Even during challenging economic times, the Department continues to move forward. Make sure to read about our new faculty members, including our newest tenure-track Assistant Professor, Dr. James Patrick Miller, now leading our Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band; Dr. Tony Thornton, bringing years of success with both professional and collegiate choral ensembles to our Director of Choral Ensembles position; and Mr. John Bottomley, our newest studio instructor in tuba/euphonium. We are also welcoming back Mr. Thomas Vacanti to bring his expertise in Ballet to our dance students.

Wonderful News! The National Association of Schools of Music voted to have the Music Department remain a member in good standing. The decision came after the Department participated in an extensive multiple year self-study, a visit by an accreditation team and full review by the Commission on Accreditation of the National Association of Schools of Music.

This past year—with the help of Dean Martin—the Department mounted an instrument matching campaign. The generosity of so many alumni and supporters brought us beyond the $12,500 goal, six months earlier than we had expected! The students and faculty are now benefiting from the summer 08 music wing renovation—lots of new lighting, new lockers, new paint and a whole new air system have helped transform our classroom level. The generous support of our Provost provided the funding to send our graduate brass quintet to Russia—to be repeated this summer with a saxophone quartet!

Our Dance program continued to benefit from the summer Sankofa project by bringing historic and new choreography to the University Dancers’ concerts in December. Selected dancers were even featured on a matinee performance with the Alvin Ailey II Dance Company!

The Department continues to present music and dance concerts off-campus, with chamber music and/or ensemble concerts, in the Northeast. In 2008-09 we increased these outreach efforts by 57%, presenting 21 events, in addition to the over 100 concerts, recitals and special events on the UMass Amherst campus.
Where Will You Be On Friday, October 16?

The Music Alumni Reunion!

Bring yourselves, your partners, friends & children!

This year we are paying tribute to Helen Perry, long-time secretary, friend of students and alumni, who died in 2008.

2:30pm: Career panel with Students, Alumni and Alumni Board members in Bezanson Recital Hall
4:00pm: Mini faculty concert in Bezanson Recital Hall, State of the Department by chair Jeff Cox and a tribute to Helen Perry
5:15pm: Three-course dinner at the University Club with faculty, the Chair and the Alumni Board
8:00pm: Multiband Pops concert

Cost: $35 per person, guests are very welcome
To register: 413 545 2511, ask for Music Alumni Reunion
Deadline: October 9

Hotel Space is very limited
Because our Reunion is on Homecoming Weekend, several hotels are already booked. A block of rooms is on hold for Music Alumni at the Hampton Inn in Hadley until September 17. For reservations call 413 586 4851 or go to www.hadley.hamptoninn.com and use the Group Code: RMD.

Join Us For The 35th Annual Multiband Pops

Be sure to get your tickets to the 35th Annual Multiband Pops!

Ensembles: Chamber Choir, Chapel Jazz, Horn Choir, Jazz Ensemble I, Mass Marimba Band, Minuteman Marching Band, Percussion Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, Symphony Band, UMass Dancers, UMass Marimba Ensembles, University Orchestra, Vocal Jazz & Wind Ensemble

Directors: Paul Dennis, Catherine Jensen-Hole, Thomas Hannum, Jeffrey W. Holmes (Producer), Ayano Kataoka, Laura Klock, Lynn Klock, Paul Lieberman, Lanfranco Marcelletti, Jr., James Patrick Miller, George N. Parks, Steven Sonntag & Tony Thornton

Friday, October 16, 2009
8pm Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

For tickets: 413 545 2511 or www.UMasstix.com
Five College New Music Festival Weekend

Friday the 11th
Five College Composers’ Concert
Composers: Bruce MacCombie, David Sanford, Eric Sawyer, Daniel Warner, Donald Wheelock
Performers: Kivie Cahn-Lipman, Elizabeth Chang, Judith Gordon, Monica Jakuc, Linda Laderach, Salvatore Macchia, Larry Schipull, Astrid Schween, Peter Shea, Gary Smulyan & Michael Sussman
8pm

Saturday the 12th
An Afternoon of Premieres
Featuring the winning work of the Five College Composition Competition: *Sfumato* by Michael Romaniak, an undergraduate composition major, pianist and saxophonist at the University of Toronto.
Performers: Michael Sussman, Volcy Pelletier & Nadine Shank

The Violin Duo Project: newly commissioned works by Bernardino Beggio, Michele Biasutti, Jeffrey W. Holmes, Salvatore Macchia, Eric Sawyer, Robert Stern & Frederick Tillis performed by the UMass Violin Studio
2pm

Saturday the 12th
Music by Pioneer Valley Composers
The Valley has been and continues to be home to numerous nationally- and internationally-recognized composers.

Pre-Concert Composers’ Discussion
Charles Fussell, Bruce MacCombie, Eric Sawyer, Lewis Spratlan, Robert Stern, Donald Wheelock & others
7pm

Heritage Concert
Composers: Alvin Etler, Charles Fussell, Ronald Perera & Lewis Spratlan
8pm

Sunday the 13th
The Hungarian Strain
Pre-Concert Talk
David Schneider, Amherst College professor
2pm

Concert of Hungarian Music
Composers: György Kurtág, Béla Bartók & György Ligeti
Performers: Eric Berlin, Elizabeth Chang, Judith Gordon, Laura Klock, Salvatore Macchia, Joel Pitchon, Elizabeth Joy Roe, Eric Sawyer, Michael Sussman & Elizabeth Wright
3pm • Reception to Follow

Sponsors:
Amherst Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency; Five Colleges, Inc.; Music Departments of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges; UMass Amherst Arts Council; UMass Amherst Department of Music & Dance
Reaching Out To Young Musicians

Audition dates
Applicants for Spring 2010: Dec 5
Early action applicants for Fall 2010: Dec 5
Regular applicants for Fall 2010: Dec 5, Feb 6, Feb 20, Mar 6, Mar 27 (least preferred date)
Transfer applicants for Fall 2010: Mar 27

String Audition dates
Applicants for Spring 2010: Dec 2
Early action applicants for Fall 2010: Dec 2
Regular applicants for Fall 2010: Dec 2, Feb 6, Mar 3, Mar 22 (least preferred date)
Transfer applicants for Fall 2010: Mar 22

Recruiting: Off Campus
During 2008-09 the Department brought 21 student/faculty concerts and workshops to 1330 Massachusetts and 2780 out-of-state students, parents, teachers, and community residents; that is a 57% increase in the number of events and a 43% increase in the number of attendees from the 2007-08 touring program.

Participating Ensembles: Chamber Choir, Chapel Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combos, Jazz Ensemble I, Lark String Quartet, Mass Marimba Band I & II and UMass Marimba Ensemble I & II

Directors/Accompanist: Thom Hannum, Jeffrey W. Holmes, Paul Lieberman, John Paulson and Nikki Stoia

Locations: Hicksville, Massapequa, Copaque and Mineola, Long Island, NY; Enfield and Woodstock, CT; Clinton, Natick, S. Hadley and Williamstown, MA

Would you like one of our ensembles to visit your school? Contact Professor John Jenkins, jenkins@admin.umass.edu, 413 545 0030

On Campus 2009–2010
The Department also sponsors day-long, annual events on campus created by our faculty at which pre-college students attend workshops, perform and hear our faculty perform.

