

Music Alumni Newsletter – Fall 2019

A Message from the Editor

E-Mail: MusicAlumni@MusicAlumni.net

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 invite everyone to submit their updates and stories to us for inclusion in the newsletter. For easy communication, please join our [Facebook 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 visiting the events website at <https://www.music.txstate.edu/events.html> or the *Somos Músicos* website at somosmusicos.wp.txstate.edu.

This Fall 2019 issue of our Music Alumni Newsletter contains several pictures taken throughout this past year, and news from or about fellow alumni.

*Ms. Sunnie Oh (M.M. in Music, '02), Editor
In collaboration with Prof. Charles Hurt and Dr. Nico Schüler*

A Message from the Director

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Here are two pieces of music alumni news, one event that just happened and one coming up this spring. In our yearlong celebration of 100 Years of Band at Texas State, Saturday September 7 the Bobcat Marching Band welcomed more than 200 band alumni and their family members for a day of reunion. The culmination was a glorious moment on Jim Wacker Field at halftime of the Wyoming game, when more than 500 Bobcat musicians filled the field to perform together. The performance included one of the most rousing performances of *Deep in the Heart of Texas* I've ever heard . . . a spectacular display of Bobcat pride!

Another big music alumni event will be the annual reunion at TMEA coming up February 14. We are excited to announce a new venue, the beautiful Marriott Plaza Hotel near the Convention Center. As I enjoyed seeing so many marching band alumni September 7, I look forward to seeing all our music educator alumni in February.

This is my final year as Director of the School of Music. I will take all of you with me into my retirement as Musical Friends Forever. ¡Somos Músicos!
Dr. Thomas Clark

A Message from the Dean

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This year marks the centennial of bands and the 70th year of offering a master's degree in music. These milestones speak to the legacy of music alumni as well as the tremendous role that music has played throughout the history of SWT / Texas State. When the doors first opened in 1903, music was a required course, and approximately 1/3 of all students participated in one of the three choral groups on campus. When the band program began in 1919, there were 22 students who performed at the Thanksgiving football game; today's Bobcat Marching Band is nearly 350 strong. Throughout this centennial year, we are premiering commissions (many composed by alumni) of new pieces for Wind Symphony, Symphonic Winds, and Concert Band. This dynamic exchange between alumni and current students is a hallmark of the Bobcat spirit; it is also one of the reasons the School of Music continues to rise in national prestige. My gratitude and congratulations to all!
John Fleming.

Mark Your Calendars

(1) Texas State University's School of Music will host its annual reception at the TMEA Convention on Friday, February 14, 2020, from 9:30pm to 11:30pm. More details TBA.

(2) Texas State University's School of Music will host its Third Annual Music Alumni Open House on Saturday, March 28, 2020, from 9:00am to 12:00noon in the Texas State Music Building Lobby.

E-Mail & Internet Links:

Texas State Music Alumni E-Mail: MusicAlumni@MusicAlumni.net • Texas State's School of Music: <http://www.music.txstate.edu/>
Texas State Music Alumni Website: <http://www.MusicAlumni.net> • Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/46231268458>

Alumni News

Oboist **Mika Allison** (B.M. in oboe performance, '12) is a Chicago-based performer and educator. Mika holds positions with the West Michigan Symphony Orchestra and the Texas Bach Festival Orchestra. She has performed throughout the United States with ensembles such as the Austin Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Peoria Symphony Orchestra, and South Shore Opera of Chicago. She is a founding member of 5th Wave Collective, an organization dedicated to the performance and promotion of female composers. Devoted to arts education, Mika specializes in working with El Sistema style music programs, such as Sistema Ravinia, People's Music School, and Chicago Arts and Music Project. She also maintains a private teaching studio in Chicagoland. Hailing from Texas, Mika completed an undergraduate degree at Texas State University studying with Dr. Ian Davidson. She completed a Master's Degree in Oboe Performance and Literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Post-Master's Performance Certificate at DePaul University studying with John Dee, Grace Hong, and Alex Klein.



