

# F&PA Fine & Performing Arts Newsletter

## New class gives students public art experience

A new class entitled “Art in the Community,” taught by Associate Professor of Art Sandra Williams, is giving art students real-world experience in community art projects and grant writing.

The class completed public art projects in Lincoln’s Park and Humann Middle Schools this spring and worked with nearly 1,000 school children at the two schools. Thirteen UNL students signed up for the course this semester. Williams said about half were studio art majors from the Department of Art and Art History, and the other half were art education majors in the College of Education and Human Sciences.

“The whole concept of service-learning has been very valuable in my own experience,” Williams said. “Students want hands-on learning that is useful to them.”

The class began by studying books on art activism. They also learned about grant writing and preparing a budget.

Their first public art project was at Park Middle School, where they helped students in Nissa Sturgeon’s art classes complete a mural for their school. The 5’ x 15’ mural consists of four trees, each representing a season. The students at Park, in grades 6-8, traced their hands in clay and added texture. The hands overlap to create the leaves on the tree.

“I love being able to expose my students to different types of art, artists and processes,” Sturgeon said. “The UNL students were able to work one-on-one with our students. Usually there is only one teacher, so here there were many more people for students to get help, opinions, share ideas. The students loved it, and their hand is permanently installed on Park’s wall.”

The UNL students enjoyed working with the Park students, which is a multicultural school.

“It was wonderful to see the different cultures—Hispanic, Caucasian, African-American,” said Bachelor of Fine Arts senior Ashley Wasson. “It was neat to hear them talk in their native tongue, and they included part of their culture on their hands.”



Park Middle School students work with UNL students on their mural.

Bachelor of Fine Arts sophomore Meredith Sandberg said the students were excited to see the process of the mural unfold.

“I don’t think they understood at first how much involvement they would have,” she said. “They look up to us, and they were excited to see it all put together. When they get older, they’ll realize what they were a part of and will understand the process.”

Eric Little, a junior in art education in the College of Education and Human Sciences, said he enjoyed helping the students discover new things.

“Being a future educator, I really enjoy working with the students and helping them discover new things. I loved how the kids were a little confused at first as to why they were making clay hands,” he said. “Some thought that their hands weren’t very attractive compared to others. Now, when things came together, they see how beautiful their hand looks with everyone else’s.”

Sturgeon said the mural has received a positive response from others at the school and the community.

“It has been amazing how many people have responded to it,” she said. “This has been a way for our students to invest in our community, and it gives them a wider audience. They leave their mark on our school. Art brings us all

together and is universally understood.”

The second public art project was a 6’ x 15’ mural at Humann Elementary School in Lincoln, where students worked with 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Kathy Stewart’s art classes. Here, the students created a flat mosaic of a Nebraska landscape that will be displayed in the school’s cafeteria.

The Humann students also drew four pictures of Nebraska featuring a Sandhill Crane, Chimney Rock, the top of the State Capitol Building with the Sower sculpture, and a farm scene. These four drawings formed the basis of four additional murals created by the students, which will also be displayed in the hallways at Humann. UNL students Sandberg, Wasson and Bachelor of Fine Arts senior David Gries came up with this idea.

Working on a project like this helps the elementary and middle school students develop new skills.

“At that age, it helps the kids develop a more creative side,” Sandberg said. “It helps them develop more of a personality.”

It also encourages those students who have artistic talent.

“The children see that if you have artistic talent, then you can do something positive with it,” Wasson said. “Art is often a singular thing, but it’s good to work together to problem solve and boost community morale.”

Another component to the class was that each UNL student had to write a grant proposal for their own community art project.

Wasson’s idea for her project is to pair up a class of students with senior citizens in Norfolk, Neb., to knit or crochet stocking caps for people going through chemotherapy at the Carson Cancer Center in Norfolk.

She said the challenge is finding the right grant to apply for.

“Sometimes you have ideas in your head, but you don’t think you can do it,” she said. “But it’s

# F&PA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2007

## From the Dean's Desk

Dear Friends,

Greetings to all! Another summer is again upon us, bringing with it the usual wonderful and exciting array of arts events that delight audiences on our campus each summer. Beginning on June 5 with the *Jazz in June* series, sponsored by the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, this year's activities also included the annual *Movies on the Green* series offered by the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, the Cornhusker Summer Music Games, sponsored by the School of Music and Drum Corps International, and the fourth annual Chamber Music Institute, sponsored by the School of Music and featuring our own Chiara String Quartet, along with young and talented chamber music performers and composers from all across the country. In addition, we again hosted almost 4,000 students from all over the world at the end of June as part of the International Thespian Festival, and throughout the summer we marked the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nebraska Repertory Theatre with a stellar season that included Ron Hutchinson's *Moonlight and Magnolias*, Jason Robert Brown's *The Last Five Years*, and Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses*.

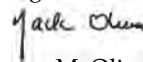
In the middle of all of this, the finishing touches are being made to on the year-long expansion of the Temple Building that was made possible through the generous gift from Johnny Carson. This project has been an exciting journey for all of us, and the results have been nothing less than spectacular! Plans are currently underway for the weekend-long celebration and dedication activities that will take place this fall on Homecoming Weekend. The dedication will include a variety of events, beginning with a formal ceremony on Friday, Oct. 12, and culminating on Sunday, Oct. 14 with a special alumni and friends program entitled *Temple and Beyond*, that we hope you will be able to attend. The celebration will also feature the unveiling of a video documentary on Johnny Carson that is being created as a collaborative venture by four students, two from the College's Film and New Media program and two from the Broadcasting program

in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Finally, this was a banner year with respect to our ongoing commitment to Arts outreach and engagement. Working with our collaborative partners in the Cooperative Extension Division of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, our focus over the past 10 months has been on increasing the number and variety of activities and events in rural Nebraska. Highlights included the organization of Fine and Performing Arts summer camps for 4-H students in Burwell, Holdrege, Hastings, Hemingford, McCook, Nebraska City, Hebron, and Fremont, and a weeklong tour by the Chiara String Quartet that took the Quartet, the Chancellor, a student video crew, and several other University administrators to Minden, Curtis, Scottsbluff, and the 4-H camp in the Nebraska National Forest in Halsey.

To be sure, this is a wonderful time for our College! Our faculty, students and alumni are accomplishing noteworthy and exciting things, while at the same time, external financial and in-kind support for the College and its programs continues to increase significantly each year. Thanks to you all for your ongoing support for our efforts to move the College forward.

With warmest regards,



Giacomo M. Oliva  
Dean



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## In Memoriam

**Larry Lusk,**  
Professor  
Emeritus and  
founding dean of  
the Hixson-Lied  
College of Fine  
and Performing  
Arts, died Aug.  
20.

Lusk's career  
at the University  
spanned 39  
years. He began  
his career at  
UNL in 1958 as  
an instructor  
of piano in the  
School of Music.

He became full  
professor in 1970 and, in 1982, received his first  
position in administration as he was named  
interim chair of the Department of Art and  
Art History. Lusk was an associate dean in the  
College of Arts and Sciences from 1988-1993.  
He was appointed dean of the newly created  
College of Fine and Performing Arts in 1993.  
Following his retirement as dean in 1996, he  
accepted a request to serve as the interim  
director of the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

His accomplishments as dean included the



Lusk

hiring of one-fourth of the faculty between the  
college's creation in 1993 and his retirement  
in 1996, and the starting of several programs,  
including the return of the Lively Arts  
publication, the college alumni newsletter and the  
continued growth of the Arts Are Basic program.