Band Day: 25th annual Band Day on September 26 for high school bands that rehearse and perform with the Minuteman Marching Band at McGuirk Stadium. For information: Thomas Hannum, hannum@music.umass.edu, 413 545 6060, www.umass.edu/band

Choral Spectrum: an annual event, to take place November 14, that brings visiting vocal ensembles to campus for rehearsals and an evening performance with University Vocal Ensembles. For information: Tony Thornton, 413 545 0437

Double Reed Symposium: 1st annual on November 9 for high school/college instrumentalists and teachers, and adult amateurs. For information: Stephen Walt or Fredric T. Cohen, swalt@music.umass.edu or fcohen@music.umass.edu

First International Conference on Analytical Approaches to World Music: This event, on February 20 & 21, will focus on expanding the potential for musical analysis from a cross-cultural perspective by applying diverse theoretical and analytical concepts to repertoires outside the Western art music tradition. For information: Kalin Kirilov, kalin_kirilov@yahoo.com, Rob Schultz, rschultz@music.umass.edu or Lawrence Shuster, lshuster@music.umass.edu

High School Honor Band: 25th annual on February 13. For information: James Patrick Miller, jpmiller@music.umass.edu

High School Jazz Festival: 12th annual, February 27. For information: Jeffrey W. Holmes, jwholmes@music.umass.edu, 413 545 6046

Multiband Pops: Matinee performances for grades 2-12, October 16. For information: Jeffrey W. Holmes, jwholmes@music.umass.edu, 413 545 6046

Saxophone Symposium: 28th annual on April 17 for serious and interested saxophonists of all ages. For information: Lynn Klock, lklock@music.umass.edu, 413 545 2810, www.umass.edu/saxophone

String Day: 5th annual on November 1 for junior and senior high school string players, their parents, private and classroom teachers and orchestra conductors. For information: Kathryn Lockwood, klockwood@music.umass.edu, 413 545 9457, www.umass.edu/music/specialevents.php

Massachusetts Music Educators’ Association Western District Festivals: The annual Senior and Junior District Festivals, hosted by Ben Smar and music education students at UMass Amherst, involve 700 middle and high school students, 2200 community members, 150 music educators, and approximately 40 UMass Amherst alumni. These outreach projects connected the Department with 48 middle and 55 high school communities from more than 43 towns and cities in Western Massachusetts.

Audition dates
Applicants for Spring 2010: Dec 5
Early action applicants for Fall 2010: Dec 5
Regular applicants for Fall 2010: Dec 5, Feb 6, Feb 20, Mar 6, Mar 27 (least preferred date)
Transfer applicants for Fall 2010: Mar 27

String Audition dates
Applicants for Spring 2010: Dec 2
Early action applicants for Fall 2010: Dec 2
Regular applicants for Fall 2010: Dec 2, Feb 6, Mar 3, Mar 22 (least preferred date)
Transfer applicants for Fall 2010: Mar 22

For More Information
cthornley@music.umass.edu
413 545 6048 or go to our website: www.umass.edu/music and click on Admissions & Auditions

String Day ’08 with UMass students Alicia Casey and Eleanor Lincoln, and Professor Salvatore Macchia working with pre-college performers.
A Public School Music Teacher, Alumnus & Donor

Thomas Lizotte is the Director of Bands at Cape Elizabeth (ME) High School where he has three concert bands, three jazz ensembles, three jazz combos and classes in music theory and jazz improvisation. He has been teaching in public schools since 1986 when he received a degree in Music Education from UMass Amherst. His career led him to high school classrooms in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Florida. Lizotte conducts and adjudicates at jazz and marching band festivals, and teaches drum and bugle corps during the summers. For the past seven years, he has been conductor of the Alumni Band of Southern Maine, an adult community band based in Biddeford. Tom received a Master's in 1990 from UMass Amherst and is a member of the Department's Alumni Board.

“I have chosen to be an annual giver to the Department because I am grateful for the top-notch education I received; I had the education necessary to be successful and have warm feelings for the Department. Your experience as a student is what you bring into your classroom. When you have contact with wonderful teachers like those who were on the faculty when I was a student, the quality of your teaching is exponentially better than your colleagues who weren’t so lucky. I still approach band with the seriousness of purpose I learned from Bill Rowell, teaching with the respect for each student I learned from Walter Chesnut and George Parks, with the love of jazz and teaching technique I learned from Dave Sporny, with the ear for artistry I learned from Jeff Holmes and with the loyalty to others I learned from John Jenkins. Al Huetteman, Miriam Whaples, Denny Brown and Charles Heffernan are with me always.

I think it is important to give back to the institution responsible for whatever professional success I might have. I have managed to make a line in my budget for gifts to UMass just by planning. It is something that always makes me feel good.”

Tom gives annually in the $500-$1,000 range.

Giving Options

Choose an existing Scholarship, Award or Masterclass Fund that is right for you.

Alviani Masterclass Fund in Voice
Ann Elder Bestor Scholarship for an Incoming Student
Bezanson Graduate Voice Award
Walter Chesnut Scholarship in Trumpet
Russell E. and Janet R. Falvey Scholarship for Careers in Public School Music Education
Fletcher Henderson/Max Roach Endowed Award in Jazz
Richard Jones Scholarship in Dance
Howard Lebow Memorial Scholarship in Piano
Eugenie M. May Award in Piano
Julian Olevsky Memorial Scholarship in Violin
Ornest Undergraduate Award in Voice
Shank Collaborative Piano Award
Stark Vocal Enhancement Fund for Workshops by Visiting Artists

Contribute to the Friends of Music Fund or the Friends of Dance Fund.

These funds provide the Department with unrestricted monies used for projects that present themselves during the year. Some examples: providing staffing support for special projects, updating our publicity materials, providing support for special events, etc.

It is easy to make a secure online gift: Go to the UMass Online gift form https://www.umass.edu/development/give/?ref=gum_givenow. Fill out the requested information. Go to Allocation 1 and select Special Funds scrolling down to Friends of Music. For Friends of Dance scroll to Other and type in Friends of Dance. Or send a check with the Fund, Scholarship or Award name on the memo line to UMass Amherst, Development Office, Memorial Hall, 134 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003.

Make a gift while taking care of your own financial needs.

A planned gift will benefit the Department and provide income and security for you and your family. It can be structured to reflect your personal financial goals and your interests in Music & Dance. Making a bequest is simple and straightforward; there are various options such as naming the campus a beneficiary of your will or using retirement plans to make the most tax-efficient bequest. Contact Marilyn Kushick, (413) 545-0018 or mkushick@music.umass.edu to discuss your gift.
Who performed?
UMass Amherst Pops Orchestra, Lanfranco Marcelletti, Jr., director
Matthew Bertuzzi, graduate conductor
Michael Brignolo, arranger

Studio Orchestra, Jeffrey W. Holmes, director & Pops Gala producer
Soloists: Chris Bill, vibes; Eve Boltax, violin; Tom Frink, alto sax; Chris Lapidas, guitar; Alex Lee-Clark, vocal; Mat Schumer, baritone sax; Tobias Thomas, soprano sax; Berhari Woldu, tenor sax
Arrangers/composers: Chris Bill, Eve Boltax, Nick Borges, Josh Burton, Jeffrey W. Holmes, Mike Keough, Alan Korzin, Chris Lapidas, Alex Lee-Clark, Ted Sullivan, Paul Zilioli

University Dancers, Billbob Brown, director/Hazel Sabas-Gower, choreographer

University Chorale, John Paulson, conductor

Cello Choir, Astrid Schween, director
Katherine Saik ’10, soprano

What was performed?

Pops is a fundraiser for the Department. How did we do?
We raised $13,000.