Jacob Banda (B.M. in music education, '02) currently serves as the Director of Bands for Palmview HS in Mission, Texas, for the past 19 years in the La Joya Independent School District. As an educator, Mr. Banda's musical ensembles have earned consistent UIL Sweepstakes awards for both Marching Band and Concert Band at the middle school and high school levels. Mr. Banda was named Teacher of the Year at PHS and was named a quarterfinalist for the Grammy Music Educator Award on two separate occasions. He continues to play professionally, serving as the Principal Trombone for the Valley Symphony Orchestra for the past 17 years. He lives in Sharyland, Texas, with his wife Zynahia Montemayor-Banda (SWT '99) and daughters Izabella (16) and Cozette (11). His hobbies include Men's Physique Bodybuilding, in which he won 1st Place in the NPC Masters Division.



Violist **Ruben Balboa III** (B.M. in viola performance, '13) obtained a Master of Music at UNT and is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at UT Austin. He is currently an active chamber musician, recitalist, and educator in the Austin area. In recent years, Ruben made his Bass Hall solo debut at the Festival of the Orchestras hosted by the Fort Worth Symphony. Other notable performances include concerts with Dallas Opera and the Las Colinas, Round Rock, Mid-Texas, and San Angelo Symphonies. Ruben frequently guest clinics for string methods and orchestral techniques. A founding teacher of Texas State String Project, Ruben is

now a faculty member at the UT String Project and Austin Chamber Music Center and a member of ASTA and the American Viola Society. In 2020, Ruben will be featured on the America Viola Society Emerging Artist Recital in Knoxville, Tennessee.



Katy Blalock (B.M. in music education, '19) became the Band Director at Union Grove Middle School and Easter Hills Middle School in Killeen, Texas.

Luca Cubisino (M.M. in piano performance, '14) has developed and will be directing the Advanced Preparatory Piano Program, a division of the Frost School of Music Preparatory Program at the University of Miami.

Eliud Garcia (B.M., '15) recently released his 2nd solo album entitled *Versitos*. Eliud is currently teaching in Austin in addition to having an active freelance career as a trombonist, drummer and vocalist.



Payton Grover (B.M. in music education, '19) joined Bastrop High School as Assistant Director of Bands.

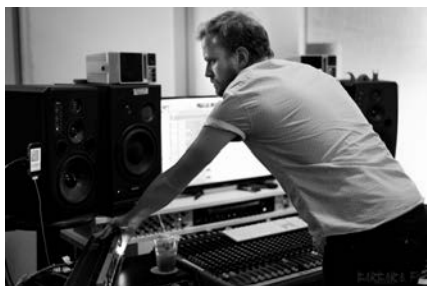
Dr. Elizabeth (Lee) Hepach (B.A. in Music, '05; M.M. in music theory, '07) currently teaches music theory at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" in Leipzig, Germany.

Michael Johnson (M.M. in trombone performance, '17) has recently been appointed as a professor at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, AL. He is currently in the 2nd year of his doctoral studies at the University of Alabama.

Marty Lenard (B.M. in music studies, '10; M.M. in music education, '12) is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Instrumental Music Education from Auburn University. He was a saxophone student of Dr. Todd Oxford, participating in the Bobcat Marching Band, Wind Symphony, and Saxophone Quartets. Marty won a position via live audition to perform at Carnegie Hall with the National Collegiate Wind Ensemble. He taught band at Hal Peterson Middle School in Kerrville, Texas, and has since joined the faculty at Schreiner University in Kerrville as an Assistant Professor. His responsibilities at Schreiner include Director of Bands and Music Education Coordinator. Marty is a Board Member of the Kerrville ISD. He married wife, Halya (TXST '12), in 2009. They have two children.



Larry D. Loden (M.M. in woodwind performance and a minor in music education, '94) writes: "Briefly my current professional activities are as follows: Teaching woodwinds at Our Lady of the Lake University, The University of The Incarnate Word, South Side High School. As a union musician I play with The Mid-Texas Symphony, San Antonio Jazz Orchestra, and I play in the pit orchestras for Broadway (and commercial) Shows in the San Antonio area. I am



also involved with various club date engagements such as The Bluestar, The Dirty River Dixieland Band, The Cove, The Sentimental Journey Orchestra and Jazz Texas."

Danny Reisch (B.M. in sound recording technology, '06) opened his analog-centric recording studio Good Danny's in 2007. The Austin Chronicle's "Best of Austin" Award for "Best Grand Slam Studio" was bestowed upon

Good Danny's in 2014. Other awards include "Best Recording Studio" in the Austin Music Industry Awards 2013 and "Producer of the Year" in the Austin Music Awards 2011. Reisch splits his time between running the studio and touring internationally, drumming with his bands Other Lives and Shearwater.

