

First Friday news

JUNE/JULY 2011



STAY IN TOUCH!
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UNC WILMINGTON DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Faculty News

The Faculty Brass Quintet performed at this year's commencement ceremonies for the first time. **Dr. John LaCognata** (trumpet), **Steve Skillman** (French horn), Jerald Shynett (trombone) and **Dr. Daniel Johnson** (tuba) were joined by **John Crowley** (B.M., performance, instrumental, trumpet).

Steve Skillman (French horn), **Jessica Miller** (oboe), **Chris Johns** (cello) and **Dr. Dan Johnson** (tuba) performed as part of the Long Bay Symphony for their concert "A Time for Peace, A Time to Dance," featuring the Carolina Master Chorale.

Dr. John Rack's Ghanaian drumming class performed on May 3 at Clyde Erwin Elementary Magnet School of International Studies and Cultural Arts in Jacksonville, N.C., where **Cheryl Burford** (B.M., music education, 1997) has taught for 13 years. Second, fourth and fifth graders heard Ghanaian dance music and participated in rhythmic clapping and chanting activities. Drumming class members included **Sean Bowman** (B.A., music), **Matt Kon** (minor, jazz studies) and **David Easton** (B.M., performance, jazz).

On May 10, **Dr. Dan Johnson** (tuba) and Dr. Joanna Hersey of UNC-Pembroke directed a low brass masterclass and performance at Whiteville High School, with students from Columbus County schools also in attendance. Following coaching by UNCW students, the event culminated in tuba-euphonium ensemble performances featuring faculty, collegiate, and high school groups. UNCW low brass students included **Mark Whitfield** (B.M., music education), **Ashley Frazier** (B.M., music education), **Andy Stanfill** (B.A., music), **Justin King** (B.A., music) and **Justice Mann** (B.M., performance, instrumental).



TOP, L TO R **John LaCognata, John Crowley, Dan Johnson, Jerald Shynett and Steve Skillman**
 ABOVE **Dan Johnson directs the Whiteville High School masterclass**

Graduates DECEMBER 2010 / MAY 2011

Cassidy Abbott¹ MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Amanda Bunce² MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Ashley Gladden³ DECEMBER 2010

Bachelor of Music in Music Education

Ashley also received a Bachelor of Music in Performance, Voice in May 2010.

Rory Glover⁴ MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Amanda Hinson⁵ MAY 2011

Bachelor of Music in Music Education

Justin Lacy⁶ MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Vanessa Lynch⁷ MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Victoria Padrick⁸ MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Ellen Parrish⁹ MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Katie Stephens¹⁰ DECEMBER 2010

Bachelor of Music in Music Education

Jon Tucker¹¹ DECEMBER 2010

Bachelor of Music in Performance, Jazz

Rachel Yaffe¹² MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Music



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Student news

The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program recruits talented high school graduates into the teaching profession and helps them develop leadership qualities. Teaching Fellow **Rebekka Sekeres** (B.M., music education and performance, vocal) participated in a three-day orientation at Guilford County Schools sponsored by Teaching Fellows, in which she met the superintendent of schools, members of the staff, and future music teachers from around North Carolina.

Sophie Amelkin (B.M., performance, vocal) is a staff member at the Cape Fear Theatre Arts musical theatre summer camps at Bald Head Island. Each camp runs for five days in June and August, and teaches students from seven to fourteen years of age the skills involved in musical theatre. The camps conclude with a production featuring students and staff.

Collaborations

The pit orchestra of Cape Fear Theatre Arts' production *Always...Patsy* at Bald Head Island features **Bob Russell** (jazz guitar) on steel guitar, **David Easton** (B.M., performance, jazz) on guitar, **Luke Perkins** (B.M., performance, jazz, 2010) on bass and **Rob Murphrey**, drums (B.A., music, 1995).

Alumni News



Mark Lorek (B.M., music education, 2002), band director at Havelock Middle School, has been awarded the Encore Award by the American School Band Directors Association. The award recognizes select bandmasters with fewer than seven full years in the profession who have demonstrated great potential as music educators and a desire to serve their district and state organizations. Candidates for the award are nominated by ASBDA members and voted upon at their spring business meeting. The awards will be presented during the NCBA business meeting at the 2011 NCMEA Conference in Winston-Salem this November. Lorek was one of four North Carolina band directors recognized.

Since joining the music faculty at Virginia Tech in the fall of 2010, **Nancy Jones Harder** (B.M., performance, 2006, keyboard) has taught advanced keyboard harmonization, aural skills, and accompanied student and faculty performances. Select performances include a collaboration with operatic tenor Robert Chafin, and a faculty chamber music recital where she performed works by Trygve Madsen and Kerry Turner. She served as pianist and conductor for Virginia Tech's theater department 15-show run of *The Fantasticks* and was invited to work with Radford University's opera program as vocal coach and répétiteur. The Opera Ensemble, which she accompanied, performed scenes and arias in two performances in April.

Murray Middle School Chorus, conducted by **Ryan Southerland** (B.M., music education, 2008), performed their spring concert on May 26 at the Minnie Evans Arts Center in New Hanover County.