Lusk received his Bachelor of Music with  
honors from Denison University in Ohio in 1953.  
He received his Master of Music degree from the  
University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1954, and  
he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree  
from the University of Michigan in 1962.

His performance career took him to  
concert halls across the country, including a  
performance at New York City's Lincoln Center.

University of Nebraska President J.B.  
Milliken issued the following statement:

"Larry was an extraordinarily popular  
professor when I was a student at UNL," he  
said. "I wasn't fortunate enough to know him  
then, but we became friends later in life, and  
it was easy to see why he was so well thought  
of by his students and colleagues. Larry was a  
gifted musician whose remarkable talent and  
vision for the College of Fine and Performing  
Arts earned him the respect of the University  
and the community. He will be greatly missed."

**Bonna Tebo Hays,** theatre alumnus and  
member of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and



Hays

Performing Arts  
alumni board,  
died May 25.

After  
graduating  
from Roca  
High School  
in Nebraska,  
Hays came to  
UNL, where she  
won four "Best  
Actress Awards"  
and graduated  
with a Bachelor  
of Arts in theatre  
in 1958. That

same year she married Hobart Hays, an art  
alumnus and former member of the College's  
Alumni Board. She also became the first woman  
director for the Lincoln Community Theatre.

In 1962, the couple moved to New York City,  
where she studied acting and performed at the  
Circle and Square Theatre. She also acted in the  
television soap operas "The Doctors," "The Edge  
of Night" and "As the World Turns."

She received her master's degree from  
C.W. Post College and directed plays at Suffolk  
Community College.

In 1995, the couple retired to Lincoln, where  
she continued to act, teach and volunteer.



# Chiara String Quartet complete statewide tour

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln School of Music’s Chiara String Quartet embarked on a statewide tour of Nebraska this spring to bring their unique chamber music experience to communities across Nebraska.

“In addition to superb artistry, as musicians, the members of the Chiara Quartet have a special talent for engaging their audiences, regardless of the performance setting,” said Hixson-Lied

Endowed Dean Giacomo Oliva. “They are committed to the value and importance of outreach in their work as members of the music faculty, which of course, is a priority for our College and for a land-grant university such as ours.”

The Chiara String Quartet’s schedule April 29-May 3 included stops at the Minden Opera House, the Star Theater in Curtis, the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff and Halsey’s State 4-H Camp.

The Chiara String Quartet is comprised of Rebecca Fischer and Julie Yoon, violins, Jonah Sirota, viola, and Gregory Beaver, cello. The School of Music hired the Quartet as Artists-in-Residence in the School for a three-year residency beginning in August 2005. Funding was made possible by the Hixson-Lied Endowment, the University of Nebraska Foundation and the Office of the Senior Vice



The Chiara String Quartet perform with students from Bluffs Middle School in Scottsbluff, Neb.

Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

“The tour was a great success from our perspective,” Sirota said. “We got to play for many communities, from Minden to Scottsbluff, and get to know some of the great people across the state. The Chiara Quartet really gets excited over making great music available to audiences of all ages and from all walks of life, and this tour really let us do that.”

This statewide tour was a collaborative outreach and engagement initiative of the Chancellor’s Office, the

Hixson-Lied College of Fine and

Performing Arts, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Chancellor Harvey Perlman, Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Natural Resources John Owens, Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts Dean Giacomo Oliva, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Dean Steven Waller, Assistant to the Chancellor for Community Relations Michelle Waite,

University Communications Director Meg Lauerman and School of Music Director John W. Richmond all accompanied the Chiara Quartet for all or part of the tour.

In addition, two students from the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film’s Film and New Media Program, Josie Azzam and John Albrecht, accompanied the tour to film it and record interviews with participants and audience members.

“It was so great for the dean of my college to offer every filmmaker’s dream—a week to document a world famous quartet promoting our university and the arts,” Azzam said. “My friend John and I were excited just to be there, but it really turned into a great experience when the Chiara Quartet turned out to be so friendly and helpful with our filmmaking. We shot more than 24 hours worth of footage of concerts, the Quartet teaching students and interviews of different UNL administrators on the importance of arts in extension.”

The Quartet’s performance in Curtis at the Star Theatre attracted nearly 200 people in the town with a population of 600.

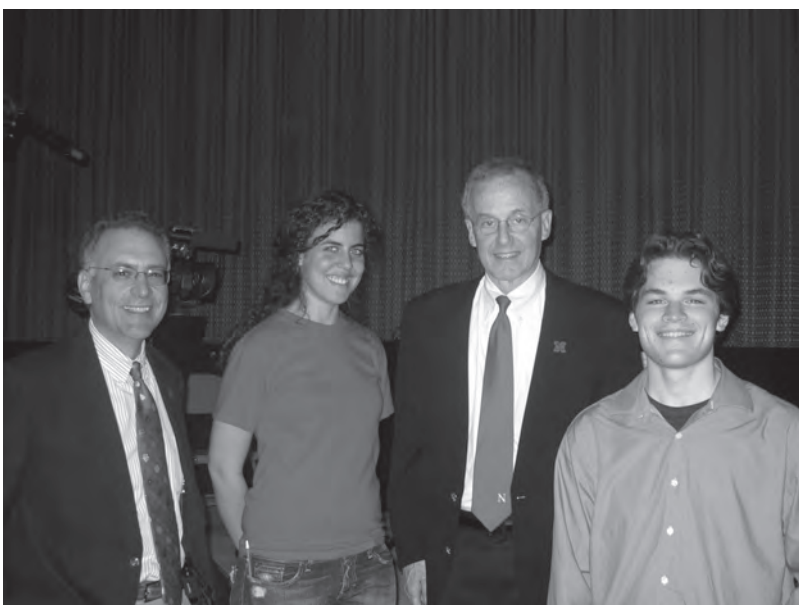
“Everyone was there—kids, parents, grandparents, the occasional pet,” Sirota said.



The Chiara String Quartet at Carhenge in Alliance, Neb.

“And they were so involved and interested in the music. We played pieces from different times and places, including new music with South American influences by composer Gabriela Lena Frank, classic quartet music by Haydn and several others. But the audience really loved the “American” Quartet by Dvorak, a Czech composer who spent time in the Great Plains around the turn of the last century and wrote a piece about the experience. It was a really neat way to meet an entire town. I hope we can visit again sometime.”

Sirota said the unique locations where they played helped make it a memorable experience for both the Quartet and the audiences.



(left to right) Dean Giacomo Oliva, Josie Azzam, Chancellor Harvey Perlman and John Albrecht at the Star Theatre in Curtis, Neb.

(Continued on page 4)



# School of Music junior Liz Love seeks e-x-p-e-r-i-e-n-c-e with Disney Campus Band

Senior music education major Liz Love was accepted into the Disney All-American College Band at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., this summer. Only 21 students are selected by audition for this band, and Love is only one of five saxophone players to be selected.

"I was just ridiculously excited, of course," she said of her selection. "They auditioned people all over the nation and picked five saxophone players. I'm still sort of in shock."

