

HARDING UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

e-notes

S P R I N G 2 0 1 0



DR. PATRICIA COX TO RETIRE



Patricia Cox will retire at the end of the Spring 2010 semester. During her 24 years of full-time and six years of part-time teaching at Harding, she has taught stringed instruments, flute, music education courses, class piano, and aural skills. She also has coached the student string quartet since 1986, supervised student teachers since 1980, and directed the Harding University

orchestra from 1986-1997. In addition to her full teaching load, she also performed on violin and viola over the years in all the regional orchestras while teaching violin, piano, and flute privately, much of this as a single mother!

Besides her musical performing and teaching activities, research has been a lifelong love. Even in high school, writing papers and making presentations were fulfilling to her, so much so that a high school English teacher told her that she "sounded like a college professor." She has done much research and has presented many papers and published many research articles in professional journals over the years in this quest for knowledge.

Her love of music was promoted by her parents in many ways. Cox began piano lessons with her mother and aunt by age six, and, at age 10, she was allowed to begin violin. Her song-leader father also tutored Patricia and her younger sister in sight-singing from the shaped-note hymnal throughout their youth. Her parents paid for many piano, flute, and violin lessons during her youth, and she has always loved to practice, finding it an escape. She also discovered early on that if she said she needed to practice, she could get out of anything she didn't want to do at home.

Three music teachers, in particular, had much influence upon her future as a musician and teacher. First, was elementary music teacher, Mrs. Harriger of Brentwood Elementary, who played double bass in the Austin Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Cox often attended the 25-cent concerts, and although she was daunted by the long black dresses worn, she "knew that's where [she] had to be!" continued p.4

WIND ENSEMBLE ON TOUR

The Harding Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble will be on tour February 24-27, performing in Arkansas and Texas. Beginning with an on-campus performance on Tuesday, Feb. 23, the tour will end with free time in Dallas on Saturday, Feb. 27. To date, performance sites include: 2/25: Texas High School (AR), 2/26 Palestine High School, Caddo Mills High School, and Leonard High School (TX). For concert information, contact Mike Chance at 501-279-4575 or mchance@harding.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

April 2*

contact music@harding.edu or 501-279-4343

*Alternate dates available by appointment



CUE FROM THE CHAIR

The Music Department seeks a full-time faculty member to teach applied string instruments (violin preferred) beginning Fall 2010. Candidates with a D.M.A./Ph.D. are preferred, but those with a masters degree are welcomed to apply.

As always, if you know someone who is considering majoring in music, send them to www.harding.edu/music
See you on the downbeat!

J. Warren Casey
music@harding.edu

CHORAL TRAVELS



The **Harding Chorus** annual Winter Tour took the group through Tennessee, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Highlights included visits to sites in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta in addition to a number of wonderful concerts.

Chamber Singers has been invited to perform at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA for the Ascending Voice II, an international symposium dedicated to a *cappella* music in Christian worship. Members will also participate in a special concert led by Robert Page, the "dean of American choral conductors."

Concert Choir will be participating in a Gospel music festival in Sulphur Springs, Texas in February.

The **Harding Chorus** joins five other university choirs and **The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra** to present Mahler's Second Symphony at the Robinson Auditorium in Little Rock on April 10-11. This annual event concludes the Orchestra's *Masterwork Series* in which the chorus has participated for over a decade now. This also marks the final performance under the baton of former ASO music director David Itkin.

The **HU Chorus** will depart on May 11 for the biennial Chorus Campaign. Having sung in 32 countries previously, this year's tour will take them to Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Buenos Aires (Argentina), and Viña del Mar and Santiago (Chile). In each city they will participate in concerts and activities to encourage local churches, and to help them make new connections in their communities. This trip is an extension of Harding's Global Outreach program.



H.U.G.E. Harding University Guitar Ensemble



HU Guitar Ensemble performed for the President's Community Christmas Reception in December. The group's playlist featured a selection of seasonal melodies.

