

Music Alumni Newsletter – Fall 2012

A Message from the Editors

E-Mail: MusicAlumni@txstate.edu

Web: <http://www.MusicAlumni.net>

We understand “alumni” broadly: whether you received your degree from (Southwest) Texas State as a music major, whether you studied here for one semester, or whether you were a non-music major but participated in band, choir, or any other ensemble – you are a Music Alumnus!

We are now publishing a Music Alumni Newsletter on a regular basis, and we invite everyone to submit their updates and stories to us for inclusion in the newsletter.

For easy communication, please join our [Facebook Group](#) or our [LinkedIn Group](#), or send us an e-mail so we can add you to our e-mail distribution list.

We also invite our alumni to stay informed about new and exciting events in the School of Music by reading its newsletter *Somos Músicos* at <http://www.music.txstate.edu>.

The Editors

Dr. Lynn Ledbetter, Prof. Charles Hurt, and Dr. Nico Schüler

A Message from the Dean



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Greetings from the College of Fine Arts and Communication. I hope you and your family are doing well and that you're engaged in meaningful work. Since you graduated, we have grown. The School of Music, under the direction of Dr. Tom Clark, now comprises over 60 faculty members, 600 undergraduate majors, and 60 graduate students. Not only have we grown larger, but we have also become nationally recognized as a premier school of music. And you are one of the reasons our profile has been elevated. Our alums continue to make a difference. They continue to make significant contributions that positively impact their communities and families. It's important that we remain connected so we can help celebrate your success. We also want you to be a part of our success. For example, we want you to be a part of the grand opening ceremonies that are being planned for our new performing arts center, which will open in the spring of 2014. This facility will feature a professional quality, 300-seat music recital hall and 400-seat theatre. Also, a new School of Music building is part of the university's strategic plan. Although our timeline is still evolving, the new music building will eventually be constructed next to the new performing arts center, making the southern part of the campus an arts hub and gateway to the San Marcos community. I look forward to meeting you. If you're on campus, I encourage you to drop by Old Main for a quick visit.

Dr. Timothy P. Mottet

A Message from the Director



E-Mail: tc24@txstate.edu

“Change is good.” A lot may have changed since you were a music student here. Beloved faculty have retired, most recently Dr. David Pino. We have this year alone acquired two new music professors, associate director of bands and BMB director Dr. Kyle Glaser, and clarinet artist / teacher Dr. Vanguel Tangarov. We added two acclaimed resident artists to our faculty, orchestral conductor Maestro Peter Bay, and choral expert Dr. Craig Hella Johnson. Our director of bands is now the outstanding Dr. Caroline Beatty. The new Performing Arts Center recital hall is taking shape on University Drive. Our space for individual practice, rehearsals, and faculty offices is expanding to include Lampasas Hall and the Colorado Building.

But tradition is good, too. Much of what you probably valued most when you were a music student here is still with us. Students are still hanging out together in the lobby when they're not working hard practicing, rehearsing, and studying. Our ensembles are still playing great music with enthusiasm and skill. Our outstanding faculty are still dedicated to the very best in music learning and opportunity. And the School of Music spirit, a community of musicians committed to making the world a better place through music making together, is alive and well at 101 Pleasant Street! Come on back for a visit to your music school. We're proud to show off the excellence you helped build.

Dr. Thomas Clark

E-Mail & Internet Links:

Texas State Music Alumni E-Mail: MusicAlumni@txstate.edu • Texas State's School of Music: <http://www.music.txstate.edu>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/46231268458> • LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1779594>

Featured Alumni

Catherine (Cathy) Humphrey

(B.M. Music Education '95)



Cathy Humphrey attended Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, graduating in 1995 with an all-level degree in music education. She is currently in her eighteenth year of teaching band. In 2009, Cathy Humphrey received her master's degree in educational administration from Concordia University, Austin, Texas.