Amanda Marino Stevenson (B.M. in music education, '07) is currently Director of Bands at Winston Churchill High School in San Antonio, Texas, and brass staff for Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps in Caspar, Wyoming.



Steven Vogel (B.M. in trombone performance, '15) recently joined the Edwards Instrument Company artist roster. He is on the faculty at Texas Lutheran University and Lone Star College, in addition to holding positions with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra and Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass.

Flute Alumni News

Several Texas State alums who studied under Dr. Adah Jones, a professor of flute, have earned college positions this fall.

Daniel Pardo (B.M. in flute performance, '10) received an M.M. and D.M.A. from UNT, where he was a flute TA for Mary Karen Clardy. He recently accepted the tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Flute at Prairie View A&M, where he is also teaching music appreciation and music fundamentals. While in the military, Daniel served as Principal Flute in the Combined Armed Forces Pacific Band, the Marine Forces Pacific Band, and the 36th I.D. Army National Guard Band. He has performed in a range of ensembles, including chamber orchestras, Latin and rock groups, big bands and jazz combos. Owning his own recording studio has also led to collaborations with numerous artists, and he has worked as a studio musician and producer in Nashville's studios in orchestral and commercial settings.

Hilary Janysek (B.M. in music studies, '11) received her M.M. (2015) and D.A. degrees (2018) in Flute Performance and Entrepreneurial Studies from Ball State University. This past summer, she was offered the adjunct Assistant Professor position in Flute at Texas Lutheran University and an adjunct position in flute at Schreiner University in Kerrville. Also, in August, she gave a presentation "Creating Sustainable Chamber Ensembles" at the National Flute Association convention in a session titled "Lightning Talks", where presenters shared innovative projects and research. At TXST, Hilary was a Concerto Competition Winner, won Outstanding Senior in Music Education, received the award for Excellence in Undergraduate Music Theory, received a Francis Schneider Scholarship and the Woods-Kone Scholarship, and graduated Summa cum Laude. At Ball State, Hilary was a TA for both the music education area and the music history area. She studied flute with Dr. Mihoko Watanabe and received the following awards: NAMM President's Innovation Award, Outstanding Graduate Student in Music, Music History Assistantship, Music Education Assistantship, Graduate Concerto Competition Winner, and a Graduate Merit Fellowship.

Stephanie Hulsey (M.M. in flute performance and pedagogy, '16) has accepted an adjunct position as flute instructor at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. She also continues to teach in multiple school districts in Central Texas, carrying a load of over 30 students and conducting numerous flute masterclasses in Hays ISD, Comal ISD, New Braunfels ISD, and Seguin ISD.

Two former Texas State flute graduates are starting graduate programs this fall. **Ziqing Guan** (M.M. in flute performance, '18) is a TA at University of South Carolina, where she will be pursuing a DMA under the supervision of Jennifer Parker-Harley. **Julia Escobar** (B.M. in flute performance, '19) received a scholarship to attend the University of Illinois, where she is pursuing a M.M. in Flute Performance under the supervision of Jonathan Keeble.

Juan (Tony) Rodriguez and **Joshua Valdez** (both B.M. in music studies) received elementary teaching positions at Copperas Cove and Del Valle respectively.

Congratulations!

The 2019 Puerto Rico Summer Music Festival Orchestra trombone section was comprised of all Texas State alumni. **Ramiro Cortez** (B.M., '18) is currently pursuing a M.M. degree at the Manhattan School of Music. **Camden Scarborough** (B.M., '17) recently received his Masters degree from Northwestern University, and **Eliud Garcia** (B.M., '15) is a recent graduate from Yale University.