2010 CHORAL REUNION

All Harding singing group alumni are invited to a reunion and recording session 7/30-8/1, 2010. We plan to produce a CD with proceeds going to music scholarships. Contact ganus@harding.edu.

SUMMER MUSIC @ HARDING 2010

June 27-July 2 BAND CAMP

July 5 - 10 PIANO EXPERIENCE

July 18-23 HONOR CHOIR

July 26-30 STRING EXPERIENCE &
MUSIC EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

July 30-Aug.1 CHORAL ALUMNI

Photo Left: Esteemed colleague, Dr. Kelly Neill, prepares to attack the photographer!

Photo Right: Students at 2009 String Experience.

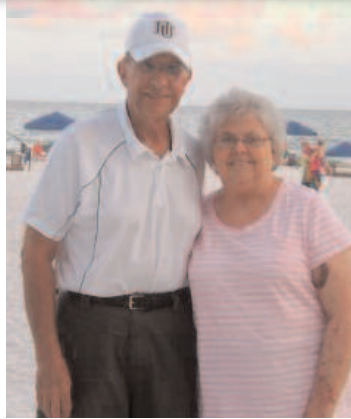


For more information about **Summer Music @ Harding**, see our website at www.harding.edu/music/summermusic or contact music@harding.edu.

FACULTY NEWS

Neva White, retired Professor of Music, and husband Dr. Bill White celebrated "50 years of wedded bliss" June 29, 2009.

As some of you already know, Neva was hospitalized a few weeks ago with life-threatening heart and other problems. She is doing much better now and is at a local rehabilitation center to regain her strength. Her family is thankful for all the prayers given up for her.



Wesley Parker, Adjunct Percussion Instructor and Pep Band Director, will receive his Doctor of Musical Arts in Percussion degree this May from Florida State University. Congratulations Wes!

Jeff Hopper, former Professor of Music now Dean of the Honors College, performed several concerts overseas last October at St. Olave's Church, London, England; Hotel L'Angleterre, Copenhagen, Denmark; Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy; and HUG campus, Athens, Greece.

Kelly Neill, Asst. Professor of Music, recently performed with the professional chamber choir *Conspirare*, based in Austin, TX, singing a "New Year's Classic" program of music by Bach, Reger, Barber, Brahms and Strauss. Neill has been a member of the group since 1995.

HARDING Music
T-shirts now on sale!
music@harding.edu



Scott Carrell and Daniel Adams repeat for a Music Department Forum an interdisciplinary improvisation that they presented to Arkansas State Music Teachers Association.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Tony Garcia '04 report: "This summer I had the great opportunity to record for The Dave Lisik Orchestra's CD "Coming Through Slaughter - The Bolden Legend." The work is a 10-movement, progressive jazz composition scored for jazz orchestra with soloists and is based on the book of the same name written about the legendary New Orleans jazz cornetist Buddy Bolden. The CD is now available for digital download on both iTunes and CDBaby.com and will be available for physical purchase in mid-January. For more info, go to www.comingthroughslaughter.com.

Editor's Note: Tony competes in the final round of auditions for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in February.



Weddings

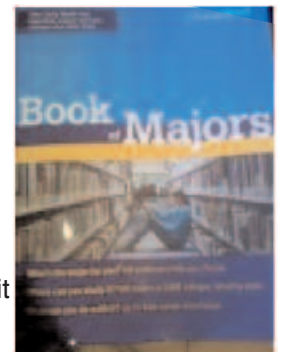
1/2/10 **Luke Shaffer '09** and **Marie Yates '10**

ALUMNI NOTICE!

WE WANT YOUR INPUT! Please assist us in the process of evaluating and updating our degree programs by participating in our online survey, available February 15 through May 1, 2010 at www.harding.edu/remark4/rws4.pl?FORM=MusicDeptSurvey

BOOK REVIEW: 2010 Book of Majors

This book can be a valuable tool to begin a search for graduate schools. It gives a list of schools in each state that offer degrees in each particular field, narrowed down as far as Music Performance, Music Education, Music Therapy, etc. The guide shows the degrees offered by each institution, although it does not provide information regarding professors, degree requirements, financial information, or audition information. The main benefit of this book is to show what schools in specific areas of the country offer a desired degree, which can be particularly helpful if there is a certain region in which you would like to live.