A highlight of Cathy's first year of teaching was conducting the McCallum Band in Carnegie Hall, New York. She taught at the McCallum Fine Arts Academy and Lamar Middle School for four years, and then moved to the Director of Bands position at Covington Middle School for the Austin Independent School District in 1999.

Within the first three years of teaching at Covington Middle School, Cathy Humphrey's band program grew from a little over 100 students to well over 375 band members, including jazz ensembles, steel drum ensembles, chamber winds, and mariachi. During her eleven years at Covington, her bands consistently earned "Superior Ratings" at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest and won "Best in Class" awards from Director's Choice, American Classic, and Sound Wave festivals.

In 2004, her wind ensemble had the honor of performing at the Western International Band Clinic in Seattle, Washington. In 2006, the Covington Band represented Texas and performed in the Benjamin Franklin Tercentennial Tour in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. In 2010, her band was invited to perform for the 25th anniversary celebration of Disney Magic Music Days in Orlando, Florida. In addition to performing for many festivals and invitational performances, Mrs. Humphrey's bands were active in outreach and performances for the Austin community.

Besides teaching music at Covington, she was the fine arts department chair, member of the CMS Campus Advisory Council, as well as teacher representative for the Parents and Teachers Association. She assisted the administration with campus-wide improvement plans, discipline, TAKS testing, interviewing, and community events. Mrs. Humphrey also hosted and organized many contests including: UIL Band and Orchestra Concert / Sight-Reading Contests, Region Band Auditions and Clinics / Concerts, Austin's All-City Band Festivals, Solo / Ensemble Festivals, and Director's Choice Festivals.

In 2010, Cathy Humphrey was presented with the opportunity of moving to Round Rock, Texas, and beginning

Scott McDonald

(M.M. Music Education '79)

Scott McDonald attended Texas State University, formerly Southwest Texas State University, from 1977 to 1979 and received a master's in music education in 1979. He studied with director of bands James Sudduth and was a teaching assistant in Jazz Band and Music Fundamentals. He studied

new traditions at the newly opened Hernandez Middle School. During the three years after the school opened, she established a successful band program with 342 band members in a school with a total enrollment of 850 students. Last March, her talented jazz ensemble won "Grand Champions" at the Georgetown Jazz Festival. In May, her band and full orchestra won "Best in Class" and "Best Overall" at the Lila Cockrell Center in San Antonio for DC Festivals. In September, the Hernandez MS Honors Wind Ensemble was selected as a national winner in the Mark of Excellence / National Wind Band Honors project. Cathy Humphrey has been awarded a Texas Education Agency grant to purchase music for her band program, and for the last two years, she has earned the Round Rock Incentive for Superior Education Grant. She is the Fine Arts Department chair and a member of both the Campus Leadership Team and also the Parent Involvement Committee.

Currently, Cathy works with colleagues whom she believes can enhance the band programs toward even higher accomplishments: Shannon Gill, a 1998 Texas State graduate whose principal instrument is percussion, and Chase Howard, a former drum major from LSU in his first year of teaching.

Cathy Humphrey enjoys teaching high school students' private lessons on French horn, mentoring novice teachers, and adjudicating band and solo and ensemble contests. She is a proud mother of two delightful children. Justin is in eighth grade. He is the first chair trumpet player in the Hernandez MS Band. Madison is in kindergarten and is learning piano. Cathy has been married to her beloved and patient husband, Chris Humphrey, for 21 years, and together as a family, they enjoy boating, wake-boarding, going on vacations, and spending quality time at home.