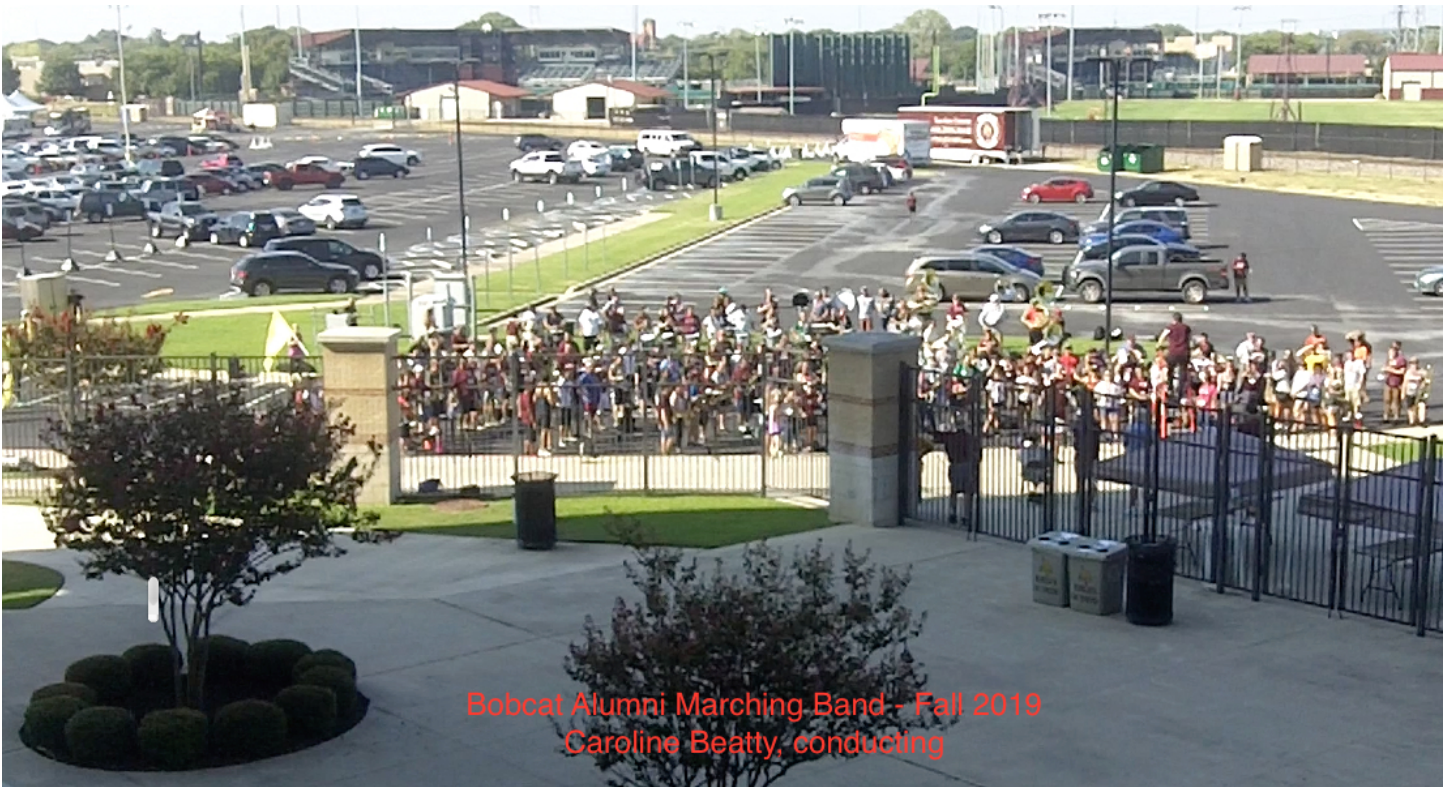
In the Spotlight

Texas State flute alumna, **Danielle (Dani) Stevens Nutting** (B.M. in flute performance, '14) has been awarded a Fulbright grant to conduct her dissertation research on the classical flute tradition in Bulgaria. Dani will live in Sofia during the 2019-20 academic year, study with leading Bulgarian flutist-pedagogue Lydia Oshavkova, and conduct ethnographic research with flutists and musicians throughout the country. Her project, "Exploring Artistry: Epistemologies of Flute Performance and Pedagogy in Bulgaria," aims to understand the multidimensional life of the flute in Bulgaria from its incorporation into local music-making in the late 19th century to its role in the contemporary art music scene, with special attention to the importation of West-European flute schools (particularly French and German) and the performance practice of the Bulgarian kaval (a keyless wooden shepherd's flute). An avid performer-researcher, Dani seeks a novel fusion of classical performance and pedagogy with ethnomusicological theory and methodology and is hopeful that her scholarship will not only encourage similar interdisciplinary endeavors in both performance and musicology but will highlight the diversity of classical music expression in our world.