Her saxophone professor at UNL was not surprised by her selection.

"Liz is a very bright and talented young lady with a great diversity to her musical talent. Her personality, which is very outgoing and engaging, is exactly what Disney is looking for," said Assistant Professor of Saxophone Paul Haar. "I would have been surprised if she didn't make it."

Haar himself was in the Disney All-American Band at Disneyworld in Florida in 1991.

"It was a life changing experience for me to be able to perform and play for thousands of people every day," he said.

Since 1971, the Disney All-American College Band has given top college musicians the opportunity to perform and learn about the entertainment industry first-hand at Disney Theme Parks. The unique summer work experience offers a combination of professional performance experiences and educational seminars taught by music professionals.

The 21-piece marching/show band includes saxophones, trumpets, trombones, horns, tubas and percussion. Some students double on



Liz Love. Photo by Ben Kamprath.

acoustic/electric bass and piano. Students are provided housing and a weekly stipend of \$400.

The band performs five different sets each day, one being a big band/jazz set, and the other four are marching/show band sets.

"I'll be playing every single day, a bunch of shows. I'll be in really good shape when I come back," Love said. "I'm going to hopefully come out of this summer just wailing on the saxophone."

In addition to 2<sup>nd</sup> alto saxophone, Love will double on clarinet and flute.

A new addition to the program this year is that students will complete a project in one of three areas: composition and arranging, careers in music, or recording and production.

Love plans to complete the recording and production project.

"I'm in Los Angeles, where there are a million recording studios, and it would be great to be in that scene," Love said.

Love grew up around music. Both of her parents are music teachers. Her mother, Loretta, is a retired elementary vocal music teacher, who plays organ and directs the choir at their church. Her father, Ed, directs the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra and teaches instrumental music in the Lincoln Public Schools.

Liz began her musical career at the age of four when she started playing the piano with the Suzuki method and has continued to play the piano all her life. In fifth grade, she decided to follow her father and play the saxophone.

"He always played the saxophone and jazz," she said. "And I thought that was the coolest thing. I said, 'I want to do that someday.'"

Her high school music teacher at Lincoln Southeast, Robert Krueger, was also a big influence on her and is also a Disney Band alumnus.

"He is extremely supportive and an amazing teacher," she said.

When she came to UNL in 2004, she knew she wanted to major in music education.

"It was the one thing that I was extremely passionate about, and I said I have to do this for

the rest of my life," Love said.

She began with piano at UNL, but then switched to saxophone.

During her freshman year, Jeffrey Richmond, a composition graduate student, wrote a piece for her entitled "Surge," which they premiered at the regional saxophone conference in Des Moines during the spring semester of her freshman year.

"To have that happen my first year here was great," she said.

She has also had the opportunity to work with several prominent guest artists in the jazz band, including Maria Schneider, Chuck Owen and Bobby McFerrin, whom she played with onstage at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

"It was so cool, but I never thought that would happen," Love said.

She also participated in the Jazz Ensemble's first CD, "Minimal Effort," which was released last Fall.

Love said she likes jazz because of the variety and the improvisation.

"There are so many different kinds of jazz," she said. "You have the really old stuff like Duke Ellington or Count Basie. You've got the be-bop era stuff with really fast improvisation like Charlie Parker. You have the new age stuff that's weird and cool and a fusion of jazz and rock influences. Plus Big Band, combo, duo. There are just so many different ways that you can play it. I love to improvise. I think that's the coolest thing. I love reading music, too. But being able to make it up and learn to just find new ways of doing things is just so great."

Following graduation next year, Love said she plans to attend graduate school.

"I hope to eventually get my doctorate, well mostly so I can be Dr. Love. I think that's cool," she said with a laugh. "And so I can teach at the college level."

But Love said she will never stop playing music.

"I would never, ever give that up," she said. "I want to teach, but I'm always going to be playing. That's really important to me."

## Chiara Quartet statewide tour

(Continued from page 3)

"The reaction of our listeners was so exciting to us," Sirota said. "Over and over again, we keep finding that the classical music we play—music that some people call elitist—that it really speaks directly to people when you take away all the stuffy traditions of concert-going like having to get dressed up or knowing when to clap. This is why we play in so many different places, like clubs and bars, as well as schools and nursing homes. The audiences we played for across Nebraska had hundreds of unique experiences hearing our music."

The tour enabled the Quartet to get to know

the state they now represent.

"This trip was really important for us, because we learned so much more about the state that we represent as Artists-in-Residence," Sirota said. "Whether we are playing in Lincoln, or on tour across the country, we bring our feeling for our home state with us. And the more we get to know Nebraska, the more proud we are to represent it."

The Chiara String Quartet is at the forefront of a new generation of exceptional American quartets. They came to UNL after occupying the Lisa Arnhold Residency in the Juilliard School of

Music in New York City. Chamber Music America awarded them the 2006 Guarneri String Quartet Residency Award last fall. They also won first prize at the 2002 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, and they were prize winners at the 2005 Borciani International String Quartet Competition. The Quartet are also committed to building new audiences for chamber music beyond the confines of the concert hall through performances in schools and communities.

This summer, they are performing in New York City and Brooklyn; in Cummington and Whatley, Mass.; and in Fargo, N.D.

# School of Music's Barnes tours China, Korea

Associate Professor and Co-Chair of Piano Paul Barnes completed a one-month tour of China and South Korea in March, during his spring semester sabbatical from the School of Music.

"It's a wonderful part of living, where you have the opportunity to experience these other cultures and share what you have to offer, particularly when they request it and want it," Barnes said.

His tour began in southeastern China with a recital at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China. From there, he traveled to Shanghai, where he performed and taught at the Shanghai Conservatory High School, and then to Nankai University in Tianjin, where he performed a solo recital.

He also performed and gave master classes at Seoul National University and Kyoungwon University in South Korea, before performing at the 2007 American Liszt Society Festival at the San Francisco Conservatory.

Barnes presented his lecture-recital "Liszt and the Cross: Music as Sacrament in the B Minor Sonata" in China. This recital explores the intimate relationship between religion and art in the life and music of Franz Liszt. Liszt's understanding of the sacramental nature of music reveals fascinating intersections with the Orthodox tradition of the icon.

"I wanted to present the whole concept of the lecture-recital," Barnes said. "That it's important to be able to verbally articulate ideas about music as well as playing."

In South Korea, he also gave lecture-recitals on Samuel Barber and Philip Glass: Exploring the Piano Music of Two American Icons.

"I hope I gave the students new insights about these pieces," Barnes said. "For many of them, they may not have been that familiar with Samuel Barber."

The idea for the trip came from Barnes' connections at Indiana University. He teaches for Distinguished Professor Menahem Pressler approximately every other year.

"He had a Chinese student, June Xiao," he said. "She saw how I interacted with Pressler's students, and she wanted me to work with her students in Shanghai."

Xiao set up his performances and lectures in both Shanghai and Beijing.

Barnes' trip to China also came shortly after UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman visited China, where he signed an agreement to establish a Confucius Institute at the Lincoln campus for the study of Chinese language and culture. Perlman also completed official arrangements for close



Paul Barnes with students from his master class at Seoul National University in South Korea.

ties to Xian Jiaotong University's City College that could bring hundreds of Chinese students to UNL every year.

"We're trying to do as much as we can to globalize the university," Perlman said.