Mrs. Cathy Humphrey attributes much of her success to her Texas State University music professors. She is very thankful for Mr. Stephen Hager for taking her under his direction and giving her extra guidance to succeed in college. He not only taught her to be a competent horn player, but he also taught her life skills in being a responsible, dedicated and detail oriented adult. She also wants to thank Charles Hurt, trombone and brass methods professor, for always having his door open for mentorship in music pedagogy, academics and guidance in career decisions. Cathy Humphrey is also grateful to Howard Hudiburg, John Stansberry, and Jim Hudson for teaching her ensemble methods and concepts, which have given her many skills in being a successful band director. She is very proud to say she is a Bobcat and appreciates the opportunity to have attended such a fine and high-quality school, with professors who truly care about their students and will go above and beyond for their students to succeed!

woodwinds with Dr. David Pino and Prof. Douglas Skinner, and he played in the Jazz Ensemble directed by James Hall. "These were extraordinary teachers and mentors," McDonald says, "and their influence continues to be felt in my everyday teaching."

Mr. McDonald's first teaching



job was in 1979 in the Northeast Independent School District of San Antonio as an assistant band director at MacArthur High School. He had the privilege of working with the former president of the Texas Music Educators Association, John Bridges. Later, he taught with Bill Brady at MacArthur High School. The band made finals at the UIL State Marching Contest for the first time in the history of the school. In 1983, Scott became director of bands at Madison High School in the Northeast Independent School District and established an exemplary record in both the marching and concert seasons. This included a string of UIL Sweepstakes awards.

Mr. McDonald's teaching career has included positions at San Marcos High School, Alamo Heights High School, and Robert E. Lee High School in the San Antonio area. When asked his fondest memory as a band director, he replied: "It was a toss up between the elation felt by the Madison High School students winning their first marching band contest and the San Marcos High School Band students carrying me off the field on their shoulders after receiving their first Division I at UIL Marching Contest in many years."

Today, Mr. McDonald is the director of bands at Judson High School, where he has been for 13 years. His staff includes Jeff Keyes, a Texas State alumnus, whom he considers to be one of the state's new teaching superstars.

Mr. McDonald says about the Judson program: "I am most proud of the Judson program and the ability to put together a long string of Sweepstakes wins from all three concert bands at the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Most band programs can get their top students to play well, but in-depth teaching is evident when you have consistent success with the younger, less experienced students."

Scott has great memories of the time he spent at Texas State University. He says: "My time at Texas State was one of great learning and integration, and I cherish all the teachers and students I got to know during my time there. Many have become life-long friends and colleagues."

Scott even met Cindy, his wife of 33 years, at Texas State, and they have children.

An Alum Letter . . .



Dear Texas State Music Alumni,

I wanted to let you know what has been happening in my life since I left Texas State. I received my master's degree in piano performance in August of 2008 thanks to the wonderful support of Dr. Timothy Woolsey and Dr. Nico Schüler. I was working full-time while I was going to school as well as serving as president of a local music teachers' association, running several competitions and working as the director of faculty and student relations of the Musical Arts Centers of San Antonio. I don't think I could have finished my degree without Dr. Woolsey or Dr. Schüler – they were amazing!

I am still teaching advanced and competition level piano at the Musical Arts Centers. This summer, I am pleased to announce that I was honored by the Texas Music Teachers Association with the Outstanding Pre-College Teaching Achievement Award (Teacher of the Year). Nine teachers were nominated for the award and were voted on by the TMTA board and chairmen. Also this year, I was the youngest recipient of the Musical Bridges Around the World Lifetime Achievement Award in Music Education. I have attached photos from each event.

Thank you so much for support both then and now.

Best wishes, A.J.

[A.J. Collins-Thompson](#), NCTM

2012 Texas Music Teachers Association Pre-College Teacher of the Year

2012 Musical Bridges Around the World Lifetime Achievement Award in Music Education

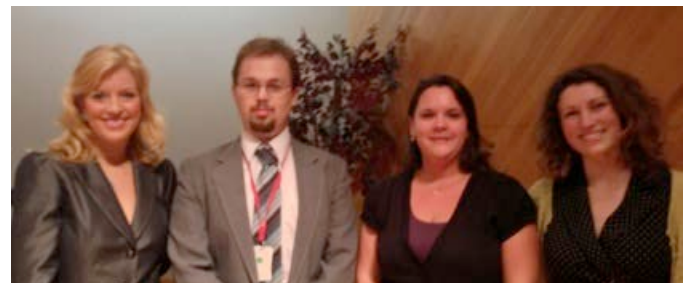
Advanced Piano Instructor, [Musical Arts Centers of San Antonio, Inc.](#)