When is the next Pops Gala?
Saturday, May 1, 2010. To make sure you have a seat: 413 545 0018 or mkushick@music.umass.edu

Who were the Pops sponsors?
$1,000 and above:
Rich & Caroline Brignolo in honor of Michael’s Graduation
Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Greenfield
Dorothy & Joseph Gavin
Bryan C. Harvey & J. Lynn Griesemer
Isenberg School of Management
The Loomis Communities, Amherst, Holyoke & South Hadley
Mo’s Fudge Factor, Shelburne Falls
College of Natural Resources and the Environment /Dean Steve Goodwin
Richard Haas (1958 alumnus) & Janet Haas
WHMP – AM 1240/1600/1400

$200 – $999:
Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce
Amherst Dental Group
Paul & Marie Appleby
L. Squire & Carol Bressor
Danish Inspirations/
Danco Modern, Hatfield
Andrew Effrat & Nola Stephen
ELITE Home Health Agency, Inc., Amherst
Exclusive Car Service, Holyoke
Gazette Printing Company, Inc., Easthampton
Joyce Hatch
Paul & Anne-Marie Kostecki
Marty Mandell
John Mullin
Salon Herdis/Linda Hannum ’84

StakeHolders Capital, Investment Management
Valley Home Improvement, Florence
Wisteria Vine, Distinctive Floral Design, Hatfield

Sponsors receive preferred seating.

Sponsors at the $1,000 level receive benefits including a table of eight seats, a photo with the Chancellor and opportunities to promote their business at the Pops Gala and throughout the academic year.

To learn more about 2010 Pops sponsorship: 413-545-0018 or mkushick@music.umass.edu.
Dance News

Narcoleptic Lovers

Narcoleptic Lovers, Freudian Slips, Day on Earth and Deconstructing Gershwin are several of many works with intriguing names and choreography on the 2008 University Dancers’ (UD) concerts. The concert included work by faculty members Billbob Brown and Hazel Sabas-Gower, a restaging of the modern dance classic Day on Earth, choreographed by Doris Humphrey and restaged by Paul Dennis, and guest artists Doug Elkins and Adrienne Hawkins (who worked in person with the students). Most exciting was the presence on campus of Broadway choreographer George Faison who set his piece MOVIN’ ON on the University Dancers. UMass Amherst students also performed the work with the Alvin Ailey II Company on the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall stage!

Elkins’ Narcoleptic Lovers, a fusion of Hip-Hop, modern and capoeira, was reworked for UD by Fritha Pengelly, former member of the Doug Elkins Dance Company. Paul Dennis, a former member of the Limón Company, taught and performed in Humphrey’s Day on Earth. The piece deals with love, birth, loss, companionship, death and continuation, and the meaning and solace of work through four characters — a man, his young first love, his wife and their little girl. Billbob Brown’s Freudian Slips combines video imagery and live music by the Paul Arslanian Trio. For a humorous look at being out of control, Brown contrasted the verbal, psychological and physical connotations of slips of speech. Hazel Sabas-Gower’s work used arrangements of George Gershwin’s Fascinating Rhythm, It Ain’t Necessarily So and Prelude in C# Minor, and was also performed at the UMass Pops Gala and at the American College Dance Festival.

Dance Outreach

Paul Dennis led the charge, with the help of Rochelle Rice ‘83, taking undergraduates to New York City as part of the second year of NYPOP/DANCE (New York Professional Outreach Program). Students met with artists/choreographers Sidra Bell, Gerald Cassel and Marisol Figueroa. They attended an open rehearsal of the Limón Dance Company, and Rebecca Stenn and Company, as well as performances by Jonathan Reidel’s Dance Theater, Lar Lubovitch and Sensedance. At Hanger B at the Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, five pieces were choreographed in and around the aircraft, one by Gus Solomons. A by-product of NYPOP—Haley Bergeron BA’09 interned with Jodi Kaplan & Associates, an agency that books dance companies on tours throughout the U.S. and internationally. For more NYPOP information or to participate in the fall program: Rochelle Rice at 212-689-4558 or rochelle@rochellerice.com.

Activities in 2009-2010 will include the on-going work with the Sankofa Dance Festival and a collaborative performance of Mark Morris’ Gloría with the Department’s Choral and Orchestral musicians.

The Sankofa Dance Project

For the second consecutive year of the Sankofa Dance Project, master teacher and artist Chuck Davis came to campus in June for a week-long exploration entitled Cultural Rejuvenation: A Legacy Revealed that included dance classes and lectures rooted in the history of African dance, music and culture. The culminating concert included excerpts from BlueGrass/BrownEarth, an energetic blend of African dance, traditional banjo, American banjo and bluegrass music, featuring choreography by Davis and Sankofa visiting artists. The Sankofa faculty included: Stafford Berry, Jr., Paula Brady, Amaniyea Payne, Abdel Salaam, Sekou and Marilyn Sylla. Drummers and bluegrass artists accompanying classes and performing were the Blackstone Valley Bluegrass ensemble, John Coster, Dave Dick, Zack Johnson, Jay Stanley, Issa Coulibaly, Sana Ndiaye and Rose Sinclair. Talks were given by Stafford Berry, Jr. of the African American Dance Ensemble, Abdel Salaam from New York’s Forces of Nature Dance Theater and Amaniyea Payne of the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago. Under Davis’ direction, the Sankofa Dance Intensive brought West African dance traditions to students of all abilities, ages 15-71, including 26 participants from high schools in Springfield, MA.

The Sankofa Dance Project, part of an ongoing collaboration between the UMass Amherst Department of Music and Dance and the Division of Outreach, is overseen by Peggy Schwartz, Director of the Dance Program at UMass Amherst and Artistic Director of the Project, and Maryann Lombardi, Director of the Creative Economy and Managing Director of Sankofa.
New Faculty

John Bottomley, Lecturer in Tuba & Euphonium, is due to complete his DMA in Tuba Performance from The Ohio State University in 2009. He holds an MM in Orchestral Performance (tuba) from the Manhattan School of Music and a BM from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since 1993, he taught at Miami University/Ohio, Wright State University, Ohio State University and Kent State University. He performed in the Richmond, Columbus and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestras and was a finalist for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the Colorado Symphony. Bottomley’s Manhattan Brass Quintet won first place at the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition.

James Patrick Miller, Director of Wind Ensembles, received his DMA in conducting at the University of Minnesota. He holds a MM degree in conducting from Ithaca College and a BM in music education magna cum laude from St. Olaf College (MN). In 2003, Miller won the American Choral Directors Association National Conducting Competition at the graduate level. He was involved in commissioning more than 30 new works over the last 10 years. At Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN) he taught instrumental conducting, music methods and conducted the Gustavus Wind Orchestra and the Vasa Wind Orchestra. From 2002-2006 he was the Assistant Conductor of Wind Ensembles and Conductor of the University Chorale at Cornell University, where he was the music advisor to the Big Red Marching Band. He was also on the Ithaca College conducting faculty. Miller was co-artistic director, conductor and founding member of the Sapphire Chamber Consort, a professional, non-profit organization that combines artistic programs with community outreach in Minneapolis. He appeared regularly as guest conductor with community ensembles and church choirs, and as a clinician and guest teacher in public and private schools.

