Reflections from DuWayne & Dottie Hansen

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From the very beginning, Dottie fell in love with the faculty and students in the Department of Music. In three days, music was a department in the College of Education. Dottie says, “They were like a family,” and, in the same vein, she has kept in touch with a number of musical alumni and former music faculty. She especially admired William Alexander and his wife who were most kind. Mrs. Alexander became an SAI Patroness and often invited the chapter in her house for a meeting or ceremony. Dottie liked Kennedy’s approach to teaching music theory.

DuWayne fell in love with Dottie and finally remembers the many hours they spent involved in music activities at BGSU. The environment at BGSU influenced their daughter. Both, as she went on to major in music education and performance at Ithaca College and currently teaches music (strings) in Fairport, N.Y.

DuWayne particularly admires faculty members who did so much to build the reputation of the school, especially emeritus faculty members Mark Kelly, Virginia Marks and Dr. Ivan Trusler; former Associate Dean John Pierol, and BGSU Distinguished Artist Professors Drs. John Sampen and Marilyn Shrop—she names a few of the outstanding individuals on the faculty who he was there.

Mentors

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Dottie and DuWayne are united in expressing that every session offered over these 13 years have been highlights of their lives!

Hansen Fellowship Program:

Our latest fundraising initiative evolved from discussions with Dean Shrop, Dr. William Mathis, chair of Music Performance Studies, and other music faculty members. The issue was “What can be done to attract the finest students to BGSU?” This question is relevant because the College of Musical Arts currently enrolls such students andhow might we help the College enroll more of these students.

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Dottie and DuWayne hope these additional experiences, which will be covered by the Fellowship, will not only be attractive to exceptional students, but help them graduate “one step ahead” of students from other schools of music.

Closing Thoughts

Dottie and DuWayne have been richly blessed by their lifelong association with BGSU. The family of students and faculty of the College of Musical Arts and the University have welcomed us and made us feel like BGSU is our second home. We have received far more from our support of the University than we ever could have imagined when we began. Indeed, for us, BGSU is the “gift that keeps giving!”

4th Annual Celebrity Server Night

Once again, our Celebrity Server Night was a huge success and these raised over $16,000 for our students at the CMA!

Executive Committee Members

Kari Spencer, President
Myra Merritt, Vice President
Vincent Corrigan, Secretary
Ellen Dalton, Treasurer
Jeffrey Showell, Dean
Jane Milbrodt, Kathleen Moss and Conor Nelson, Members-at-Large
Penny Thompson Kruse, Editor
Pro Musica
Tina Bunce, Publicity
Tony Wagener, Director of Development, Foundation Office

Visit us on Facebook at BGSU Pro Musica

Winter 2015

Promoting Musical Excellence

Pro Musica supports the College of Musical Arts by inviting the participation of alumni, friends, parents and the Bowling Green community in a wide variety of musical events and by providing financial support for music students.

President’s Message

Dear Friends and Donors,

Is change desired?

That question was posed at the August 3, 2006 Executive Committee meeting and again at the Fall Board meeting that same year. Change to expand/enrich student’s educational experiences guide our work. Board members are passionate, generous and creative, so change has continued.

New strategies to secure members and raise funds were evidenced by the fourth annual Celebrity Server Night. Nineteen travelers shared their travel stories, some performed, while others served appetizers while all expressed their gratitude to donors who have made their educational experiences culturally richer.

Please, visit our Facebook page to learn the results of future board and student leadership elections, scholarship winners and award recipients. Plus, there will be photos of student travelers who have embraced the unique opportunity of comparing their skills and experiences with their peers throughout the world. They are part of our cultural future.

Members of the Executive Committee of Pro Musica join me in thanking each of you for making a difference in the lives of the extraordinarily talented students who are the Bowling Green State University College of Musical Arts.

Gratefully,

Kari Spencer

Visit our Facebook page, BGSU Pro Musica and become a friend today!
The session, “The Healing Power of Music Therapy,” presented by Dr. Richard Fratianne, addressed how burn victims are helped by music. We learned how the brain functions with respect to emotions, memory, pleasure and how the body responds to music. The doctor stated, “Music has the capacity to activate and integrate all three levels of brain response.” He also told us that “Music therapy diverts patients’ attention away from pain.” Tests were performed on patients and the results showed that stress hormones were lowered as a result of their work with music therapists. Pain and anxiety levels were reduced. Music promotes healing.

Where will YOU go next with Pro Musica?