Current Students Meeting Alumni

On October 25, 2012, the School of Music and PACE collaborated to present a Musicians Forum featuring an alumni panel. (PACE is Personalized Academic Career Exploration, a new initiative at Texas State University to centralize orientation and advising for first-year students as well as career exploration for all students.)

Music alumni (at right from left) **Sarajane Dailey** (B.M. in Voice Performance, '00), **Kris Brown** (B.M. in Music Education, '10), **Krystyn Jensen** (B.A. in Music, '07) and **Lauryn Gould** (B.M. in Flute Performance, '00) shared their experiences as they have pursued differing career paths, ranging from teaching elementary music in the schools to opera singing to starting a small arts business to higher education

administration. The audience was engaged, asked great questions and got a good glimpse of some of their career options.



Texas State Music Alumni Reunion



The first Texas State Music Alumni Reunion took place on October 30-31, 2009. The reunion purposefully overlapped with homecoming weekend. Reunion attendees were able to attend two sessions by our current students and faculty on their research and performance activities, a lunch at Commons Hall, a music alumni reception, the awards ceremony at which Dr. **Wayne Oquin** (B.M. in piano performance, '99) was honored as Distinguished Alumnus of Texas State University, a homecoming brunch, van tours, and a performance with our alumni band or alumni choir together with the Texas State marching band at the homecoming pregame show.

Choral Alumni Reunion

Over 75 School of Music alumni (graduation years 1977-1987) came together in San Marcos on July 20-21, 2012, from as far away as Australia to help celebrate the retirement of former Texas State Professor of Music Dr. Kenneth Fulton (1976-1986), retiring from his current position as Sanders Alumni Professor of Choral Studies at LSU in Baton Rouge, LA. A reception at the Embassy Suites started the activities Friday night, attended by over 50 alumni. Saturday activities began with a rehearsal in the Texas State University Music Building, where the alumni learned (or relearned) a few choral pieces. Following rehearsal, current Texas State music students who are active in the local chapter of the American Choral Directors Association provided a tour of the campus, which has changed greatly over the years. After a relaxing afternoon reminiscing about choir tours, unforgettable memories, and checking out favorite San Marcos spots, the alumni choir performed a brief concert with Dr. Fulton at the Price Seniors Center in San Marcos for a small audience of family, friends,

former / retired Texas State professors, including Dr. Arlis Hiebert and Dr. Robert Whalin. Current choral faculty Dr. Joey Martin and Dr. Lynn Brinckmeyer also attended the evening activities, which ended with a banquet. Though official activities ended, quite a few floated the San Marcos River on Sunday to continue reminiscing.



Alumni Information & News

Leslie Kiefer Amann (B.M. in music education, '76) spent a few years working for the Texas Senate and its Education Committee. She then taught school in Guadalajara, Mexico. In 1984, she entered the University of Houston Law School and graduated from there in 1987. She worked in private practice in Houston as a litigator until 1995, when she went in-house with a local bank. After a series of mergers, she found herself running a very large region (three states) as a senior vice president at Bank of America. In 2006, she retired from there and took some time off to play with her children – returning to work when they did at the end of that summer at Sentinel Trust Company. Sentinel is a privately held trust and investment company serving about 20 families. She still takes piano lessons and plays the guitar occasionally. She is a single mother of two sons who are both talented musicians. She wrote: “I have very fond memories of my time at SWT and have kept in touch with a handful of my friends from the music department.”

Patrick Atkins (B.M. in music education, '06) has been assistant director of bands at Steele High School in Schertz, Texas, since 2006.

