

Your views, positive and negative, are sought in an effort to make this newsletter the "best" and most interesting and useful to you. Please take a moment to give us some feedback, preferably via email or on our website [www.uwlmusic.org](http://www.uwlmusic.org)

1. Did you enjoy reading the articles?
2. Did you learn anything that you did not know before?
3. Did you read the newsletter on the internet \_\_\_\_\_ or on paper \_\_\_\_\_? (select one)
4. If you received the newsletter via the US Postal Service but also use email, please insert your email address here to help us reduce the cost of printing and postage:
5. Please indicate your interest in types of articles preferred.
  - Historical
  - Current news re. faculty projects
  - Current news re. student projects
  - What ever happened to this alum?
  - What ever happened to my professor from 19?? or 20??
6. Was it easy to navigate the newsletter?
  - Problems?
  - Layout?

7. What would you like to see in the next newsletter? We plan to publish each semester.

8. Please list ideas for features:

- A.
- B.
- C.

9. Do you know an alum who did not get a newsletter but would like one? Enter name and email address:

Name:

Email address:

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED EVALUATION TO:

[wesslerrob@gmail.com](mailto:wesslerrob@gmail.com)

OR

UW-L Music Alumni View  
W6642 Hidden Valley Rd.  
Holmen, WI 54636

ISSUE

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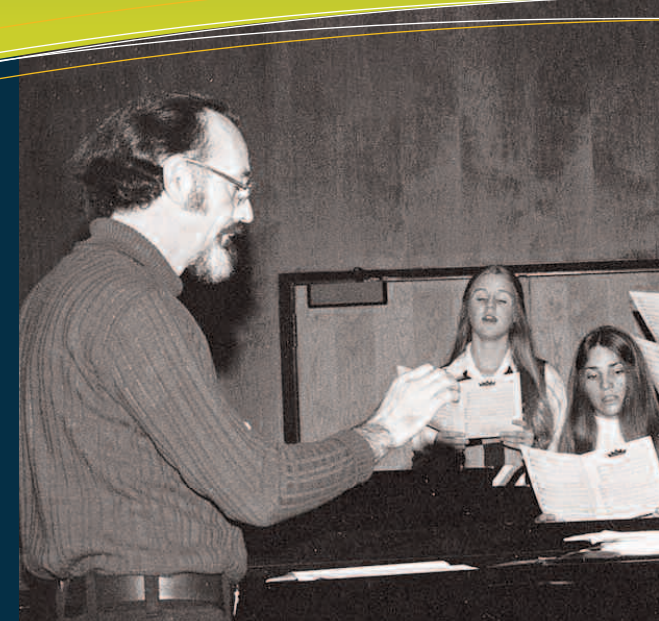
October  
2014

Music  
@  
UW-La Crosse

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
LA CROSSE  
**ALUMNI** view

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### How This Newsletter Began

The purpose of this Music at UW-L-- Alumni View is to RECONNECT, and COMMUNICATE with all those who ever majored, minored, or participated in music at UW-L. We want all of you to be informed about what has happened, what is happening, and what is going to happen in our UW-L Music Department. The newsletter is meant to re-excite you regarding activity in the Department and reconnect you with college friends and faculty. We want to hear from you with questions, anecdotes, news, etc. We hope you will share your UW-L enthusiasm with potential students who are making decisions about post high school plans. We hope you will also share the most major events in your lives that relate to your UW-L music experiences and would be of interest to fellow readers.

This newsletter's success rests upon the quality of its contents. And that's where you come in. If it weren't for you, there'd be no newsletter! YOU will help determine and shape the content of future issues. For this inaugural issue, the newsletter staff determined that you need to know the nuts and bolts--the who, what, where, when and why this has graced your mailbox.

On a frigid morning in January 2014 several retired UW-L Music professors sat around Joyce Grill's kitchen table and hatched a plan to communicate to UW-L music department alums (and anyone else associated with the department). Research indicated that there is no other vehicle of communication to speak to the large number of UW-L Music Department alumni. There are other music department alumni groups with strong communication--for example, the Marching Chiefs/Screaming Eagles Alumni Band has been using social media to connect and prepare for their activities for many years.