The connections that Perlman made at Nankai University and Zhejiang University enabled Barnes to also perform at those two universities.

"He really wanted me to visit as an ambassador of UNL to the schools he had just come back from," Barnes said.

The Chancellor's Office paid for his airfare

for the trip. Barnes also received Hixson-Lied funding, as well as funding from the School of Music for his trip.

Barnes said the School of Music was interested in recruiting more students from Asia, particularly from South Korea.

"The way the society is they place a tremendous value on music and on hard work," Barnes said. "These kids are phenomenally intelligent, so when all of these things come together you get this tremendously motivated student with a real high level of musical talent and ability. It's an absolute gold mine to have those students. To have those types of students here at UNL would be a benefit to everyone concerned." Barnes said one highlight of the trip was working with the students at Seoul National University.

"They're just phenomenally gifted students," he said. "Any musical idea I presented to them, they were able to almost immediately internalize. That was a joy, by far."

He also said all of the instruments he played on in both China and Korea were "really beautiful."

Barnes hopes to return next year.

"I was invited back to all of the places, so I'm hoping to go back sometime next year," he said. "Obviously not for a month, but to go back in some capacity. Korea is just an incredible place. There are so many talented young people there."

## New Art in the Community Class

(Continued from page 1)

always worth applying. You never know who might be willing to support you."

Little's grant project involved helping make people of minority cultures feel more welcome in the city of Lincoln. His project, "Embrace the Human Race," would raise money to purchase advertising space on the sides of buses. The ad would translate a phrase such as "Welcome to Lincoln" into different languages.

"I am hopeful that I will be able to find funding sometime in the near future," he said.

The class will be offered again next year, and students can take the class multiple times. Williams plans work with students at Park Middle School and also the Art and Humanities Focus School next Fall.

"Art has many purposes," Williams said. "It gets students involved in something positive."

Many of the students would like to take the class again.

"I would take this class again," Little said. "You learn so much about working with large groups of people, and every project is going to be a new experience that you can learn from."



Department of Art and Art History senior Ashley Wasson helps a Park Middle School student trace her hand.



# Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film will be dedicated on Friday, October 12, 2007, during UNL’s Homecoming Weekend. The public’s first chance to see the renovated Temple Building was this summer during the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of the Nebraska Repertory Theatre (NRT), which began July 5.

Entertainment and television icon and University of Nebraska alumnus Johnny Carson announced in November 2004 a gift of \$5.3 million to the University of Nebraska Foundation to support the renovation and expansion of the Temple Building, home to the Johnny Carson



Johnny Carson as 1949 Kosmet Klub Master of Ceremonies. Photo courtesy of Carson Productions.

School of Theatre and Film, and to create an endowment to keep performance spaces equipped with the latest advances in lighting and sound technologies.

Following Carson’s death in January 2005, the University of Nebraska Foundation received an additional gift of \$5 million from the estate of Carson for endowed support of programs in theatre, film and broadcasting. Annual income

from the endowment provides support to the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film in the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts and the broadcast program in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

In August 2005, the University of Nebraska renamed the Department of Theatre Arts the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film.

“The Dedication gives homage not only to the 100 years of history this building has had and all the creative people who have come through here,” said Paul Steger, Director of the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film. “but it also pays homage to its most prolific son, Johnny Carson. And just like this building was a starting point for him, his generosity will make it possible for another 100 years of people to come through here and be able to have opportunities that they couldn’t have anywhere else.”

The renovation project, which began in June 2006 and was completed in June 2007, is the first work done on the building in 25 years. The renovation included a new combination black box theatre and film sound stage for students to use in their productions, a newly remodeled and expanded scene shop and updated lighting facilities, new computer-aided design and theatre class lab space, enhanced storage facilities, and an updated lobby for Howell Theatre.

The new black box theatre has a state-of-the-art lighting grid custom designed by The Shallock Collaborative in San Francisco and built and installed by StageCraft Industries in Portland, Oregon. The grid features 9 independently motorized studio lighting box trusses with integral lighting circuits and control that will provide professional level lighting capabilities for theatre performances, education, TV and film production, and is the only one of its kind in the Midwest.

The renovation work was scheduled to be completed by June 22, with some additional

work continuing throughout the summer, such as touch-up painting in other areas of the building and moving in equipment.

The Dedication of the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film is scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 12, 2007. The

## Dedication Schedule

**Friday, Oct. 12, 2007**

**9:30 a.m.:** Formal Dedication Ceremony for faculty, students and invited guests in the Howell Lobby.

**6 p.m.:** Homecoming Parade on R street.

**Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007**

**9 a.m.-5 p.m.:** Tours and Open House at the Temple Building.

**Times to be announced (depending on football game schedule):** Chancellor’s Pre-Game Party (by invitation only), NU vs. Oklahoma State Homecoming Football Game and Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film Alumni Potluck Dinner (by invitation only).

**Sunday, Oct. 14, 2007**

**11:30 a.m.:** Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film Celebration for Alumni, Faculty, Students and Friends. (By invitation only, Lied Center for Performing Arts.)

**1:30 p.m.:** Alumni Program “Temple and Beyond” in the Howell Theatre. Returning alumni will share their stories.

*Note: If you are a Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film alumnus who would like to receive an invitation to the weekend’s alumni events, please contact Julie Hagemeyer at (402) 472-1619 or e-mail [jhagemeyer1@unl.edu](mailto:jhagemeyer1@unl.edu) to be sure we have you on our mailing list!*

**University Theatre’s Season opens Oct. 25** with Sarah Ruhl’s “Eurydice.” The show runs Oct. 25-27 and 31 and Nov. 1-3 in the new Studio Theatre.

weekend kicks off on Oct. 12 with the formal dedication ceremony at 9:30 a.m. in the Howell Lobby for faculty, students and invited guests. The UNL Homecoming parade, which celebrates the Homecoming theme “Big Red Studios: A Tribute to Johnny Carson,” begins at 6 p.m. The parade route ends at 12<sup>th</sup> and R sts. The parade is free and open to the public.

On Saturday, a special Chancellor’s Pre-Game Celebration for invited guests will take place in the Nebraska Union ahead of the Cornhuskers Homecoming football game against the Oklahoma State Cowboys. An open house will also be held at the Temple Building so the public can tour the building during the dedication weekend.

The weekend ends on Sunday, Oct. 14 with special alumni events. A lunch will be held at the Lied Center at 11:30 a.m., followed by a special event at 1:30p.m. in the Temple Building to have selected alumni who are returning for the weekend share their stories about the Temple Building and their careers.



Paul Steger with Jeff Sotzing, president of Carson Entertainment Group and nephew of Johnny Carson, by the lettering outside the new studio theatre during a June 8 tour.



## will be dedicated Homecoming Weekend Oct. 12



Workers install the new state-of-the-art lighting grid in the new studio theatre on May 23, 2007.



The new scene shop space east of the Howell Theatre on May 23, 2007.

"We have a lot of things to be happy for and a lot of things to celebrate," Steger said.

Steger said the weekend will be a fitting tribute to Carson, who represents the epitome of excellence.

"This is an individual who was a regular five nights a week in everybody's home in the United States for 30 years. That's 4,000 shows, and each one was just as good as the last one. It always had to be fresh, and it always had to be on the mark. He was just tenacious in his pursuit of comedy," Steger said. "Hopefully some of our students will inherit that tenacity and persistence and realize that it's important and vital to being a creative artist."