Karol Ann Badgett (M.M. in piano performance, '01) received her doctor of musical arts degree in composition from The Butler School of Music, The University of Texas at Austin in December 2008. Dr. Badgett is now teaching piano privately in Austin as well as pursuing interests in composing and collaborative performance.

Loretta Montgomery Boes (B.M. in music education, '94) received a master of arts degree from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England, and currently resides in Southern California and performs as a coloratura soprano. Visit her website at <http://www.LorettaMontgomery.com>.

Gene Centeno (B.M. in jazz studies, '07) toured extensively with Grupo Fantasma. Gene is currently a freelance musician and band director at Jefferson High School in San Antonio, Texas. He married wife, Ashley, in 2010.

Adam Connerly (B.M. in jazz studies, '06) performed with the Navy Band Mid-South stationed in Millington, Tennessee, from 2007 to 2010 and is currently a musician with the U.S. Naval Forces Band Europe stationed in Naples, Italy. He married April (Dawson) in 2010.

Adolfo Cortez (B.M. in music education, '09) is currently teaching band at Alamo High School in San Juan, Texas.

Luis De La Cruz (B.M. in music education, '10) is currently assistant band director at McCollum High School in San Antonio.

Julie Payne Davis (M.M. in composition, '10) has been teaching at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. She collaborated with a classical mandolinist in Maryland for a commission and has just received another commission for a set of piano and vocal pieces. She also scored a short film for the Corpus Christi 7 Day Film Project last year, and one of her compositions was performed by the Corpus Christi Chamber Orchestra. She enjoys involvement with the community of musicians in Corpus and is looking forward to more great things in her future. She wrote: "Thanks, Texas State music faculty, for preparing me for what life has to offer!"

Marlene McKenzie Delavan (B.M. in music education, '52) studied voice and choral music education at (Southwest) Texas State University when Dr. Tampke was department chair, Mrs. Buchanan (Lady B) taught music theory, and Dr. Ira Renay Bowles taught voice / choir. At SWT, she met and married Macon Delavan. Through Dr. Bowles, a graduate from / soloist with the Westminster Choir, they met Dr. Williamson and continued their education at the Choir College, making two foreign tours for the State Department. One of their best supporters at SWT was President John Garland Flowers. While at SWT, their choir not only toured the state, but appeared often with the San Antonio Symphony in concerts and operas. Marlene and Macon taught at the university level at East Texas Baptist College, North Texas State University, Grayson County College, and Oral Roberts University. They pursued graduate studies at North Texas State. They have two children: son Mark, who sings at the Met and at top houses in the U.S. and Europe and is the father of four sons, and daughter Miriam, who is a singer / director (musicals and opera) and who has her own music studio.

Cory Denena (M.M. in music education, '97) moved to Mexico City in '98. He lived in Mexico for 11 years, working as a choral director, singer, voice teacher, and music teacher. About six years ago, he got into school administration, got another master's and is now the high school principal at Colegio Menor in Quito, Ecuador. His wife Aide is from Mexico City, and they have a 7-year old son – Demian.

Crystal Alexander Duckett (B.M. in education, '06) received the master of music degree in 2009 and doctor of musical arts degree in saxophone from the University of Kansas in 2012. She and her husband, Chris, are currently living in Austin where she works as a freelance musician and private studio teacher.

Wayne Dudney (B.A. in music, '62; M.A. in education, '64) writes: "After retiring from nearly 40 years in education with 37 of the years in Northside ISD in San Antonio in December of 2001, Jean and I moved to a small ranch at Mason, Texas, where we have been active in the community. We helped with the organization of the Mason County Habitat for Humanity Affiliate, which has completed its seventh home in Mason. I have participated in several work trips to assist in rebuilding areas of Biloxi, Mississippi, and Bridge City, Texas, after hurricanes Katrina and Ike destroyed many of the homes in those areas. I stay active musically through my involvement with the Mason Community Chorus, Mason County Men's Choir, and our church choir. In October of 2008, Jean and I hosted a "get together" for several SWT (TX State) music alumni and their wives in our home at Mason. Attending were **Erwin (Buddy) Lang** ('61), **Jeff Frederick** ('62), **Leland Lundgren** ('61) and non-music major **Lonnie Curtis** ('60). We had a great time reminiscing about our years at SWT and gathering around the piano and singing."

