. Linda L. Gardner, MM ’77 (organ performance), retired from teaching in 2001 from the Cleveland (OH) Public Schools. She continues as organist at the United Methodist Church of Berea-Berea, OH, where she also gives weekly brown bag lunchtime concerts. She continues to play principal horn with the Lorain County Community College Civic Orchestra as well as with the Baldwin-Wallace College Alumni Brass Collective and in the United Methodist church brass ensemble, which she also directs. She is also a member of the American Guild of Organists, Cleveland Chapter, serving as newsletter editor of the AGO Cleveland monthly newsletter.

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Hopwood, His Life and Plays, was published by U-M Press. Sharrar is coeditor of a number of award-winning scene and monologue books for young actors, published by Smith & Kraus.

1960s

Charles M. Atkinson, MM ’65 (music education), has been elected the thirty-sixth president of the American Musicological Society. Founded in 1934 as a non-profit organization to advance research in the various fields of music as a branch of learning and scholarship, the Society now has 3,600 individual members and 1,200 institutional subscribers from forty nations. Atkinson, a Professor of Musicology at The Ohio State University, is the third faculty member of a Big 10 institution to have been elected president of the AMS. His two-year term will begin in November of this year.

Jack Bowman, MM ’68, DMA ’74 (clarinet and wind instruments), serves as Dean of the School of Fine Arts at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He remains active as a conductor, regularly leading the orchestra for Minnesota Ballet. In February, he conducted the national ballet in Petrozavodsk, Russia, in Swan Lake. He leads the development of large international festivals for students and faculty. The newest project involves collaborations with three universities in Turkey.

David B. Thompson, BM ’61, MM ’65 (music education), has come out of retirement to teach a beginning band program at Summers Knoll School in Ann Arbor. This is a fourth to eighth grade program and the band is growing rapidly.

Ron Walker, BM ’61 and MM ’66 (music education), retired from teaching in Highland Park, MI, in 1989. Walker and his wife have been fulltime RV travelers for the past two years. Thanks to his training at the School of Music, he has enjoyed performing in the RV parks he has visited, playing keyboard, trumpet, and guitar. While also trained on tuba and string bass, Walker finds it difficult to carry such large instruments along with him in his travels.

1950s

Malcolm Brown, MM ’56 (piano), Professor Emeritus of Musicology at Indiana University, received the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award as editor of A Shostakovich Casebook (Indiana University Press, 2004), in recognition of the excellence of Laurel Fay’s article “Volkov’s Testimony Reconsidered” printed in the book. The American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers recognized Fay and Brown at the 38th annual awards ceremony in New York City at Lincoln Center on December 15, 2005.

Fred M. Dart, BM ’56 (music education), is active in both the teaching and performing arenas. He is Adjunct Professor of Music at Palm Beach Community College, teaches low brass at Palm Beach Atlantic University, directs the Royal Palm Beach Community Band, and plays euphonium as a soloist with several high school and college bands each year.

Donald H. Foster, MM ’59 (music theory) and Ph.D. ’67 (musicology), is coeditor, with Phillip D. Crabtree, of Sourcebook for Research in Music, a greatly expanded and revised second edition. A guide for researchers in navigating the vast amount of music materials, the book includes a list of common bibliographical terms with definitions, German and French bibliographical terms, the plan of the Library of Congress and the Dewey Decimal music classification systems, and seven bibliographical chapters. It was released by Indiana University Press in January 2006.

Jack Snavely, MM ’55 (woodwinds), has been retired for over ten years from his long-time position as Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, but has not nailed his clarinet to the door. Active in the southwest Florida music scene, Jack plays everything from classical, jazz, and musical theater, to his latest venture—Klezmer (with lots of clarinet features!) Music continues to be the “family business”, as son Jeff and daughter-in-law Laura, both fine clarinetists, perform with the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C. Son Joel and his wife Andrea (saxophone and flute, respectively) teach public school music in the Milwaukee suburbs. Jack lives on beautiful Ft. Myers Beach and enjoys working out, travel, an occasional game of bad golf, three young grandchildren, and the never-ending search for the perfect mouthpiece-reed combination.