Following her B.M. in flute performance at Texas State under the supervision of Dr. Adah Jones, Dani earned a performance M.M. ('16) from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and is now a doctoral candidate in Flute Performance & Literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the supervision of Drs. Jonathan Keeble (flute) and Donna Buchanan (ethnomusicology, Balkan studies). Dani has performed with the National Repertory Orchestra (Breckenridge, CO), Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and Sinfonia da Camera (Champaign-Urbana, IL), and is a two-time quarterfinalist of the National Flute Association Young Artist Competition, second-place winner of the NFA Orchestral Audition Masterclass Competition, and winner of NFA's Piccolo Masterclass Competition. She also enjoys playing the Bulgarian kaval and svirka, as well as singing and playing percussion, with the University of Illinois Balkan ensemble, Balkanalia. A passionate educator, Dani has held both music education and flute teaching assistantships in Cincinnati and Illinois, respectively, and maintains an active private studio in the Champaign-Urbana area. Long term, Dani seeks an interdisciplinary and multi-faceted career as a performer, teacher, and researcher.



Pictures from the 2019 Alumni Band





Bahla, Jonah, Class of 2013



Banda, Jacob, Class of 1999



Banda, Ziny, Class of 1998



Benford, Cathy, Class of 1999



Burkhart, Echoe, Class of 2018



Chebia, Amanda, Class of 2018



Conner, Joshua, Class of 2018



Del, Cruz, Noel, Class of 2002



Dean, Francisco, Class of 1998



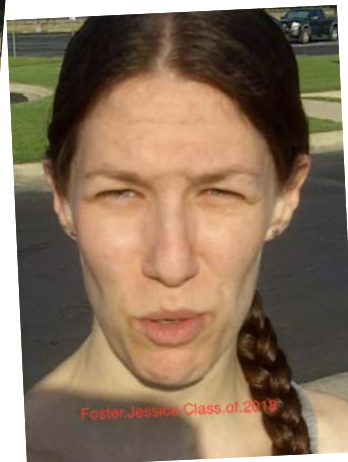
DePa, Gilbert, Class of 2007



Eunson, Megan, Class of 1998



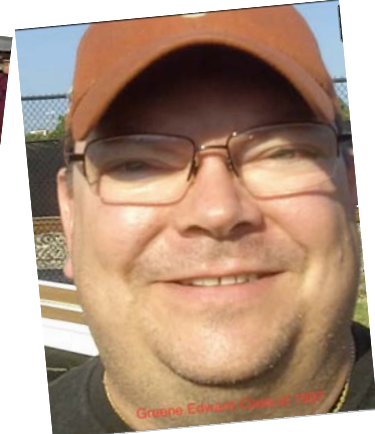
Flores, Stephanie, Class of 2019



Foster, Jessica, Class of 2018



Franz, Lindsey, Class of 2016



Gracie, Edward, Class of 1997



Hanson Mike Class of 2001



Hatch Jonathan Class of 2013



Hodges Wayne Class of 1980



Hurtado Ariana Class of 2005 & 2013



Denise and James Hudson
Banda Director - 1992-2003



James Rachel Class of 2009



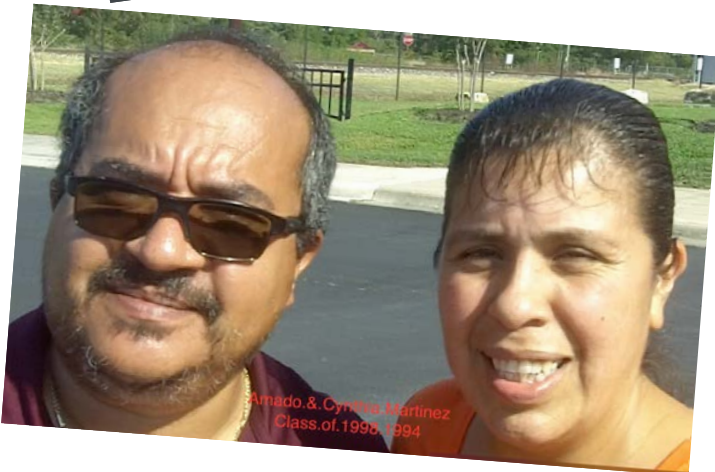
Tom Knowles - Class of 1978



Lamanna Keith Class of 1988



Laumer Jack Professor of Truman School