Through this newsletter, you will see brief articles of interest covering diverse topics such as building, program and staff histo-

ry as well as sharing in the fascinating career journeys of department alumni. Technology will be tapped for the newsletter as well. You will have the opportunity to be linked to a website for a more in-depth experience with many of the articles. When preparing the editorial list for this issue, this question was raised to the newsletter staff: "When you think of UW-L music department, what's the first thing that comes to your mind?" We won't spoil it by telling you OUR answers, but we hope that when you think of the UW-L Music Department and all your personal experiences you may find some old friends and faces on these pages and on the linking website. We encourage you to visit the article near the back asking for your feedback so that you can assist us to shape the content of future issues.

In-depth, full length articles  
from this issue  
can be found at:  
[UWLMUSIC.ORG](http://UWLMUSIC.ORG)

## Department Alumni

We hope to spotlight an alumnus from each of the following areas: Band, Choir/Voice, Piano, Orchestra, Jazz and General Music. Do you know someone that should be featured? Send us your comments at [www.uwlmusic.org](http://www.uwlmusic.org)

There's only so much good news we can print on paper and we want to be environmentally sensitive, too.

Each of these profiles can be read in an extended format at our website: [www.uwlmusic.org](http://www.uwlmusic.org)



### Kristee Lee Estervig

(B.S. Piano Performance and Pedagogy, 2000) currently owns Arboretum Music School in Waunakee.

After completing Masters Degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from UW-Madison, Kristie opened Arboretum Music School in June 2003. In the past ten years, the school has grown

## Piano Profile

### Kristee Lee Estervig

Kristee owns and operates Arboretum Music School in Waunakee, WI

from 30 students to 300, 3 teachers to 20, and has had to undergo 4 constructions to keep up with the growth. The music school teaches all instruments and levels. It is a positive environment where students are challenged to achieve musical excellence.

Kristie credits the success of the school in large part to her education at UW-L. Dr. Mary Tollefson was one of

the finest student-centered professors that she has ever been able to work with.

Mrs. Joyce Grill also played a major role in demonstrating the enthusiasm, desire, and importance of being a teacher.

Kristie Lee Estervig currently lives in Madison with her husband Andy (B.S. Music Education, 2000) and their two daughters, Elise and Eden.

"It is a positive environment where students are challenged to achieve musical excellence."

## Choir/Voice Profile

### Dr. Howard Swyers

Fiscal Officer and Opera Performer

#### Dr. Howard Swyers

graduated from UW-L in 1998 and began a masters program at Indiana University in 1999. He feels the well-rounded nature of his music training at UW-L served him well.

The strong choral background and the conducting experience gave him a leg up on many of the students who came in with more a straight vocal performance background. He had a better sense of working in ensemble settings than many of his graduate student colleagues in voice.

Dr. Frye's theory classes also gave him a good foundation.

Dr. Kelly provided a great deal of encouragement and support to pursue performance opportunities. His training provided an excellent foundation to further build his voice.

With Dr. Kelly, his voice was allowed to develop naturally and was not forced to conform to a certain preconceived sound or vocal fach, the latter of which frequently leads to potentially damaging tension and uncomfortable singing. Other than singing in his high school choir, Howard had no formal vocal training



prior to his time at UW-L. Without Dr. Kelly's guidance, he would not have been considered for acceptance at a school such as IU.

Howard is married to La Crosse native Donna Swyers (Cronk) and they have two children, Samuel (11) and Ryan (9).



...a Bit Of History

## The Name Behind the Recital Hall

**Dr. Thomas Annett** started teaching at La Crosse Normal School in 1926, 17 years after its founding. The sole music courses offered were Music I and Music II, band, orchestra, and glee club.

When the normal school became the teachers college in 1927, Dr. Annett was instrumental in the movement to teach music in the rural school. He directed the band, the orchestra, and taught applied piano for several years in addition to training students enrolled in the rural education major. In

1951, the Teachers College became a state college, and in 1964, a state university.