Tony Thornton, Director of Choral Ensembles, holds a DMA in Choral Conducting from Louisiana State University and a BM with a major in Music Education/Voice from Westminster Choir College. As a tenor soloist he performed throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia. As a member of the Westminster Choir, he sang at the Spoleto Festivals, and recorded with Leonard Bernstein, Riccardo Muti, Claudio Abbado and Zubin Mehta. He sang for seven years with the Grammy Award-winning Robert Shaw Festival Singers. As a guest conductor/clinician, Thornton worked with over 150 choruses in schools, colleges, churches, and community and professional organizations. Formerly on the faculty at California State University–Los Angeles, Los Angeles City College and Pomona College, he was the Artistic Director of Los Angeles Choral Artists and the Tucson Masterworks Chorale. Thornton is the author of The Choral Singer’s Survival Guide (giamusic.com) and is on the Summer Session and Saturday Seminar faculty at Westminster Choir College of Rider University.

We welcome the return of Tom Vacanti, Lecturer in the Dance Program! Tom, on the faculty from 2006-2008, will once again teach all levels of ballet. He will also create a new work for the December University Dancers’ concerts.

Faculty News

Eric Berlin performed Stanley Friedmann’s Sonata for Trumpet and Piano with Nadine Shank at the International Trumpet Guild 2009 Conference. CDs of him performing with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (nominated for a Grammy), and with the Albany Symphony were released. Berlin’s performances with the Boston Symphony Orchestra included Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring at Symphony Hall (Boston), Carnegie Hall and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. He judged the Ellsworth Smith International Solo Competition and...
worked with students at the New Hampshire All-State Conference.

Retired Professor Emeritus Charles Bestor received an ASCAPLUS Award from the ASCAP Concert Music Division.

Norman Bolter performed with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Boston Symphony. He soloed with the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own,” premiering his composition, Arjuna Speaks, and conducted the Frequency Band ensemble in a concert of his works. Both performances were webcast worldwide during the Eastern Trombone Workshop. Bolter’s new CD Phoenix, with the Frequency Band, features his music for trombone choir.

Billbob Brown performed, choreographed and created a video montage for the 30th anniversary celebration of Desert Dance Theatre of Phoenix, AZ, which he began and directed (1979 – 88). Celebrating the 400th anniversary of Galileo’s discoveries, he presented an historical talk at the UMass Amherst Renaissance Center about the connections between dance and astronomy. At the Cambridge Dance Festival, Brown’s Chaos Theory Dance Company performed a concert of science-based works and taught dance/astronomy workshops, Dancing with the (Real) Stars, for children and adults. Brown’s choreography about the Harlem Renaissance of the early 20th century was used in a student show at Crocker Farm Elementary School in Amherst.

Jeff Cox was elected to a three-year term by the general membership of the National Association of Schools of Music to be a member of the organization’s Ethics Committee. He also served as a team resource member for the Suzuki Association of the America’s first on-line Leadership Retreat in April. His work with the Association also included serving as a consultant for the “Suzuki Principles in Action” project.

Thomas Hannum received the 2008-09 UMass Amherst Distinguished Teaching Award. He was inducted into the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame in Rochester, N.Y., selected for his long-standing dedication, achievements and leadership skills within the drum and bugle corps fraternity. Hannum was Arranger and Percussion Coordinator for the Tournament of Roses Honor Band in Pasadena, CA.

Willie Hill was inducted into the Grambling State University’s Alumni Hall of Fame during the Louisiana school’s Homecoming Weekend.

William Hite’s 08–09 season included: his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra in Handel’s Messiah, a performance with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Sequentia in Symphony Hall of medieval settings from the Carmina burana manuscript, a fully-staged production of Monteverdi’s L’Orfeo at the University of Alberta, and a tour of western Canada, performing Shakespeare’s Songbook with the Newberry Library Consort. Closer to home, Hite sang the tenor role in Haydn’s Creation with the Cape Cod Symphony.

Jeffrey W. Holmes received the Massachusetts Association of Jazz Educators’ Lifetime Achievement Award. He was elected as the Higher Education Representative for the 2009-2010 Massachusetts Music Educators’ Association Board of Directors. His off-campus activities included: 1) a four-day residency at University of Southern Mississippi, 2) conducting the Massachusetts Eastern District Jazz Ensemble and 3) adjudicating at the Massachusetts Association of Jazz Educators’ Combo Finals and Junior district big band competitions.

As guest conductor for the 2009 Harwood (VT) District Jazz Festival, Catherine Jensen-Hole worked with selected high school students who performed two of her vocal jazz arrangements and an original composition. Her Tricks of the Trade clinic at the MENC All-Eastern Division 2009 Conference outlined an approach to vocal jazz ensemble writing for high school and college ensembles. She was invited by George Faison to perform in two evening concerts in the Sankofa Dance Festival.

Amy Johnson was heard in a Nashville Public Radio broadcast of Robert Aldridge’s opera Elmer Gantry. She was soprano soloist with the Winston-Salem (NC) Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Bernstein’s Third “Kaddish” Symphony, as well as the Simple Song from his
Faculty News

Mass. The Classical Voice of NC wrote, “Amy Johnson has a powerful warm voice with a beautifully controlled vibrato and was especially expressive in the lullaby she sings to God.” Of her performance in Strauss’ Salome with the Toledo Opera, the Toledo Blade wrote that she “embodies all of Salome’s contradictory qualities in an all-out vocal and dramatic performance that is constantly engaging and always surprising.”

For his essay Music, Memory, and Musical Memory, Gary S. Karpinski was one of three finalists for the inaugural New England Conference of Music Theorists Prize, and was invited to present the paper at the Conference’s annual meeting.

Laura Klock spent her spring sabbatical doing further study and research on teaching Natural Horn to modern horn players by observing teaching methods and materials, and working with Natural Horn Professors at the Paris Conservatory and Indiana University. She participated in a 3-part seminar on Natural Horn in Orleans, France and is looking forward to working with the horn class on the Department’s new Halari/ Seraphinoff Natural Horn. Klock purchased the horn with a Professional Development in Teaching grant, awarded by the UMass Amherst Center for Teaching.

Lynn Klock gave recitals and masterclasses in England, Scotland and Wales, including presentations with University of Southampton Professor Angela Space (UMass ’98), and Leeds College of Music Professor Sarah Markham (UMass MM ’94). With Laura Klock and Estela Olevsky, he premiered a work by retired Professor Emeritus Robert Stern as part of the Mohawk Trails Concert Series.

Christopher Krueger performed and lectured for a Musical Heritage Cruise on the Danube River beginning in Salzburg and ending in Budapest. His residency at Florida State University included masterclasses and a recital. He performed fifty concerts throughout the U.S. and at the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico, featuring recitals of the J.S. Bach Flute Sonatas.

Lisa Lehmberg’s first book, The Challenges and Rewards of Urban Teaching: Six Elementary Music Teachers’ Perceptions of Effective Teaching and Pre-Service Preparation for Urban Classrooms, was published by Verlag Dr. Müller. She made conference presentations about: a) research in urban music teaching (American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Eastern Division MENC Conference and MA Music Educators’ Conference), b) podcasting in higher education (ATMI/ College Music Society Technology Pre-Conference), and c) world instruments for the general music classroom (National Symposium on Multicultural Music and MA Music Educators’ Conference).

Lehmberg served on an organizational committee with colleagues from the U.S., Canada and Mexico for the 2010 International Society for Music Education North American Leadership Summit. She created a Ning website, a global networking space for music teachers, http://generalmusic.ning.com. She is co-investigator of a project at the University of South Florida titled Senior Citizen’s Music Participation and Perception of Quality of Life.