Steger said he is looking forward to seeing how his students use the new technology now available to them.

"I'm anxious to see how they'll recreate the spaces that have been existing based on little additions, little bits and parts here and there to really see how the new theatre will work," he said. "There are so many things about the

100 years.

"Our alumni are leaders in education and the professional theatrical industry all over the country. Our roots in the theatrical community in Nebraska are thick and deep, far deeper than any foundation of a building they've built," Steger said. "As I saw those pylons going in [during the renovation of the Temple Building], those 60-foot footings going into the ground. Talk about setting your roots! It's like this building is going nowhere. It's just fascinating."

Steger is looking forward to celebrating

production elements now that will change. The scene shop is larger and allows more movement of things. Now, we'll find new things to do out of necessity or out of 'Hey, we can do that now, so let's try that.'"

Steger said students in the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film are getting excited about their new spaces.

"They're excited. They know it's coming," he said. "They're dreaming of new ways to look at it. I think they'll be amazed at what can happen now."

And it will all be thanks to the generosity of Carson.

"I think there's a great sense of pride in the students. And in many ways a sense of humility that someone cared enough—Johnny Carson—to give them opportunities that he never had or only dreamed of," Steger said. "I think that if Johnny were to go through the program now with these things available to him, where he might go, what he might do.."

Steger said the School is now ready for the next

### We want to hear from YOU!

An important part of the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film Dedication weekend will be the alumni celebration. Director Paul Steger is working to compile a history of the Temple Building and the theatre program at UNL, and he would like to hear from you if you have any stories or photos to share.

"Theatre is such an aural tradition. I'm trying to find those stories of all those people," he said. "It really is a story of our home that weekend. This is where we came from, who was instrumental at the time, how things changed over the years, students who went through. You don't get much of a chance to have an event like this that can bring back alumni and really have them tell stories of their experiences in this building that we have all called home."

Did you study in the Temple Building or were you a theatre major? What do you remember about your experiences? What do you remember about the building? How did your experiences shape your life or your career? Do you have any photos you could share?

If so, please contact Steger at (402) 472-2072 or e-mail him at [psteger2@unl.edu](mailto:psteger2@unl.edu). We want to hear from you!

Johnny Carson's gift, along with the vision and accomplishments of all of those who have come before through the program.

"For me, the Dedication is about honoring the legacy of Johnny's commitment to theatre, film, radio, broadcasting—all of those things got started in this building," he said. "And it honors all of those alums who were here and hopefully it's a celebration to get them back in the building."



The renovated lobby connects the lobby space of both the Howell and Studio Theatres. Photo taken on June 5, 2007.



## Faculty Notes



Bailey

**John Bailey**, Larson Professor of Flute, gave a lecture on classical music in the U.S. before and after the Civil War for the Midwest Civil War Civilian Conference in Joliet, Ill., in January. He played the Mozart Flute and Harp Concerto with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra in March.

He also arranged for guest flutists Maria Harding (Omaha Symphony Principal Flutist) and British Flutist/Composer Ian Clarke to visit UNL this past spring.

**Diane Barger**, Associate Professor of Clarinet, was the featured guest artist for the 2007 Alabama Clarinet Retreat held on March 3-4 at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. Barger performed in recital and as a master class clinician throughout the weekend. She also hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest ClariFest at UNL on March 30, where her guest artist was world-renowned bass clarinetist Michael Lowenstern.

**Paul Barnes**, Associate Professor and Co-Chair of Piano, was featured on the National Public Radio Performance Today program on Jan. 31 in a broadcast of his recording of Philip Glass' Orpheus Suite in honor of Glass' 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Barnes' recording of Glass' Piano Concerto No. 2: After Lewis and Clark on the Orange Mountain Music label received an enthusiastic review by Gramophone magazine last December. Barnes had a month-long tour of Asia during March and performed at the 2007 American Liszt Society Festival at the San Francisco Conservatory.

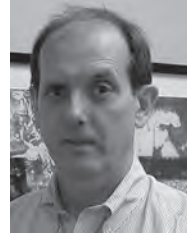
**Peter Bouffard**, Lecturer of Guitar, and **Rusty White**, Associate Professor of Bass, released a new collaborative guitar/bass duo CD entitled "Contrafactum."

**Santiago Cal**, Associate Professor of Art, received a \$1,000 Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship Awards in Visual Arts.

**The Chiara String Quartet** (**Rebecca Fischer** and **Julie Yoon**, violins; **Jonah Sirotka**, viola; and **Gregory Beaver**, cello) made their Washington debut in October at the Kreeger Museum and received a positive review in the Washington Post on Oct. 30, 2006. They performed in New York City in January at Merkin Concert Hall and at Rose Live Music Club in Brooklyn. Their performance at Merkin Hall was followed by a reception sponsored by the University of Nebraska Foundation and was attended by **Chancellor Harvey Perlman**, University of Nebraska Foundation President and Chief Development Officer **Clarey Castner**, Development Officer **Lucy Buntain Comine**, Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts Endowed Dean **Giacomo M. Oliva** and School of Music Director **John W. Richmond**. The Chiara's performance received a rave review in the New York Times by Allan Kozinn. The Quartet was featured on WNYC (New York's NPR station) on "Soundcheck" with John Schaefer, discussing classical music in a club. They were also featured on WRTI (Philadelphia's NPR station) on "Crossover." They also

performed in Lincoln at the Chatterbox and performed the first two concerts of the Lincoln Brahms Festival: Love, Life and Spirit at Kimball Recital Hall and the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

**William Grange**, Professor of Theatre, was in Vienna, Austria, serving as the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Humanities and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna. Grange was also the recipient of an Arts and Humanities Enhancement Grant in support of a project entitled "German and Austrian Actresses of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century."



Grange

**Aaron Holz**, Assistant Professor of Art, received a \$1,000 Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship Awards in Visual Arts.



Holz

**Karen Kunc**, Cather Professor of Art, received the prestigious Printmaker Emeritus Award at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southern Graphics Council in March. The Printmaker Emeritus Award, created in 1978 and presented annually, is a distinction bestowed by the Southern Graphics Council on an individual who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments and made lasting contributions to the art of printmaking.



Kunc. Photo by David Dale.

**Glenn Nierman**, Associate Director of the School of Music and Steinhart Professor of Music Education, was nominated for the University's prestigious Pound-Howard Award last fall. Nierman's term as President-Elect of the North Central Division of the MENC-The National Association for Music Education began in January with a visit to Senator Chuck Hagel's and Senator Ben Nelson's offices to discuss the effects of the No Child Left Behind legislation on arts education in schools.

**Clark Potter**, Associate Professor of Viola, conducted the Premiere Orchestra at the Alabama All-State Orchestra Festival in Tuscaloosa Feb. 9-11, and the Reno (Nev.) All-City High School Honors Orchestra Feb. 22-24. The Alabama orchestra also gave the premiere of his latest composition, Violations of an Original Boyhood Theme, his third piece composed for young orchestras.

**John W. Richmond**, Professor and Director of the School of Music, served on the accreditation team of the National Association of Schools of Music for Rutgers University.