As the university changed, music education, applied

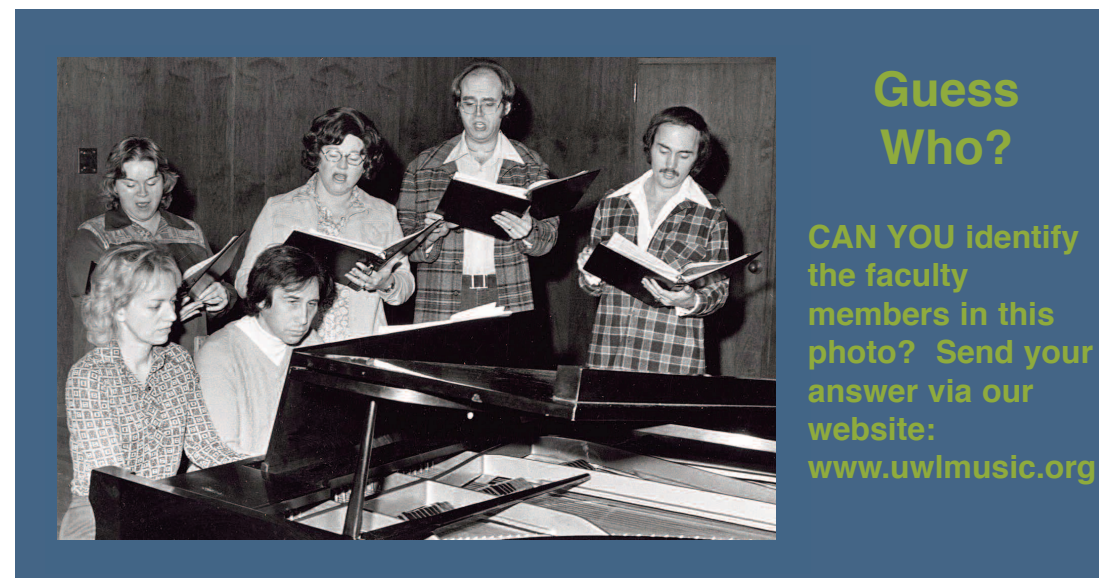
music, history, and theory majors were offered. When Dr. Annett retired in 1962, plans for a building to house the

arts were being formulated and in 1974, the Fine Arts Building (now "The Center for the Arts") was finished and occupied. The music faculty recommended that the recital hall be named the Annett Recital Hall to honor

Dr. Annett for his 36 years of service to the University



(32 Years as Chairman of the Department of Music) and the countless number of students that he had taught. The hall was dedicated in 1974 and Dr. Annett was on the recital hall stage at the dedication. He continued to teach piano in La Crosse and died in 1979.



## Guess Who?

CAN YOU identify the faculty members in this photo? Send your answer via our website: [www.uwlmusic.org](http://www.uwlmusic.org)

## We'd Like to Hear From You

Undoubtedly, UW-L Music Department Alums are scattered all around the globe. Help us reach out to you by giving us your most current email address. We promise to only use it to send you useful information about the Music Department and will never, ever EVER sell it or give it away to anyone.

## Find Us On The Web

This newsletter is the condensed version of what you can see at our online presence: [www.uwlmusic.org](http://www.uwlmusic.org).

These articles appear in their entirety on

the interactive version of the newsletter. In the future, perhaps we will be able to provide links to YouTube videos of your live music performances!





### Orchestra Profile

## Beth Woodward

### International Touring and Wisconsin Bound Once Again

decided to pursue a career in linguistics instead. When Jose's year in La Crosse was finished, I knew it wasn't the last time I'd see him!

We are now in the second year of living in Spain. Last year we were on staff for the inaugural year of the local international school, where I taught general music to K3-10th grade, choir for a bit (don't laugh), and started a Suzuki program which ran during the lunch breaks.

I'm working on a doctorate in Educational Technology at the University here in Tarragona, where my husband is teaching. Our kids speak Spanish and play with their cousins constantly. We even started a student exchange ([www.globalexchangesolutions.com](http://www.globalexchangesolutions.com)). We are moving back to Wisconsin this summer, where I can't wait to eat cheese and listen to live music

**It has been nearly 19 years** since I auditioned at UW-L. A lot of amazing, wonderful, and sometimes difficult things have happened to me in the years in between, all of which have helped me become the person I am. Even the difficult moments helped me more than I realized at the time.

During my last year at UW-L, I met my husband Jose. He was an Amity from Spain and his roommates insisted that he could read music. Turns out he studied at the Paris Conservatory, but as a result of a childhood injury he

**I am wrapping up ten** very good years at International School Nido de Aguilas, on the Andean edge of Santiago, Chile. My husband & I are a music teaching team and came here as newlyweds to build a program. Since 2004, I built up a High School program that includes International Baccalaureate Music, Jazz combos, Concert Band, Concert Choirs, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and a Guitar Techniques course while my husband built the Middle School program.