Dr. Ramona Cormier Dr. Marjorie Conrad

In Memoriam
The Bowling Green community lost two very special friends this fall: Dr. Ramona Cormier and Dr. Marjorie Conrad. Music alums will recognize Dr. Conrad, a prominent Wood County physician, from the annual Dr. Marjorie Conrad Art Song Competition in the College of Musical Arts. Dr. Cormier, a retired associate provost at BGSU, was a member of the philosophy department who also supported the students in the College of Musical Arts. These two individuals have had a profound effect on students in the College of Musical Arts.

Interestingly, they had many experiences and interests in common. Both women were involved with aviation. Dr. Cormier served in the Women’s Air Corps during World War II and Dr. Conrad was a licensed pilot. They both shared a dedication to College of Musical Arts students and believed in the power of endowments to generate annual support for scholarships and educational programs.

When will YOU go next with Pro Musica?

BGSU Pro Musica is an organization dedicated to supporting travel grants/awards to help students experience musical growth opportunities outside of the traditional classroom. Every cent of your membership fee goes to support grants. Please consider learning more about making an estate gift to Pro Musica.

Contact Tony Wagener, director of development, College of Musical Arts, at 419-372-4261 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.

Josh Simmons

The 2014 International Computer Music Conference in Athens, Greece, was an extremely rewarding experience. The journey there was a challenge, but my colleagues, Thomas Beverly and Andrew Selle, and I were elated and running on adrenaline when we exited the airport into the streets of Athens. We had a free afternoon upon arrival, so we could become oriented. We found the metro and walking routes to the conference sites. A brief opening ceremony and concert started the activities on Sunday evening. Monday morning included a bevy of concerts and paper sessions, oftentimes with two events happening concurrently. This schedule continued through the conclusion of the conference on Friday. I saw great performances by works of Dr. Elaine Lillios, Thomas Beverly and Andrew Selle. A staggering amount of new technology was used in the concerts. I was most intrigued by a custom peripheral a composer had built to sense height, pitch and yaw of hands above the board, similar to the existing Leap Motion technology, but more dynamically responsive.

Friday evening’s concert consisted of video works, collaborations between video artists and composers in a wide variety of styles. My piece was featured on Friday’s video concert as well. This event was originally scheduled in one of the smaller halls in the Onassis Center, but two days before the performance the venue was changed to a movie theater. I have never had a screening in a real movie theater. I converted my video to a different format the day before the concert, so it could be loaded onto the digital movie theater projector. The thrill of seeing my piece on the big screen was indescribable. My work was well received and will have two more performances later in the year.

The other major component of the conference was paper sessions. I attended lectures by giants in the field including Jon Chowning, inventor of FM synthesis, and Jean-Claude Risset, a composer known for his work in the field of electronic music and pioneering the creation of many auditory illusions.

The conference was an incredible learning experience and I could not have traveled to attend it without your generous support.

Rachel Bleitstein
Cincinnati Music and Wellness Coalition
Columbus, Ohio

September 19, 2014

With financial help from Pro Musica, I attended the Cincinnati Music and Wellness Coalition competition in Cincinnati also referred to as the music and medicine conference. The conference was divided into sessions that dealt with music, medicine, wellness and how they interact. Professional musicians and physicians spoke and shared their experiences. They expressed how music has the power to heal.
The session, “The Healing Power of Music Therapy,” presented by Dr. Richard Frattanne, addressed how burn victims are helped by music. We learned how the brain functions with respect to emotions, memory, pleasure and how the body responds to music. The doctor stated, “Music has the capacity to activate and integrate all three levels of brain response.” He also told us that “Music therapy diverts patients’ attention away from pain.” Tests were performed on patients and the results showed that stress hormones were lowered as a result of their work with music therapists. Pain and anxiety levels were reduced. Music promotes healing.

Another session was “Evidence-based Music Making Wellness.” Clavinovas were used with patients suffering from addiction. Familiar songs are played for the patients to trigger a response or realization. The instruments are also used with the elderly suffering from dementia. Health issues treated with music therapy can yield profound results.

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BGSU When We Were There

Dottie arrived at BGSU in 1958 when the Department of Music was beginning to flourish under the guidance of Dr. James Paul Kennedy. Kennedy almost single-handedly established the high performance standards for the music program. Dottie graduated in 1962 and immediately began teaching elementary general music in Riverview, Mich. By the time DuWayne arrived at Bowling Green in 1969, the College of Musical Arts was providing rigorous undergraduate education degree and beginning to develop graduate programs.

Executive Committee Members

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Myra Merritt, Vice President
Vincent Corrigan, Secretary
Ellen Dalton, Treasurer
Jeffrey Showell, Dean
Jane Milbrodt, Kathleen Moss and
Conor Nelson, Members-at-Large
Penny Thompson Kruse, Editor,
Pro Musica
Tina Bunce, Publicity
Tony Wagener, Director of Development,
Foundation Office

Winter 2015

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