Paul Lieberman performed with his two ensembles (Paul Lieberman Quartet—jazz & Nos Daqui—Brazilian music), Jaimoe’s Jasssz Band, the Springfield (MA) Symphony, The Young@Heart Chorus and the Jeff Holmes Big Band, at venues such as BB King’s (New York City), Mohegan Sun, the House of Blues (Boston), Yale University and on WRPI radio (NY). At the City University of New York, he performed the world premiere of Gaudencio Thiago de Mello’s A Flame in the Dark. Lieberman recorded with Rufus Reid and Paul Sullivan (on the River Music label). Samsara Rounds for orchestra, composed by Bruce MacCombie, received its world premiere at Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall. MacCombie, Professor of Composition and an alumnus of the Department (BA ‘67, MA ‘69, Honorary Doctorate ’86), worked on the project during a 2007-2008 leave of absence. The piece was performed by the Juilliard
Orchestra, under the baton of James DePreist, and was commissioned by The Juilliard School with support from the Trust of Francis Goelet. According to The New York Times review, the “piece is meditative, harmonically soft edged, lyrical and inviting.”

Professor Emerita Estela Olevsky performed with members of the Berlin Philharmonic, including violist Matthew Hunter (UMass MM ’84), at the Orchestra’s home, the Philharmonie. The Springfield Republican wrote that her playing of portions of Olivier Messiaen’s Vingt regards sur l’enfant Jésus on the Mohawk Trail summer series, showed “…the full range of Olevsky’s expressive articulation from the tenderest caresses to muscular, deep-toned strokes of the keys…” Olevsky selected and performed the music for a documentary film, The Poet in Her Bedroom, which premiered at the Emily Dickinson International Meeting commemorating the 178th anniversary of the poet’s birth.

George Parks, in recognition of his work with the Minuteman Marching Band, received the Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Research and Creative Activity at the UMass Amherst Faculty Convocation.

Roger Rideout, Coordinator of Music Education and the Graduate Program, retired in May. He also served as Interim Chair and was Director of the Summer Program.

Astrid Schween performed with the Lark Chamber Artists in New York City, Boston, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Kansas City and Albuquerque. She was Principal Cellist with NYC’s Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra, and performed with the group as soloist in Gary Fagin’s Hungarian Suite for Cello and Strings. She played concerts with the Memphis Chamber Music Society and gave recitals around the country with pianists Gary Hammond (as the Schween-Hammond Duo), Maura Glennon and Estela Olevsky.

Nadine Shank was the vocal coach at the Summer Vocal Music Academy, founded by alumna ’95 Jane Hanson in Northampton, MA. She performed with the Hartford Symphony in an evening of contemporary opera, and played trio concerts at the Summer Chamber Music Festivals at Simon’s Rock College and in Kent, CT. Shank performed in recital at UMass Dartmouth and with Visiting UMass Amherst saxophone Professor Michael Sakash ’97. (She played for Sakash’s Junior and Senior recitals at UMass Amherst!)

Nikki Stoia was Head Vocal Coach/Chorusmaster for the Italian Operatic Experience in Urbana, Italy in 2008.

Michael Sussman spent a month in Sydney and Perth, Australia, compiling a comprehensive list of works by Australian composers which incorporate the clarinet. Focusing on chamber music and clarinet concertos, Sussman worked with the Australian Music Centre, the University of West Australia and leading Australian clarinetists. He located and studied numerous scores and recordings, and selected 30 works for performance and teaching in the U.S.

Sussman performed five of the works on a recital in Bezanson Recital Hall, four of which were U.S. premieres, and submitted a research report to the International Clarinet Association’s Journal. Partial support for the project was provided by Vice Chancellor for Research, Paul Kostecki and College of Humanities and Fine Arts Dean, Joel Martin.

Stephen Walt performs regularly with the Albany Symphony and the Berkshire Bach Ensemble, and coaches at Williams College and the Chamber Music Conference of the East in Bennington, VT. This year he was a guest artist at the Manchester (VT) Music Festival, played with the Riverside Symphony at Zankel Hall in Carnegie Hall and performed with the Saratoga (NY) Chamber Players. He adjudicated at the Boston Woodwind Society’s Sherman Walt Bassoon Merit Award competition, named in honor of his father, the long-time principal bassoonist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.
Mark A. Baszak (1960-2008) received a BA ’83 in music composition and an MEd ’93 from UMass Amherst. He worked at the University for 21 years, serving as acting director of the Performing Arts Division (1987-1989) and Associate Director of Multicultural Programs. He guided and developed the Jazz in July Summer Music Programs since 1990, first as its Coordinator and then its Director. Mark brought together talented young musicians from around the world to train with the country’s most respected jazz artists for two weeks of intensive study. He also lectured widely on hip hop and jazz at conferences around the country. A 1977 graduate of Agawam High School, Baszak authored and published, Such Sweet Thunder: Views on Black American Music, a book of photography by Ed Cohen with first hand accounts of the music and performers at the Black Musicians’ Conference he helped present at the UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Jazz in July Summer Music Programs Endowment, University of Massachusetts, 3 Curry Hicks, 100 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9267.

Dennis Burkh (1935-2008) was a faculty member and conductor of the Five College Orchestra from 1984-1991. At seventeen he became the first American and youngest student to be admitted to the International Conductors Course in Holland. He later became an assistant to Ferdinand Leitner at the Stuttgart State Opera and to Antonio Votto at La Scala in Milan. Burkh founded the Opera Company of Greater Lansing while teaching at Michigan State University and was a Fulbright Fellow in Seoul, Korea. He regularly conducted major European and Asian orchestras and in 1991 became Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Janácek Philharmonic in the Czech Republic. An avid sailor, he made numerous recordings on the Naxos and Centaur labels. His recording of George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue and An American in Paris on the Czech label Opus, sold more than one million copies.

Helen Perry (1929-2008) For fifty years, Helen Perry provided administrative assistance to department heads and faculty in the Department of Music. Hundreds of students best remember Helen as their daily source of personal warmth, advice and solace. She was alert to students’ concerns and always ready to help. Many a needy student was her guest for a bountiful supper and an evening in her home. Some attributed their successful graduation to Helen’s generous personal and practical gifts.

There will be a tribute to Helen at the Music Alumni Reunion, on Friday, October 16, 2009 (Homecoming Weekend), at 4pm in Bezanson Recital Hall. Mrs. Perry was born in Springfield, educated in the Amherst Public Schools and graduated from Amherst High School in 1947. Appointed Secretary shortly after her graduation, she also served as Music Librarian during the early years of the Department. Following her retirement in 1997, Helen was a frequent volunteer, serving as an usher for Fine Arts Center programs. She remained an enthusiastic advocate for the Department, its students and their concerts.

Professor Emanuel L. Rubin (1935-2008) a Music & Dance faculty member for 22 years, served as its chair, and was also a member of the Judaic Studies Department. He did his undergraduate work at Carnegie-Mellon University, received a master’s degree in composition from Brandeis University and a PhD in musicology from the University of Pittsburgh. Rubin was on the faculty of Bowling Green University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he was the chairman of the music department for 12 years, and Ball State University. An invitation brought him to the University of Haifa (Israel) where he designed the school’s music department. Dr. Rubin was a published author, accomplished composer and a member the American Musicalological and the American Music Societies. In Memoriam: Liviu Librescu, Rubin’s work written in response to the killing of a faculty member on the Virginia Polytechnic Institute campus, was performed by the University Orchestra during the 2008-09 concert season.