**Jonah Sirotka**, Lecturer in Music, won Third Prize at the Walter W. Naumburg viola competition in New York City. The competition is open to all violists who reside or study in North America who are between the ages of 18-32. Sirotka played works by Bach, Hindemith, Brahms and Penderecki in the final round.

## Jazz Ensemble releases CD

The UNL Jazz Ensemble I released its first CD, entitled "Minimal Effort" in early November.

Allaboutjazz.com said in their review that "the ensemble is essentially a 17-piece college orchestra performing with the same poise and finesse one expects of a professional band."

Assistant Professor of Saxophone Paul Haar, who conducts the Jazz Ensemble, described the CD as "eclectic."

"There is a great variety [on the CD] from rock/fusion and swing to standards and one original composition by one of our students, Jeff Richmond," Haar said.

Richmond, a Doctor of Musical Arts graduate student in the School of Music, said he wrote "Minimal Effort" with the Jazz Ensemble in mind, although he wrote it before he knew there would be a CD project.

"The piece is designed to reflect my interests in minimalism and the repetitive motives in the piece help to create the minimalist personality in the piece," Richmond said.

Other tracks on the CD include "Gotham City" by Steve Wiest, "The Duke" by Clare Fischer and "Martha Stewart Ain't Got Nothin' On My Baby" by Vance Thompson.

The CD project was paid for by the School of Music. Department of Art and Art History graduate student Sam Rapien designed the CD cover artwork.

The CD gave Haar's students the experience of participating in a professional recording.

"They had an amazing time," Haar said. "They were excited, honored and thrilled to hear themselves on a professional recording."

The CD is available through the School of Music's Band Office at (402) 472-2505 or visit [www.unl.edu/band/recording.shtml](http://www.unl.edu/band/recording.shtml).

## Campus museums undergo transitions

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery Director **Janice Driesbach** announced her resignation March 29 after six and a half years as Sheldon Director. Her last day will be Sept. 20. Outgoing College of Arts and Sciences Dean **Richard Hoffmann** will serve as interim director of Sheldon. Driesbach plans to pursue another position in arts or nonprofit management. During her tenure, she has forged stronger relationships with the Nebraska Art Association, overseen major renovation projects, and enhanced student and community involvement in the Sheldon.

Sheldon Curator **Dan Siedell** left in May to accept a position to teach modern and contemporary art history, criticism and theory at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Siedell was Curator of Sheldon since July 1996. Sheldon Statewide Coordinator **Sharon Kennedy** has been appointed interim curator.

**Reece Summers**, Curator of the Great Plains Art Museum, left UNL July 15. His wife, Wynne, accepted a faculty position at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah.



## Alumni Notes

**58 Jim Cantrell** (B.F.A. Ed. Art), had an exhibition of oils, watercolors and drawings from the past three decades as part of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition of the Bardstown (Ky.) Art Gallery and the Cantrell Art Studio last year.

**67 Ann (Tudor) Gable Allaire** (B.F.A. Art) was awarded the Atlantic Papers Award at the National Arts Club Grand Gallery in New York City on Sept. 17 by The Pastel Society of America. Additionally, her painting, "Evening Tide," was selected for the Joseph Salomon Purchase Prize. As a Pastel Society of America Signature Member who has received awards at three different annual exhibitions, she is now designated a Master Pastelist, one of 142 Master Pastelists listed with the Pastel Society of America.

**75 Jeff L. Fisher** (B.F.A. Art) had an exhibition entitled "eight digital prints" at the Unitarian Church in Lincoln in December. In addition, Fisher's work is featured in the artists section of the popular gossip site Gawker (www.gawker.com).

**80 Susan Puelz** (B.F.A. Art, M.F.A. 1984) had concurrent solo exhibitions last July at the Anderson-O'Brien Fine Art Gallery in Omaha and at the Great Plains Art Museum at UNL.

**81 Leslie Harlow Gries** (B.M.E.) announced the publication by 3 Jewels Press of her audio novella, "Failure," which is set in the music scene in Lincoln.

**97 Shaila Christofferson** (M.F.A. Art) has accepted a position at Chicago State University.

**99 Jason Briggs** (M.F.A. Art) **Ian Anderson** (M.F.A. Art 2004) were both juried into the

NCECA (National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts) Biennial National Exhibition at the Kentucky Museum of Art in Louisville this spring. They were among just 73 artists chosen from 1,300 entries.

**Jeremy Kolwinska** (M.M.) has been named Chair of the Department of Music at the University of Tennessee-Martin. He also teaches low brass.

**00 Godwin Sadoh** (M.M.) directed the LeMoyné-Owen College Concert Choir in a Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas at the Second Congregational Church in Memphis, Tenn., on Nov. 29. Sadoh's "Keresimesi Odun de for sopranos, altos, tenors and bass and piano premiered at the event.

**02 Tim Hammer** (B.A. Theatre) appeared in an Oct. 10 episode of "Nip/Tuck" on the FX channel.

**04 Roxanne Jackson** (M.F.A. Art) was one of three artists whose work was featured in an exhibition entitled "Tugboat Presents: One Night Only" at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, on December 20.

**05 Amber Eve Anderson** (B.F.A. Art) had her work on display from Sept. 6 to Oct. 6, 2006, at the Nebraska Governor's Residence as part of the 2006-2007 Governor's Residence Exhibition Season.

**Jamie Burmeister** (M.F.A. Art) received a \$5,000 Distinguished Artist Award for his sculpture/installation from the Nebraska Arts Council in April.

**Catherine Meier** (B.F.A. Art 2005) received a Jacob Javits Fellowship valued at \$42,000,

including tuition and stipend for a maximum of four years. The Jacob Javits Fellowship Program provides graduate-level support for students pursuing the arts, humanities and social sciences. Meier is pursuing her Master of Fine Arts at the University of Michigan.

**Jonathan Reece** (B.A. Music) is currently a student at Southeast Technical University in Red Wing, Minn., where he is enrolled in the band instrument repair program.

**Fred Scott** (B.A. Music) is a student in the graduate program of the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University. He is pursuing a Master of Music degree in music technology.

**06 Sarah Firth MacMillan** (M.F.A. Art) had an exhibition entitled "Pink Grow Green" at the Hunter College Department of Art in New York City in January.

**Dan Perry** (M.F.A. Art) accepted a position at the University of Northern Iowa this fall. His recent exhibitions include a Barker Art Residency at Hot Shops Art Center in Omaha, the Dangnart International Juried Exhibition in Nashville, and "77 Deadly Sins + 7 Heavenly Virtues" at the Nicholas State Gallery.

**Nancy Vogt** (D.M.A.) is an instructor of low brass at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She teaches trombone and euphonium, as well as brass chamber music. She is also a member of the NWU Faculty Trio.

**07 Justin Shaw** (M.F.A. Art) has been offered positions next year at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Nebraska Wesleyan University and Hastings College.

## Oliva wins national administrator award

The National Association of Educational and Office Professionals has selected Giacomo Oliva, endowed dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, the national Administrator of the Year.

Oliva was nominated for the award after



Oliva with his plaque from the Nebraska Educational Office Professional Association's Educational Administrator of the Year award in October.

being honored as the Nebraska Educational Office Professional Association's 2006-2007 Educational Administrator of the Year on Oct. 13.