Clayton Duncan (B.M. in jazz studies, '06) is currently a freelance musician in Houston, Texas.

Dwayne Dunn (M.M. in music performance, '92) completed his Ph.D. in music education at Louisiana State University and spent five years on the music education faculty at the University of Arizona. He was, for 11 years, director of choral activities at Olathe (Kansas) East High School, where his choirs performed for the Kansas Music Educators Association and in Milwaukee at the 2008 MENC National Convention, as well as international performances in Linz, Austria, and Montreal and Ottawa, Canada. He is now director of choral activities for Lawrence High School. He was a contributor to *The Choral Director's Cookbook*, published by Meredith Music Publications, and is serving as the 2011-2013 Kansas State vocal chair for KMEA. He was named the Kansas Music Teacher of the Year for 2011 by the Kansas Music Educators Association. He and his wife, Cindy Colwell, are proud parents to Danielle (26), Bryce (13), Cuyler (8) and Cassidy (8).

Robert Eaton (B.M. in music education, '11) taught band at the San Marcos Baptist Academy from 2003 to 2010. He currently is director of bands for the Royal Independent School District and lives in Katy, Texas.

Clayton Faulkner (B.M. in music performance, '02) earned a master of arts in worship from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of worship studies from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. He currently serves as the director of worship, music, and technology at Faith Lutheran Church in Bellaire, Texas.

Jared Garrison (B.M. in music education, '11) is currently assistant director of bands at Hightower High School in Missouri City, Texas.

Oscar Garza, Jr. (B.M. in music education, '04) is currently the music specialist at George I. Sanchez Elementary School in Austin ISD. In addition, he is a vocalist and trumpet player for Mariachi Relampago in Austin, Texas.

Tom Gillespie (B.M. in music education '65) served as minister of music in several Texas churches before moving to Mexico City, where he taught music and missions at the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary. He is now associate pastor for worship at the Park Hills Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

Ed Gleason (B.M. in music education, in '05) is currently general music teacher / band director at Scroggins Elementary in Houston ISD. He married Angelle (Marcaurele) in 2007 and has two lovely daughters, Amelia and Aurelia.

Eden Gonzalez (B.M. in music education, '09) received the master of music degree in saxophone performance from Texas State University in 2011. He married his wife, Arianna, the same year. Eden is currently working for Pumco, Inc. in Roma, Texas.

Nancy (Herzog) Hastings (B.M. in music education, '75) taught at Hunters Creek Elementary in the Spring Branch ISD as the registrar/ADA. She also played with the Houston Symphonic Band under the direction of Robert McElroy.

Marcel Hobizal (B.M. in music education, '85) was an assistant high school band director at James E. Taylor High School in Katy ISD, but he has gone to the "dark side" (as band director friends say...) and moved to the corporate world. He is the director of training for an e-discovery company, Equivalent Data.

Michele Hobizal (B.M. in music education, '86) is a music specialist at WoodCreek Elementary in Katy ISD. She is an elementary music clinician and has given clinics around the state. She is currently in her second term as vice president and elementary division chair of TMEA.

Madeline Obets Hoffman (B.M. in music education, '81; M.S. in computer science, '85) earned a master of divinity from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin in 2010 and is currently the spiritual care coordinator (chaplain) Odyssey Hospice in San Antonio, Texas.

John Malcolm Hoffman (B.M. in music education, '80; M.S. in computer science '85) born 11/20/57 – died 12/21/02.

Luke Hubley (B.M. in music education, '96) completed his master's in music performance at the University of Houston and is currently finishing a D.M.A. in percussion performance at UH. He is also an adjunct faculty at Houston Community College and at San Jacinto Community College.