Dennis Wrenn (1951-2009) died suddenly in February while leading the Algonquin Regional High School Jazz Band’s trip to Greece. A 1972 Department of Music & Dance graduate, Wrenn was the Director of Instrumental Music and Chairman of Fine and Performing Arts at Algonquin in Northborough, MA, where he taught for 28 years. He was a prominent member of the Massachusetts Association of Jazz Educators and the Massachusetts Music Educators Association, and regularly hosted All-State auditions and the International Association of Jazz Educators’ Central District Big Band competitions. According to Professor Jeffrey W. Holmes, “Wrenn’s bands were regularly among the best in the State. Dennis was not only a tireless jazz messenger for music education in Massachusetts, but one who invested enormous time and energy with passion, commitment, and support to the benefit of students and colleagues. His contributions were not limited to his involvement in jazz studies— he was one of many Massachusetts educators who work overtime and in many musical arenas to keep the arts alive in public schools. His presence and camaraderie will be sorely missed.”
The **Chamber Choir**, conducted by **John Paulson**, performed at the State House in Boston.

The **Chapel Jazz Ensemble**, **Paul Lieberman**, director, performed at the Intercollegiate Jazz Festival, Williamstown, MA.

**Jazz Ensemble I** and two **jazz combos**, under the direction of **Jeffrey W. Holmes**, won six awards at the Villanova University Jazz Festival in March. The applications of only five high school and five college/university Big Bands were accepted for Festival participation. The awards received by Jazz Ensemble I were for: Best Overall Big Band, Best Rhythm Section, Best Saxophone Section, and Best Soloist—graduate student and trombonist Brian Thomas. The jazz combos won first and second place and Mathew Schumber ’10, baritone saxophonist, won Best Soloist in the Combo category. As a winner in the Big Band category, Jazz Ensemble I was given the honor of opening for the Allen Vizzutti concert. This is the third time that UMass Amherst won awards at Villanova Festivals. Prior to arriving at the Festival, the students performed at South Hadley (MA) High School and Enrico Fermi High School (Enfield, CT).

The **Freshman Saxophone Quartet** (Jeff Soffer, Jeff Fennell, Anthony Cincotta and Greg Blair), **Lynn Klock**, director, gave a presentation at the Massachusetts All-State Conference.

**Marimbas**: **UMASS Marimba Ensembles I** and **II**, **Thomas Hannum**, director, presented a program and open clinic for Unified Arts Day at the RHAM Middle School, Hebron, CT. **Mass Marimba Band I** and **Marimba Ensemble I** presented clinics, assemblies and master classes at four high schools in Long Island (NY), and a public concert. **Chad Wyman ’97** helped organize the trip. The Marimba Band also presented a clinic at the Mass Music Educators’ All-State Conference.

**The Minuteman Hoop Band**, under **Thomas Hannum**, performed at the Atlantic-10 Basketball Tournament in Atlantic City, NJ.

The **University of Massachusetts Saxophone Quartet** (Tobias Thomas, Kara Nye, Thomas Glassey and Mathew Schumer) and **Lynn Klock** went on a week-long trip to Pskov, Russia in July. Participating in the Founder’s Day Celebrations, they gave two all-American music concerts and shared techniques and repertoire with Russian and other European performers. In July 2008, **Laura Klock** and the **Graduate Brass Quintet** also visited Pskov. The trips were made possible by Massachusetts Senator Stan Rosenberg, the town of Pskov and Provost Charlena Seymour’s Office.

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**Ensemble News**

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### Guest Artists: Masterclasses & Lectures

- **Greg Abate**, alto sax
- **Alvin Ailey II**
- **Anat Cohen**, jazz quartet
- **Claude Corbeil**, lyric bass and **Maureen O’Flynn**, Metropolitan Opera soprano
- **John Holt**, trumpet
- **Graham Hunt**, music theory
- **Jerry Ianni**, music theory
- **Michelle LaCourse**, viola
- **Chien-Kwan Lin**, saxophone
- **John Mastroianni**, jazz saxophone
- **Saya Namikawa ’08**, percussion
- **Dave Pietro**, jazz saxophone
- **Quinteto Sopro Brasil**, woodwind quintet
- **Marilyn Roth**, piano pedagogy
- **Alan Schneider ’96**, stage director
- **William Sharp**, baritone
- **Sylvia Smith**, percussion
- **Sō Percussion Ensemble**
- **Paul Taylor Dance Company**

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* made possible by the Fine Arts Center
** made possible by the Paulina Stark Fund for Vocal Enhancement
*** made possible by the Alviani Masterclass in Voice Fund

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Sō Percussion Ensemble
Our Vital Statistics
For 2008–2009

Music Majors ............ 272
  BA  18
  BM  193
  MM  55
  PhD  6
  MM: Performance, Composition, Choral/Instrumental Conducting, Jazz Composition & Arranging, Music History, Music Theory, Music Education
  PhD: Music Theory, Music Education

Dance Majors ............ 33
  BA  9
  BFA  24
  BA: History, Culture & Aesthetics; Dance & Technology; Dance Education & Community Outreach; Dance Science, Somatics & Arts Therapies; Design, Production & Management
  BFA: Technique, Repertory & Performance; Choreography & Creative Studies

Number of Concerts ............ 104
Number of Student Recitals ............ 52
Audience Total ............ 17,094
Full time music faculty ............ 36
Part-time music faculty ............ 16
Full time dance faculty ............ 4
Part-time dance faculty ............ 1
Music TAs ............ 49
Dance TAs ............ 6

Student News

The western Massachusetts band, Primate Fiasco, includes trumpeter Nick Borges ’10 and tubist William Choe ’07. Named “Best Swing Jazz Band” by the Valley Advocate, Primate Fiasco has appeared at The Calvin Theater, Pearl Street, Pines Theater, Iron Horse, and festivals in New England and New York. The Band released its first CD entitled Geek Dreams, featuring jazz, rock and Dixieland styles.

Sara Chung ’10 received the first annual Malcolm W. Rowell, Jr. Scholarship at the South Shore Conservatory’s Summer Music Festival, where she was a flute coach. Rowell, the Festival’s former Music Director, is retired after many years as Director of Bands at UMass Amherst.

Undergraduates Steve Felix ’11, John Mange ’11, and James Shetler ’10, and graduate student Alex Lee-Clark won International Trumpet Guild Scholarships.

Graduate students—Min Hee Kim, piano; Nicole Fizznoglia, cello; Benjamin Van Vliet, violin and Hannah van der Swaagh, viola—performed an hour-long concert for 300 students grades 7-12 from the Mount Greylock Regional School District, and visitors from elementary schools in Williamstown and Lanesborough, MA. The Berkshire Eagle’s story on the event quoted a student who participated in the masterclass after the concert: “Sato Matsui, a violinist who performed and was critiqued by van der Swaagh, called the whole experience ‘inspiring.’”

Graduate student and trumpeter Andy Stetson performed with the Boston Philharmonic and Albany Symphony Orchestras.