Tony Garcia '04

ON-CAMPUS MUSIC

- Feb. 9 - Kremlin Chamber Orchestra, 7pm AA
- Feb. 15 - Etesian Winds Chamber Recital, 7pm RRH
- Feb. 21 - HU Percussion Ensemble, 2pm RRH
- Feb. 23 - HU Wind Ensemble, 7pm AA
- April 2 - Good News, 4 p.m. McPlaza
- April 3 - HU Chorus, 3pm AA
- Mar. 2 - HU Orchestra, 7pm AA
- Mar. 4 - HU Jazz Band, 7pm RRH
- Mar. 18 - Searcy Brass Quintet, 7pm RRH
- April 3 - Belles & Beaux, 10am Benson
- April 15 - Chamber Singers, 7pm RRH
- April 17 - Arkansas Trumpet Guild, 1pm RRH
- April 18 - HU Wind Ensemble, 3pm AA
- April 20 - Combined Choruses, 7pm Searcy High
- April 26 - HU Orchestra, 7pm AA
- April 27 - Combined Bands, 7pm Search High

AA: Administration Auditorium RRH: Reynolds Recital Hall

ON THE ROAD

- Feb.14 - Good News, Bono, AR
- Feb. 19-21 Concert Choir to TX:
- Feb.21 - Good News, Idabel, OK
- Feb. 25-28 - Wind Ensemble to TX
- Feb.27-28 - Good News, Mexia and Teague, TX
- Feb. 28 - Chorus, Bentonville & Harrison, AR
- March 6-13, 2010: Belles & Beaux Tour: Paducah, KY, Murfreesboro, TN, Atlanta, GA, Tampa & Pensacola, FL
- March 6-9- Chamber Singers, Kansas City
- March 11 - Belles & Beaux, Clinton, AR
- April 4 - Good News, Harrison, AR
- April 17 - Good News, Eureka, IL
- April 10-11 - Chorus with Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Little Rock, Robinson Center
- May 12-14 - Chamber Singers, Malibu, CA
- May 2010: Chorus Campaign: Rio de Janeiro; Buenos Aires; Santiago and Vina del Mar, Chile

See our up-to-date music activities calendar at www.Harding.edu/music/calendar.html



FACULTY PROFILE from p.1

When band was offered in 7th grade, Dr. Cox began playing flute, and by high school, she was assisting the band director, Mr. Charles Peak, organizing and cataloguing the entire band library. From that experience, she learned much about music literature. She always loved band, "but orchestra was [her] destiny." Her high school violin teacher, Kenneth Pitts, was then a significant influence as she tried to please him and modelled her career after him in many ways.



After three years attending Abilene Christian University, Cox transferred to Texas Women's University and finished her degree in Music Education, intending to become a junior high school orchestra director. Having known one woman in that type of position during her youth, she believed that it was possible, even though one college professor repeatedly told her, "I hope you girls know you'll be teaching elementary music."

Graduating with her bachelor's degree in 1965, she began teaching elementary music in Texas, directed orchestra and choir in Wisconsin, and taught kindergarten music in Tennessee before moving to Searcy with her husband and three of her four children in 1974.



By the time she took a leave of absence from Harding and began her PhD in Music Education at the University of North Texas in 1989, she found herself divorced and raising alone her three kids still at home. The year of residency at UNT as a single mom was the hardest thing she ever did, yet she persevered and received her doctorate in 1994. She was promoted to Professor of Music in 2004.

It is clear that Cox loves teaching and loves all her many students, but teaching stringed instruments continues to be her favorite pastime. When asked what she saw as her career legacy, she said that she is proudest of her role in the development of the strings program at Harding, in Searcy, in the area, as well as in the entire country.

Where will we find Cox after this semester? Living in Springfield, Missouri, teaching lessons, playing in regional string ensembles, and playing grandmother to her grandchildren who live in that area.