Andrew Irwin (B.M. in jazz studies, '09) is currently a musician with the United States Navy Band stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. He married his wife, Donna (Nall), in 2011.

Glenn Kueck (M.M. in choral music performance, '98) taught elementary general music in Killeen ISD. He also taught music classes (such as music appreciation) for Tarleton State University in Killeen as an adjunct and previously music appreciation, music theory, group piano, private voice, and piano for Central Texas College in Killeen. He is now an adjunct professor at Texas A&M University Central Texas.

Marty Lenard (B.M. in music education, '10) received the master of music degree in music education from Texas State University in 2012. He married wife, Halya, in 2009 and is currently director of bands at Hal Peterson Middle School in Kerrville, Texas.

Carlos Martinez (B.M. in music education, '09) is currently the music teacher at Camarena Elementary in Palmview, Texas.

Joe Martinez (B.M. in music education, '03) is teaching band with La Joya ISD. He received the master of music in education from Sam Houston State University in 2010.

Misty Martinez (Grenier) (B.M. in music education, '07) teaches elementary music at Bluebonnet Elementary in Lockhart, Texas, and lives with her husband David in San Marcos.

Susan Gustavson Maxwell (B.M. in music education, '98) studied flute and bassoon at Southwest Texas State. She got her M.M. in bassoon performance from DePaul University in Chicago and went on to get her D.M.A. in bassoon performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Conservatory of Music. She currently teaches bassoon and music theory at Kansas State University. Visit <http://www.k-state.edu/music/suemaxwell>.

Patrick McClendon (B.M. in music education, '95) is currently the music teacher at Cullins Lake Pointe Elementary in Rockwall, Texas.

Janet (Furnace) McGuire (B.S. in geography with a minor in music, '91) writes: "Although I began my college days at SWTSU as a music major, I ended up with a minor in music (I majored in geography with a concentration in cartography and photogrammetry) in 1991. I studied percussion with Genero Gonzales. I also played in various ensembles with John Lopez, who I am happy to see is still on the faculty there!"

Vanessa Montelongo (B.M. in music education, '11) is now a graduate assistant in horn at Western Illinois University.

Ann Kleypas Morgan (B.S. in education with a minor in music, '75) writes: "I was privileged to be a part of the best choir in the world (incredible director Carol Smith) during 1973-75. Our choir tour with Urs Schnider's orchestra in Switzerland during '73, plus many other wonderful musical experiences!! I've often wondered what has become of the dear friends (teachers included) I made during that time of my life. I've never forgotten how special everyone was in the music dept.!!! As for me, I returned back to Rockport, Texas, my hometown, to teach elementary school. I retired from teaching public school and currently am teaching at the Catholic school I attended as a child (as did Ken LeBlanc who was another choir member at SWTSU). I am married and have one son."

Patrick M. Neault (B.M. in music education, '77) retired in 2011 after 34 years as director of bands at Nolan Middle School, Killeen ISD.

Miguel Olivares (B.M. in jazz studies, '11) is currently working as a professional musician on the Holland America Cruise Line, traveling to Alaska, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, and other Southern Pacific islands.

Hector Olvera (B.M. in music education, '07) is currently stationed with the Navy Band Northeast in Newport, Rhode Island, which is attached to the Naval War College. He plays alto saxophone and clarinet in the Ceremonial Band and baritone saxophone in the Showband.

Ramon Parker (B.M. in music education, '07) received the master of music degree in conducting from Northwestern State University (Natchitoches, Louisiana) in 2012. He has taught band in Texas at Brazosport High School, Tatum High School, and is currently director of bands at Rogers High School. Ramon is enjoying life as a newlywed with his wife, Dana.