Amado & Cynthia Martinez
Class of 1998, 1994



McDaniel Ian Class of 2015



McEntire Richard BMB 1986-87



Miller Brad, Class of 2015



Nela and Gabriel, Class of 2015



Petrusky Robert - Class of 1978 and 1980



Proctor Lonnie, Class of 1994



Russell Jason, Class of 1998



San Luis Manuel, Class of 1983



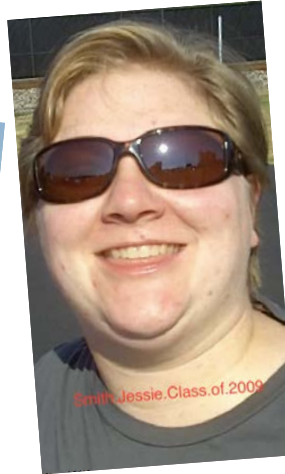
Schmidt Larry, Class of 1970



Schneider Tony, Class of 1985



Smith Craig, Class of 1988



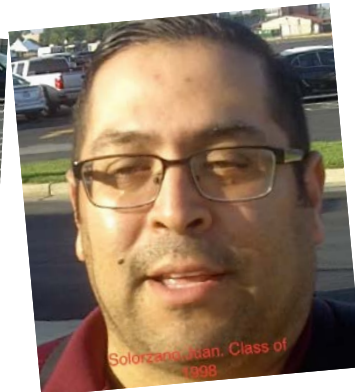
Smith Jessie, Class of 2009



Smith Nate, Class of 2010



Smith Sandra, Class of 1989



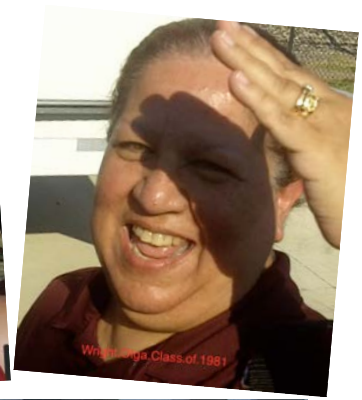
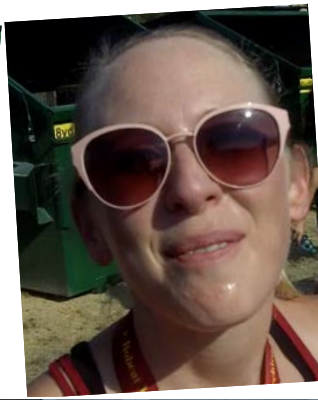
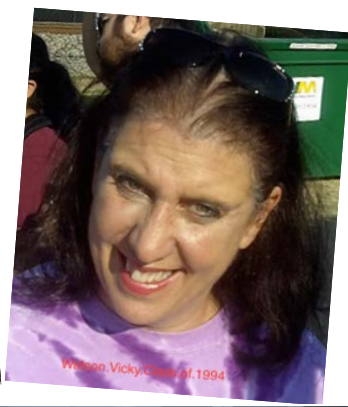
Solorzano Juan, Class of 1998



Tellez Marc, Class of 2002



Thompson Ed, Class of 1988



Texas State Faculty Offer 1:1 Match for Donations

A Note From Alumna Sunnie Oh (M.M. in Music, '02):



Dr. Kwak with current students and recent graduates

“Texas State’s School of Music is in the process of establishing a keyboard scholarship endowment. My husband and I are donating \$50 per month to this endowment. The scholarships will benefit pianists, including those who accompany other students. Thus, this scholarship fund will benefit the entire School of Music. Several faculty, among them Dr. Jason Kwak (Coordinator of the Piano Area), have pledged to match all alumni contributions 1:1. For example, for a donation of \$10, one of the faculty will donate another \$10; for a \$100 donation, a faculty will donate \$100; etc. To donate, use the form at <https://donate.txstate.edu> and click on ‘Search for a designation not listed’ to do a keyword search for ‘Keyboard’. Chose the ‘SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR THE KEYBOARD AREA IN THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC’. No amount is too small or too large! Future Texas State music students will thank you!”

Want to Help?

Would you like to help current and future students at Texas State University? You can

- Give us feedback as we revise our curricula
- Become a mentor
- Establish an endowment
- Contribute to a scholarship fund

For more information, contact MusicAlumni@MusicAlumni.net

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