Oliva has been dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts since 2001. He leads the Hixson-Lied Advisory Board, which oversees the \$18 million endowment for the college, and oversaw NU alumnus Johnny Carson's \$10.3 million donation to the University of Nebraska Foundation to support the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film.

He recently completed a two-year term as president of the International Society for Music Education and is currently serving as president of the Lincoln Arts Council.

He maintains a special interest in Ragtime and other forms of American popular music. Oliva gives several Ragtime lecture-performances for community groups throughout the year as part of the UNL Speakers Bureau.

Prior to UNL, he served as director of the School of Music at the University of Florida, as head of the Department of Music at Mississippi State University and as director of Music for the Leonia, New Jersey Public Schools.

Oliva attended the NAEOP national conference in Seattle in July to accept the award.

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## News Briefs

**Jen-Kuang Chang** (D.M.A.) had one of his recent compositions, "Chakra," selected as the second prize winner of the JIMS (Jazz and Improvised Music Salzburg) International Composition Contest for Improvised Chamber Music. The prize included 1,000 euro and a premiere in Salzburg in July by the Janus Ensemble.

**Andy Converse** (D.M.A.) was chosen via audition to participate in the 2007 Pierre Monteux School for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians in Hancock, Maine. Converse performed on trombone, tenor tuba and bass trumpet.

Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film performance undergraduates **Michael De La Rosa** (B.A.) and **Naohiro Takahashi** (B.A.) participated in a re-enactment of a knife fight, choreographed by Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film Director **Paul Steger**, for "Most Honorable Son," an hour-long documentary about Japanese-American war hero Ben Kuroki to be broadcast nationally on PBS in early September. The scene was filmed on UNL's East Campus.

**Mary Gaetz** (M.F.A. Theatre) represented the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film at the National Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival April 16-22 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She won the Society for Stage Directors and Choreographers Competition at the KC/ACTF Region V Festival in January. She also won the Inge Festival Directing Competition at the KC/ACTF Region V and represented UNL at the 26th Annual William Inge Theatre Festival in Independence, Mo., April 25-28. Gaetz also had her film, "E," accepted to the UFVA (University Film and Video Association) Graduate Narrative/Experimental Showcase on Aug. 9 at the University of North Texas. Her film was an interpretation of the Orpheus myth from Eurydice's point of view.

Thirty-four representatives from the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film were in attendance at the regional Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in Ames, Iowa, in January. MFA Directing student **Brian LaDuca's** production of "Speed the Plow" was selected by a pair of regional respondents to participate at the regional festival.

After an internship with Pathé Pictures during the summer of 2006 working on Academy Award nominee "The Queen," **Rosemarie Lenosky** (B.F.A. Film and New Media), was invited to be one of the student interns at the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival in Nice, France. While there, she was accepted to



(L-R) Leigh Ann Singer, Kristi Michael and Julie Neal are participating in the International Youth Wind Orchestra.

participate in the Real Student Ideas at Cannes for Adobe, where she collaborated with three film students to create a short documentary about Cannes. She also won the "Emerging Producer" student award at the Reel Ideas Studio at Cannes.

**Kristi Michael** (M.M. clarinet), **Julie Neal** (M.M. clarinet) and **Leigh Ann Singer** (M.M. flute) were selected to be members of the 2007 International Youth Wind Orchestra at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Conference in Killarney, Ireland, this July. The orchestra is an ensemble of approximately 50 outstanding young musicians, ages 18 to 25, from around the world.



Department of Art and Art History MFA student **Joshua Norton** (right) discusses his work at the Fine Arts Academy in Helsinki, Finland.

UNL printmaking faculty and students participated in a Collaborative Printmaking Residency at the Fine Arts Academy in Helsinki, Finland, during spring break in March. Professors **Karen Kunc** and **Francisco Souto**, 2nd year MFA graduates **Maranda Allbritten**, **Sherry Black**, **Eriko Fugita**, **Anne Ruehrmund** and 1st year MFA graduates **Jewel Noll** and **Joshua Norton** participated with 10 Finnish and international students.

**Thorin Meyer** (B.F.A. Film and New Media) and **Sam McCoy** (B.F.A. Film and New Media) were selected to film interviews and create footage for a documentary during the Fulbright Academy of Science and Technology Conference in Panama City, Panama, in February. The two students were flown to Panama for five days to document this international gathering of scientists and educators, and they worked with other filmmakers from the U.S. and Costa Rica to create the documentary.

**Sandy Veneziano**, graduate of the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film, adjunct professor, and member of the Hixson-Lied Advisory Board, spearheaded a trip to Los Angeles for seven Theatre and Film students during spring break in March. The participating students were **Candace Frank** (B.F.A. Film and New Media), **Matt Harrell** (B.F.A. Film and New Media), **Robby DeFrain** (B.F.A. Theatre and B.F.A. Art), **Christopher Edward Jonak** (B.F.A. Film and New Media), **Rosemarie Lenosky** (B.F.A. Film and New Media), **Jesse Mason** (B.F.A. Film



Producer **Mel Efros** (second from left) meets with Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film students **Matt Harrell**, **Rosemarie Lenosky** and **Chris Jonak** in Los Angeles. Photo by Mike Edholm.

and New Media) and **Brandon Nelson** (B.F.A. Theatre). Activities included trips to Western Costume and Disney, Warner Brothers, ABC and Sony Studios, where they watched tapings of "Gilmore Girls" and "Grey's Anatomy." While at Disney, the students met Nne Ebong, who is the director of current programming for Touchtone Television. They also met with Duncan Henderson (producer of "Dead Poets Society" and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"); former UNL graduate and art director **Dan Proett**; recent guest film director **Donald Petrie** and his brother, **Dan Petrie**; and President of Sony Animation **Sandy Rabins**.

**Matt Walley** (B.A. Music) was accepted via audition to perform and study trombone at the 2007 Rome Festival Orchestra.

## Arts Entrepreneurship



Nearly 80 people participated in the annual Arts Entrepreneurship Day on Feb. 3 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. The event, which highlights career opportunities for students outside of teaching and performing, is sponsored by the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts and the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship. Grammy-Award winning composer and entrepreneur **Maria Schneider** (above) was the keynote speaker. Photo by Joel Stuthman.



## Honors Day weekend recognizes achievement

The Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts celebrated its annual Honors Day Weekend April 19-21. Awards were presented at the Honors Day Dinner, held April 21 at the Nebraska Union.

The Award of Merit was presented to **Jim and Rhonda Seacrest**, who recently made a donation to the University of Nebraska Foundation to create a new Opera/Chamber Orchestra. They have also made a gift commitment to sponsor the UNL Opera production of "Most Happy Fella" to tour and compete in the Waterford Light Opera Festival in Waterford, Ireland. They similarly sponsored the production of "Bohemian Girl" to the Waterford Festival in 2002.

Alumni Achievement Award in Art recipient **Dr. Anne El-Omami** (B.F.A. 1970, M.A. 1974), who is Director of Education at Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, visited The Arts in the



Dean Giacomo Oliva with alumni board award winners (left to right) Phyllis Gates, Jim and Rhonda Seacrest and Anne El-Omami.

### Nominations for 2008

Nomination forms for the alumni board awards are available from our website at <http://www.unl.edu/finearts/alumni.shtml> or call (402) 472-9355. Nominations for 2008 will be due **December 7, 2007**.