Syra Beth (Totty) Puett (B.M. in music education, '62) was a charter member of the Alpha Pi chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon and is still active in that organization in the Tacoma Alumnae Chapter. Although she has been retired for six years now, she taught elementary school music on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in a cooperative school in Frankfurt, Germany, and at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where she was also a church choir director. She ended her teaching career in Tacoma, teaching in this area for twenty-five years. Over the years, she sang with the San Antonio Master Singers, the Delaware Valley Singers, and the Seattle Symphony Chorale, but she placed more of her time into local theater. The drama critic of the *News Tribune* recently honored her performance in *On Golden Pond* with a Best Actress nod. Her daughter followed in her footsteps and became a music teacher. She is also a singer who won the Met regional competition for Eastern Washington some years ago.

Adrian Ramirez (B.M. in music education, '08) teaches Elementary Music (K-5) at Specht Elementary, Comal ISD, San Antonio, Texas.

Juan Rangel (B.M. in jazz studies, '12) is currently working and living in Bastrop, Texas.

Ty Reagan (B.M. in music education, '08) is currently a group fitness instructor with Synergy Fitness Boot Camp in Austin, Texas.

Francisco Rios (B.M. in music education, '08) is currently teaching band at J. D. Salinas Middle School in La Joya, Texas.

Sam Robles (M.M. in saxophone performance, '09) is currently a freelance musician and studio instructor for Alamo Heights High School, Burbank High School, Connell Middle School, and Connally Middle School in San Antonio, Texas.

Sean Salinas (B.M. in music education, '99) previously performed with Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas and is now the director of percussion at Spring ISD in Houston, Texas.

Tommy Sanders (B.M. in music education, '64; M.E. in education administration, '70) studied instrumental music education at (Southwest) Texas State University, while his wife, **Beth Sanders** (B.M. in music education, '63) was a choral music education major. Both of them were officers of the Bobcat Band. Beth served as band secretary and Tommy was band president for a couple of years.

Larry Schmidt (B.M. in music education, '71; M.E. in music education, '74) and his wife **Cheryl Behrends Schmidt** (B.E. in elementary education, '71) performed in the marching band and the concert band while studying at SWT. Larry also performed in the jazz band. Over the years, he performed all over the Southwest with jazz bands, concert bands, dance bands, Tejano groups, shows, circuses, and the San Antonio Symphony. Larry taught music for 40 years, retiring in 2010, and is now the director of the Boerne (Texas) Concert Band.

Bill Steele (B.M. in music performance, '89) is the director of music ministries at First United Methodist Church Lawrenceville, GA.

Amanda Marino Stevenson (B.M. in music education, '07) is currently assistant director of bands at Georgetown High School in Georgetown, Texas. She married husband Steve in 2010.

Derek Tarnow (B.M. in jazz guitar, '09) is currently a stay-at-home dad and freelance guitarist. He plays in the Vintage 15 Big Band, The Merles Classic Country and Western Swing, and a jazz combo that plays every Sunday at The Daily Grill at The Domain in Austin. He also teaches private guitar, piano, and bass and leads a middle school and a high school jazz workshop in Buda. Derek is currently the music director for The River City Pops Show Choir in Austin. Derek is married to **Loren Green Tarnow**.

Loren Green Tarnow (M.M. in Kodály music education, '09) is currently teaching music at Hart and Brentwood Elementary Schools in Austin ISD and singing for a jazz combo every Sunday at The Daily Grill at The Domain in Austin. Loren is on break from teaching private voice, clarinet, and piano to be at home in the evenings with their five-month old baby boy, Miles Cole.

Hector Telles (B.M. in music education, '09) is currently teaching band at McNair Junior High School in Atascosa, Texas. He married his wife, Alejandra, in 2012.

Marc Telles (B.M. in music education, '03) taught band in San Antonio, Texas, until 2006. He currently is associate director of Bands at Harlingen High School.

Amy Zuniga (B.M. in music education, '10) received the master of music degree in Latin American music performance from Texas State University in 2012. Amy is engaged to her fiancée, Mike.

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