MUSIC & DANCE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Ann Elder Bestor Scholarship
Ariel Chu

Bezanson Graduate Voice Award
Donald Johnston & Rachel Spector

Russell E. & Janet R. Falvey Scholarship
Eleanor Lincoln

Friends of Music Senior Award
Aaron Lakota

Fletcher Henderson/Max Roach Endowed Award
Edward Sullivan

Richard Jones Scholarship
Rachael Collins, BFA
Beth Liebowitz, BFA

Howard Lebow Memorial Scholarship
Mathew Schumer

Eugenie M. May Award
Ania Binczewski & Luke Massery

Julian Olevsky Scholarship
Eve Boltax

Ornest Undergraduate Award
Meghan Fleming, Anthony Rufo & Gregory Tufts

Theodore Presser Award
Gregory Tufts

Shank Collaborative Piano Award
Min Hee Kim

Concerto Competition Winners
Bor Liang Lin & Luke Massery

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & FINE ARTS AWARDS

2009 William F. Field Alumni Scholar
Julia Handspicker

Frank Prentice Rand Scholarship
Kaitlyn Geroski & Gregory Tufts

Elsworth & Mary Barnard Scholarship
Richard Laprise

Achievement Award
Charlotte Anderson, Kaitlyn Geroski, Bonnie Harper, Richard Laprise, John Mange & Gregory Tufts
Robert Clowes BA ’60 was appointed conductor of the Norwich (CT) Arts Council Symphonic Band. He teaches at Fitch H.S. in Groton, CT and has worked in public music education for 49 years.

Elizabeth Anne Middleton ’75, (known as Beth Quiriy) who was inspired by professors Nigel Coxe and Charles Fussell, performs her own music and teaches piano in Santa Barbara, CA. She signed a recording contract with Tantrum Records in Montecito, CA and has a new website of music collaborations with Bernd Reimann of Cologne, Germany, at www.myspace.com/classicbeamer.

Marshall J. Fine ’77, composer of over 200 works, received a commission to write a work for string quartet from the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, where he is Assistant Principal Violist. He has played with the Orchestra since 1980 and is a charter member of the IRIS Orchestra on violin and viola. He cites the late UMass Amherst Professor, Julian Olevsky, as his most influential teacher.

Thomas Briggs ’78 is Senior Chief Musician and principal percussionist with the U.S. Coast Guard Band and plays drums for the Dixieland Jazz Band. Briggs writes and arranges works for symphonic and wind ensembles, rock groups, swing bands and chamber ensembles. His Coast Guard Bicentennial Fanfare opens the Band’s tour concerts. His compositions won second prize in the Percussive Arts Society competition and the American Bandmasters Association-Ostwald Band Composition Contest.

Karyn Norton Edison BA ’79 in Dance is celebrating 30 years of directing the Dancing Arts Center (a day school and afterschool for 4-12 grades and a student performing troupe in Holliston, MA). She is a 15-year committee member of the Children’s Dance Festival and a founding member of the Massachusetts Dance Festival. Her students perform with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Orlando Ballet and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater; others study at the UMass Amherst Dance Department, Columbia/Alvin Ailey and American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Music Department Board Member and electric violist Martha Mooke MM ’88 was seen on a CBS-TV broadcast celebrating the DVD release of Streisand: The Concerts. The CBS special and DVD were recorded during the 2006 North American tour; Mooke was a member of Streisand’s orchestra for the 2006 and 2007 European tours. Articles about Martha appeared in the Journal of the America Viola Society and Strings magazine. She performed at Symphony Space, the Kennedy Center and appeared with Enya on “Live with Regis and Kelly.”

Kayla Werlin MM ’90 was a guest conductor of the Women’s Choir at the Suffolk County (NY) Music Educators’ Association All-County High School Music Festival. Her husband, retired UMass Amherst Choral Director E. Wayne Abercrombie, was also invited to conduct; Charlotte (LeBlanc) Johnson ’90, Comsewogue (NY) High School choral director, helped organize the Festival. Werlin is vocal music director at Longmeadow (MA) High School and director of the Mak’hela chorus.

Russell Houser ’94, a horn player and commander of the 82nd Airborne Division Band now deployed to Afghanistan, says, “Preparing for war and preparing for art simultaneously is a very intense and interesting challenge.” Houser’s mission is to help the soldiers decompress. The group is in demand for events ranging from road races to formal ceremonies. “The Taliban demand for events ranging from road races to formal ceremonies. “The Taliban are alive and well and very unfriendly to the U.S. Anytime we go outside the wire, we put ourselves in harm’s way,” he says. “This was not what I imagined when I picked up a French horn 30 years ago but I really love the soldiers and the job we do.”
Baritone John Salvi ’97, MM ’00 performed with Granite State Opera (Portsmouth, NH) in Verdi’s La Traviata and Worcester Opera Works in Menotti’s Amahl & the Night Visitors. He was guest soloist with Arcadia Players Baroque Orchestra, Handel Society of Dartmouth and Newton Choral Society.

John Cavicchia MM ’98 was accepted into the Hartt School of Music’s DMA program in Music Education. A member of the UMass Amherst Music Department’s Alumni Board, he was awarded a full scholarship with a teaching assistantship and a conducting fellowship. In May, he left his position at Western New England College after nine years as music coordinator, instructor in music and choral director.

Sara Bielanski ’99 won the 2008 National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition- Boston Chapter, Professional Division. She performed the role of Carmen in a concert version of Carmen with Chorus Pro Musica/Newton (MA) Symphony Orchestra and was alto soloist in Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis with Quincy Choral Society. She is married to Rodney Lozano.

Margaret (Dixon) Pierce BFA ’99 danced in Boston with Accumulation Dance, with Jody Weber and Weber Dance, and is the owner/director of the Dancers Workshop studio in Sudbury, MA.

Baritone Andrew Garland ’00 received the 3rd Prize in the 2009 Montreal International Musical Competition and the award for the best interpretation of a Canadian work. The semi-final and final rounds were broadcast on Radio Canada. Garland presented a recital of American songs at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Hall (with a good review in Opera News), sang in La Cenerentola at the Fort Worth Opera Festival and with Opera Company of North Carolina, and performed in the Dartmouth Handel Society’s Samson and in the Bard Festival’s Les Troyens. Garland recorded two CDs: On The Other Shore: Folk Song Settings by Steven Mark Kohn and A Pocket of Time: Songs by Lee Hoiby (with Hoiby on the piano). His second daughter, Amara, was born in August, 2008.

MiRi Park BFA Dance/BA Journalism ’00 finished her MA in American Studies at Columbia University, writing her thesis on the oral history of NYC dancing B-girls in the 1990s. She is on the faculty at the NYU/Steinhardt Dance Education program, and runs the new Oral History MA program at Columbia. MiRi danced with Malcolm Low, Maura Donohue and Doug Elkins in the Bessie Award-winning Fraulein Maria.

Adrienne Celeste Fadjo’s (BFA ’01) New York City-based company, ACFDance, celebrated its 7th year. The company’s performance of In Mixed Company at the Cambridge (MA) Multicultural Arts Center, featured the premiere of Fadjo’s Waiting to Land, with choreography called “artistically complex” by the New York Times.

BoSoma (Boston Somatic) Dance Company, co-directed by Katherine Hooper BFA ’01 and Irada Djelassi BFA ’00, performed at Provincetown’s Elan Summer Dance Festival, the Dance for World Community Festival in Cambridge and their five year anniversary concert “V” at the Boston University Dance Theatre.

Singer/songwriter Joya Abbott-Graves MM ’02 recorded the CD Soul Candy, and performed with her band at Boston-area venues: Club Choices, Oliver’s at Cask N’Flagon and All Asia. Joya is also a gospel and classical soloist, choir member at Boston’s St. Paul’s Cathedral, and sings covers all over Cape Cod and New England for the special events bands, Accent and Big City.

Melissa Ham-Ellis BFA ’02 registered one of the pieces she wrote in her UMass Amherst “Writing about Dance” class with the Writers’ Guild in hopes of making it into a short film. She has also become a member of the Screen Actor’s Guild.