The students who pass through my classroom bring a crazy collection of accents to rehearsals and I love the



UW-L did an excellent job of preparing music teachers. I remember an assignment in an Instrumental Music Ed. class with Mr. Hoefler where we had to make a school budget over 5 years; I budgeted to buy 50 stands a year. Hoefler wanted to know why after 5 years I would have 250 stands and no marimbas. I have since learned that music stands rarely disappear from K-12 music classrooms on the same scale as a university.

Our theory classes, taught by Dr. Frye, were excellent, and we had loads of practice on the tapmaster (there is an app for this now, millennials). We had so many performance opportunities to learn repertoire. Mr. Hoefler pushed for us to have meaningful placements in our student teaching, where we could work alongside bright and influential teachers. Mr. Hoefler, Dr. Phipps, and Dr. Vance (my cello instructor) all took a sincere interest in us and pushed us to realize our potential. Instead of feeling a competitive atmosphere, I felt the staff at UW-L cared about us and helped us to find our place in our professions.

### Band Profile

## Gwen Anding

### Settling in South America

who have taught me so much about the IB Programme, theater, visual arts, and sound engineering.

In July, 2014, I will move to Asuncion, Paraguay, with my husband and 2 children. We're ready for the new challenge of building up another program at the American School of Asuncion. When opportunity introduces itself, I have a hard time saying no. As I learned as an undergrad at UW-L, every person can be a mentor and every roadblock is an opportunity to learn. We'll see what happens in Paraguay.

challenge of finding a way to incorporate an Indian santoor or Korean drumming into a concert. Field trips to music festivals involve airplanes, passports, and getting hung up in immigration with students. I have had the good fortune these past six years to serve as Fine Arts Department Chair for an amazing team of people

**Dr. Tammy Fisher came to UW-L in** 2001. She taught in Pennsylvania and holds degrees from Clarion University, Indiana University, and the doctorate from the University of North Carolina—Greensboro. At UW-L she directs the Screaming Eagles Marching Band, the Symphonic



### Faculty Profile

## Dr. Tammy Fisher

### Important Research on Hearing Loss

Band, percussion ensembles, teaches instrumental methods, applied percussion, and supervises student teachers.

Dr. Fisher is actively engaged in a research project in cooperation with the UNC-Greensboro Music Research Institute. The purpose of the project is to study the potential of Noise-induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) in students who perform in

marching band. NIHL is an increasingly prevalent disorder that results from exposure to high-intensity sound, especially over a long period of time. Students wear a small device called a "doseBadge". The doseBadge Noise Dosemeter measures, stores, and calculates the parameters essential for

compliance with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The information collected basically serves as an individual noise profile. The data gathered will be combined with data from UNC—G and other schools so that an accurate picture of

the possible effects of such exposure can be obtained. Dr. Fisher says that many students are wearing musician earplugs as a result of the data gained in the study and she anticipates that this will be happening more in the future. This study is of vital importance to instrumentalists in music organizations because of the possibility of hearing loss.

### General Music Profile

## Gretchen Harms Anderson

### From Physical Therapy Studies to a Lifelong Teaching Career in One School

**After realizing that I** was not cut out to be a Physical Therapy major in the spring of 1975, I switched gears to Music Education. I came from a long line of educators and music had been my constant companion since 2nd grade piano lessons set me on the course that would be my new career choice. Band and choir also inspired me to use those skills to pass on to future students.

UW-L was a wonderful place to work on those dreams, beginning with theory classes that were some of my biggest challenges. My small high school had no such preparatory classes and so I had to dig in and work on composition, chords and rhythm dictation. I will never forget the weekly visits to the listening lab to put on the headphones and attack the "Tapmaster." I can still remember the

professor showing us how to map out a phrase and the "aha" moment when I was able to do the same. Piano lessons with Joyce Grill (taught us the necessary and lifesaving chording technique,) elementary education with Rob Wessler (added "Nelly Bly" to our repertoire) and University Singers with Bill Estes (how did I ever make it through that first audition with my lousy sightreading?) were all pieces of the puzzle that gave me direction in becoming a music teacher.

Upon graduation, I began teaching in Red Wing, Minnesota and in this 34th year, am still loving every moment. UW-L gave me the foundation for my career and I have used that knowledge to pursue graduate work at other universities. I know that it was my destiny to teach my young students to love music in many forms and that it was written in the stars to drop that Chemistry 104 class from

Dr. Kistner those many years ago. It was meant to be.