Elementary Classroom and Learning and Teaching Principles and Practice in Art classes on April 19. She also visited with Sheldon docents and student docents on Friday and Saturday.

**Phyllis Gates** (B.S. 1964), a speech writer and public relations counsel in New York City and the Alumni Achievement Award in Theatre recipient, visited a costume design class in the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film on Friday. She and her husband, Gary Paul Gates, a former writer for CBS News and ABC News, spoke to students and faculty in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications on Friday.

Both El-Omami and Gates attended a college-wide picnic, sponsored by the Undergraduate Student Advisory Board on Friday.

New this year was the Faculty Service Award, given to Professor of Theatre **Tice Miller**, which is presented to a current or emeritus (emerita) faculty member in the College who has demonstrated outstanding and dedicated service to the community and to the College.

**Dr. Lawrence Gwozdz** (M.M. 1976), the Alumni Achievement Award in Music recipient and Professor of Saxophone and Interim Director of the University of Southern Mississippi School of Music, was unable to attend in April. He will be rescheduling his visit to campus this fall.

### 2007 Honors Day Awards Recipients

Name	Award
Eric Anderson	Francis William Vreeland Award (Art)
Joy Barlean	Student Leadership Award
Ashlee Bartek	Porter Award in Dance
Rachel Buse	F. Pace Woods Award-Art
Jen-Kuang Chang	Ida M. Vreeland Award (Music)
Jennifer Donelson	Outstanding Graduate Teaching Asst. Award
Dr. Anne El-Omami	Alumni Achievement Award in Art
Gretchen Foley	College Distinguished Teaching Award
Phyllis Gates	Alumni Achievement Award in Theatre Arts
Dr. Lawrence Gwozdz	Alumni Achievement Award in Music
Julie Hagemeier	Floyd S. Oldt Award for Exceptional Service to the University
Aaron Holz	Harold & Esther Edgerton Junior Faculty Award
Sarah Hranac	Dean's Award for Academic Excellence
Byron Hunt	F. Pace Woods Award-Theatre
Elizabeth Ingraham	Annis Chaiken Sorensen Award for Teaching in the Humanities
Rosemarie Lenosky	Porter Award in Theatre Arts
Tice Miller	Faculty Service Award
Rebecca Reineke	Francis William Vreeland Award (Art)
Jeffrey Richmond	Student Leadership Award
Jim and Rhonda Seacrest	Award of Merit
Michael Tully	F. Pace Woods Award-Music
David von Kampen	Ida M. Vreeland Award (Music)
Erik Vose	Porter Award in Theatre Arts
Rhonda Willers	Outstanding Graduate Teaching Asst. Award

## College welcomes 4 new faculty this fall in music, theatre

The Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts welcomes the following four new faculty members this Fall:

**Stanley Kleppinger** joins the School of Music as Assistant Professor of Music Theory. He comes to UNL from Butler University where he was an assistant professor of music theory. He holds a Ph.D. and a master's degree from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree in music education from Drake University.

Kleppinger's research interest focus on pitch-centric music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University presented him the 2006 Dean's Dissertation Award for his work on Aaron Copland's music of the 1940s. He is also a recipient of the Irving Lowens Article Award, which is presented annually by the Society for American Music.

**Jeffrey McCray** will be Assistant Professor of Bassoon after serving as interim lecturer in bassoon and music theory at UNL last year. Since 2003, McCray has been the principal bassoonist of the Battle Creek (Mich.) Symphony Orchestra, and since 2000, he has been a member

of the bassoon section of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic (formerly Colorado Springs Symphony Orchestra).

McCray holds a bachelor's degree in bassoon performance and a master's degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University. He received his D.M.A. from Michigan State University. He has served on the faculties of Baylor University, Western Michigan University, Albion College, and the University of Michigan-Flint.

**Dale Bazan** is Assistant Professor of Practice in Music Education. He completed his Bachelors of Music and Bachelors of Education at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada, his M.M. in Instrumental Music Education at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and is completing his Ph.D. in Music Education this August at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Bazan has taught grades 5-12 band in Alberta (Canada), Iowa and Ohio for 10 years.

Bazan's research interests include instrumental music education practices, student-

directed instruction, music technology, and the social psychology of music. His research has been published in the peer-reviewed research journals *Contributions to Music Education* and *Visions of Research in Music Education*.

Joining the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film is **Scott Parker** as Assistant Professor of Lighting Design. Parker has more than 26 years of experience in the entertainment field with credits ranging from Radio City Music Hall to town hall. He has worked in television with his work appearing on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, TNN, CNBC and overseas television.

Recently, he has taught design and technology at Pace University, created and produced the Stage Lighting Super Saturday seminars with Sonny Sonnefeld, trained New York City theatre teachers and served as the chair for the U.S.I.T.T. (United States Institute for Theatre Technology) New York area section.

Parker received his M.F.A. degree in theatrical design and technology from Brooklyn College and earned his bachelor's degree at Bennington College.



## UNL's Rocktavo wins a cappella award

The School of Music's student-generated a cappella men's singing group, Rocktavo, was judged top all male singing group and 1<sup>st</sup> runner up in the 2007 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella on April 21.

The final round of competition was held before a nearly full house in Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. Varsity Vocals has conducted this competition for the past 11 years.

This year, 138 collegiate a cappella singing groups competed in the quarterfinals. The number of competitors was reduced to 53 in the regional semifinals, where judges selected one group to represent each of seven regions in the finals in New York City. The regions included a cappella groups from across the United States and Western Europe.

This year's final competitors were from Oxford University, Binghamton University, Amherst College, Rutgers University, Florida State University, Brigham Young University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The final competition was judged by Barry Carl & Jeff Thatcher from the professional a cappella group, Rockapella, as well as three additional judges from other nationally prominent, professional a cappella groups.

Most of Rocktavo's musical arrangements are written by members of the group—**Chris**



Rocktavo.

**Foss** (M.M.), **Michael Tully** (D.M.A.) and **Zakk Wooten** (B.M.E.). In the final competition, Tully and Wooten were awarded "Best Musical Arrangement" for their arrangement, "Figaro," based in part upon Rossini's famous aria from "The Barber of Seville."

In addition to Foss, Tully and Wooten, the other members of Rocktavo are **Adam Fieldson** (B.M.), **John Gieringer** (General Studies), **Sam Anderson** (B.M.E.), **Dan Beard** (B.A.), **Andy King** (B.M.) and **Zack Bjornsen** (B.M.E.). UNL School of Music Professors **Alisa Belflower**, **William Shomos**, **Therees Hibbard** and **Peter Eklund** serve as sponsors for Rocktavo.

## Alumni Magazine wins national award

The Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts Fall 2006 Alumni Magazine received a Gold Award in the 2006 MarCom Creative Awards program.

These awards are administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communications

Professionals. The Gold Award is presented to those entries judged to exceed the high standards of the industry norm.

There were more than 5,000 entries from throughout the U.S. and several foreign countries in the MarCom competition. Approximately 16% received Gold Awards.

The Fine and Performing Arts Alumni Magazine is a collaborative project between our college and the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications. The magazine is edited by publications coordinator Kathe Andersen. College of Journalism students help write articles and design the publication.