Tovah Bodner Muro BFA ’02 is Dance Department Chair at the Jacqueline M. Walsh High School for the Performing & Visual Arts in Pawtucket (RI), which graduated its first class in 2009. She has been Chair since the school’s inception and wrote the curriculum and course schedule. Her students received scholarships to dance programs at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and Dean College (MA). Tovah and husband Jim had their first child, Ethan, in January.

Arlene “Arie” Steiner BFA ’02 teaches Advanced Lyrical and six levels of Jazz Dance at Impulse Dance Center in Natick, MA, judges for Turn It Up! Dance Challenge and is a member of Billbob Brown’s Chaos Theory Dance Company. A Personal Trainer certified through MassBay Community College, the National Academy of Sports Medicine and the American Council on Exercise, she trains with Fitness Therapists at the Fitness Club for Women of Wellesley.

Trumpeter Tom Bergeron ’03 performed with the Albany Symphony.

Amanda Byars BFA ’03 received a Fellowship to the graduate dance program at Ohio State University.

Laura (Simeral) Chevalier, BA in Dance ’03 and Kristen (Duffy) Young, BA in Dance/ BBA in Marketing ’99 direct Accumulation Dance (www.accumulationdance.org), which premiered in November. The company performed at the Volvo Ocean Race in Boston, the Salem (MA) Arts Festival and Dance For World Community Day, at Jose Mateo’s Ballet Theatre in Cambridge, MA. Laura is the Fitness Director at Wave Health & Fitness at the Seaport Hotel in Boston, and Kristen directs the Colleges of the Fenway Dance Project.

Melissa Stratton ’03 and Amanda Woolley ’08 were among the winners of the 2009 “Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award.” Amanda was given special distinction as “Outstanding First-Year Teacher.”
World Symphony in Miami. 06 performed with the New Matt Repucci MM Trumpeter in Hartford, CT, based danceconnectall.org).

Dance Connect (www. modern dance company, dancer for the collaborative assistant artistic director and Jillian Ducharme.

Brendan Buckley BA ‘04 sang in the Five College Opera Project’s production of Kurt Weill’s Seven Deadly Sins.


Tiffany Langlois BFA ‘04 dances with the hip-hop/breakdance company Enigma Dance Kru, and has performed at Tampa Bay Rays baseball games, on MTV’s America’s Best Dance Crew show and tour, at a KRS-1 concert in St. Petersburg, as well as at corporate and charity events, and fashion shows. She trains young women to try out for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers cheerleading squad.

Kassandra Grant BA ’05 in Dance/MEd ’06 performed in a production of the musical comedy The Producers at the Orpheum Theatre in Foxboro.

Jillian Ducharme BFA ’06 is assistant artistic director and dancer for the collaborative modern dance company, Dance Connect (www. danceconnectall.org), based in Hartford, CT.

Trumpeter Matt Repucci MM ’06 performed with the New World Symphony in Miami.

We Have a Bessie Winner!

Layar Thompson BFA ’00 won a Bessie Award, the dance world’s version of the Oscar. Acknowledging the work he did in New York City, the Award’s inscription reads, “For igniting new possibilities of physical existence and personal expression, in performances that manifested singularities on stages, sidewalks, and beyond with the Pixie Harlots and solo performances inspired by Deborah Hay.” This is an extraordinary achievement for such a young artist.

Thompson’s creativity has taken him to many venues. In 2008 he appeared on the Whitney Live Series at The Whitney Museum of American Art and at the Joyce Soho. Of his performance at the Joyce of Hay’s work, The New York Times said, “Dolled up like an urban fairy in barely there running shorts, red and black tulle, sparkles and one set of false eyelashes, Mr. Thompson fired a blank pistol to announce his presence, then preceded to run (and much more) with scissors, noodling his lithe, lyrical body through the off-kilter hops and lunges that Ms. Hay delights in. His babble was nonsense: his art is anything but.”

In December his Cup...puC...K....Ohhhh, Beauty, full, vessel: a soul-o dance, premiered at Dance Theater Workshop in New York. Other projects include: collectively hosting and producing the album artwork photo and music video shoot for the band Shiny Toy Guns (signed with Universal) and publishing an article in Fake Magazine, part of London’s Frieze Art Fair.

Thompson lives in Tennessee on 360 acres of land, living his dream of building a rural studio with artists interested in creating green and sustainable homes. He misses New York City, where he still has an apartment.

Matt Misener MM ’08 has been appointed to the United States Air Force Ceremonial Brass Band in Washington, D.C. A former student of Eric Berlin, he performed with the Albany, Baltimore, Boston and National Symphony Orchestras. “It is hard to find a better job outside of our country’s major symphony orchestras, for a trumpet player like me who just wants to play for a living,” said Misener.

Frank Newton MM ’08 was named Interim Director of Jazz in July. He won the 2007 Downbeat Award for best collegiate Jazz arrangement. He served as the Musical Director of the U.S. Navy’s Seventh Fleet Band’s Far East Edition Big Band.

Gabriella Fucillo BFA ’09 has accepted an apprenticeship with the Fall River, MA dance company, Spindel City Ballet, for the 09-10 season.

Kimberlee Strepka MM ’09 directs The Bronze Ambassadors, a teen handbell ensemble based in Newport, VT. They were invited to perform at the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers National Directors’ Seminar in Tucson, AZ, and have appeared on CBS, NBC, Fox and UPN TV, at Ground Zero in NYC and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.
The Department is grateful to these individuals and businesses for their support. Gifts listed here were received between July 1, 2008 and June 24, 2009.
New Instrument Campaign Surpasses Goal

Thanks to the generosity of Joel Martin, Dean of the College of Humanities & Fine Arts, our students have new and newly repaired instruments. Dean Martin made a special allocation of $25,000 to fully equip the electronic piano studio. He followed with a 2:1 matching program which inspired many donors to help us exceed our goal of $12,500 in only three months. Perhaps best of all, 43% of the donors were new to the Department.

Funds from the 2008-2009 campaign amounted to $65,863, and addressed 80% of the Department’s first priority needs; an additional $15,103 is needed. If you would like to join us in meeting 100% of our priority needs please consider supporting the New Instrument Fund. It is easy to make a secure online gift: Go to the UMass Online gift form https://www.umass.edu/development/give/?ref=gum_givenow. Fill out the requested information. Go to Allocation 1 and select Special Funds scrolling down to New Instrument Fund. Or send a check with the Fund name on the memo line to UMass Amherst, Development Office, Memorial Hall, 134 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003.

Instruments/Equipment purchased
- Fourteen Yamaha digital pianos, master piano & controller
- Buffet-Crampon bass clarinet
- Selmer baritone saxophone
- Natural horn tuning slide, coupler & crooks
- Four double horn cases
- Latin jazz percussion equipment
- Vocal jazz sound equipment
- Percussion studio equipment: Adams vibraphone & xylophone, Set of four Giovanni congas, Pearl twin conga set, Zildjian high & low octave crotales and suspended cymbal, Pearl bass drum & set of four concert toms, Weiss Chau gong, & twenty smaller instruments

Instruments repaired
- Four cellos, two piccolos, two English horns, contrabassoon, two bass clarinets & three bassoons

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Choose a group of 3 concerts from our Fall, 2009 calendar and save!  
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To see the Fall calendar: www.umass.edu/music/eventcalendar.  
Order your Bargain tickets through the Box Office, 413 545 2511.

This offer does not include BoSoma Dance Company, 10/2 & 3; Music Alumni Reunion & Multiband Pops, 10/16;  
String Day, 11/1 & Double Reed Symposium, 11/7.