

High Notes

News from the ASC Music Department

Adams State College—Winter 2008

The Music Department at Adams State College is off to an exciting start this year! With a dynamic and strong incoming freshmen class joining our committed and talented music majors and minors, our ensembles have enjoyed an infusion of energy and are gearing up for the final performances of the semester. Our faculty is in fine form and dedicated to outstanding teaching and performing.

To date the music department has presented three faculty recitals, hosted Rampart Winds from the USAF Academy Band, performed a Homecoming Jazz concert, marched in four football games and one parade and participated in Autumn at Adams, ASC Cares Day, the Volunteer Fair, an art opening, and a community domestic violence awareness event. All of this, and of course our academic classes and rehearsals, but believe it or not, we are just getting started! Be sure to check out our upcoming events list on page 6.



68 West (above) and the ASC Jazz Band (below) perform at the Homecoming Jazz Concert



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Winterfest 2008

Join the Adams State College Music Department as we celebrate winter with our very popular annual Winterfest Concert! Due to renovations in Plachy Hall, this year the concert will be held in Richardson Auditorium, and we will have two performances, at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Look forward to performances by all of the ASC music ensembles including the Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, Wind Ensemble, 68 West, Jazz Band, Steel Drums, and Flute Choir.

This concert is sure to kick off the holiday season with great spirit!

Join Friends of Music!

For more information,
see page 6

ASC Music Alumni News

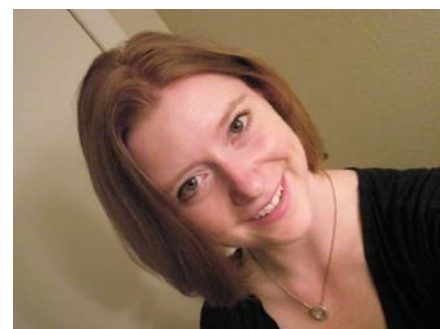
Elizabeth Ford, Class of 2008

Elizabeth Ford is a 2008 ASC graduate who is currently loving her first year at Giberson Elementary school in Colorado Springs. She teaches Kindergarten through sixth grade as well as a before and after school band and choir program. Her favorite things at her new school include the songs the first graders "teach" her at lunch and watching the students practice music class lessons during their recess! Elizabeth feels she can not say enough good things about her time in the Adams State music program. Not only did her professors encourage her love for music and performance, they also got her excited with tons of new ideas for her future classroom. Those professors have also become trusted mentors and friends as Elizabeth has begun her career.



Erynne Smith, Class of 2008

Erynne Smith is currently working her first year of teaching in Falcon school district 49, located east of Colorado Springs. She teaches general music, beginning band and elementary choir at Meridian Ranch Elementary. To date, she is one of only two elementary schools in the district that has a beginning band program. Her experience in the Adams State Music Department allowed her the opportunity to develop the skills she needed to fulfill all of her roles at her school. It has also allowed her the opportunity to assist other music teachers within her district. The Adams State Music Department experience has been invaluable to her and has allowed her to stand head and shoulders above many other first year teachers. She would like to thank all of the ASC Music Department faculty and staff for their years of dedication to her education. Without them, she would not be the success she is today.



Jason Pockrus, Class of 2008

Jason Pockrus was awarded a performing fellowship at the University of New Mexico for a master's degree in saxophone performance. This award pays full tuition and fees for his master's degree. The award also led to an appointment as the teaching assistant for Introduction to Music Literature and has made him a highly requested performer around Albuquerque. Jason was also offered the jazz T.A. position at Colorado State University.

Jason's years at ASC were a great asset to him when applying for graduate schools and similar awards. The great variety of musical experiences, both performing and teaching, available to him at ASC set him apart from many other candidates.



Jason as Drum Major of the ASC Grizzly Marching Band

ASC Music Department News

ASC Percussion Ensemble and Steel Drum Band Perform for Domestic Violence Awareness Ceremony

Percussion students took part in a community event in Alamosa on October 23rd to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The event was sponsored by Tu Casa and combined the talents of the Shumei Institute Taiko, Alamosa High School Drum Line, Don Richmond, and the ASC percussionists in a musical collaboration. Under the direction of professor James Doyle, ASC percussionists led off the ceremony portion with a drum call and gathering music followed by members of the steel drum band performing several numbers for all in attendance. This was the third year the ASC percussion studio has taken part in this community event.



Dr. Jamie VanValkenburg establishes San Luis Valley Community Band



Dr. Jamie VanValkenburg, with the assistance of Dr. Tracy Doyle, has established a community band for instrumentalists in the San Luis Valley. The band is open to all adult instrumentalists, including high school students.

A fundamental philosophy in music education is fostering life-long music making. By offering a performance ensemble of this kind, it provides adults in the San Luis Valley with the opportunity to continue to make music after high school or college in a fun and nurturing environment.

The band rehearses in the music building every Thursday evening from 7:00-9:00 pm and will combine with the ASC Concert Band for their first performance of the year on Saturday, November 15th at 2:00 pm in Richardson Auditorium. For more information, please call 719-587-7621.

Valley Community Choir News

Dr. Beth Wagstrom is the new director of the Valley Community Chorus. This choir, which has a strong and diverse membership, is open to all community members and students. They will be performing Mozart's beautiful and dramatic *Vesperae solennes de confessore* on Sunday, December 14 in Richardson Auditorium. The soloists for this work are members of the community who sing in the choir. For more information concerning any of these events, please contact Dr. Wagstrom at 587-7300 or the music office at 587-7621.

Adams State Percussion Studio Acquires New Concert Marimba

With the help of the internationally acclaimed percussion artist and Alamosa native, Valerie Naranjo, the music department recently purchased a new Adams Custom Classic Five Octave Marimba. The instrument is custom made with carefully selected rosewood bars and will greatly enhance the development of ASC percussionists.

ASC Steel Drum Band to perform for the Foundation Donor Recognition Dinner

The ASC Steel Drum Band, under the direction of professor James Doyle will perform on Friday, November 7th for the ASC Foundation Donor Recognition Dinner. The steel drum band is the newest ensemble at ASC and was founded by Professor Doyle thanks to the generous donation of Steve and Carol Otto of Monte Vista, CO. The band has over thirty members and will also perform for the public on Monday, November 24th at 8pm in Richardson Auditorium.

Without music life would be a mistake. ~Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

Faculty News



Matthew Schildt's piece "O Lonely Watcher of the Skies" for mezzo-soprano and piano will be performed at the Society of Composers Conference at California State University, Stanislaus on October 30th. He also recently and received an ASCAP Plus award in September for recent performances of musical compositions.

Matthew also recently completed a CD titled "Open Spaces." The CD features Dr. Schildt on piano, and was engineered and produced by Don Richmond. Don also performed extensively on the album, as well as Mel Lockhart on guitar, Johnny Gutierrez on bass, Veronica Starcher on French horn, Leigh Ann Phillips on vocals, and James Doyle on percussion, drums, and vibraphone. The CD is for sale in Alamosa at Treasure Alley and online at CD Baby.

Christine Keitges was on sabbatical during the spring semester 2008. During that time, she renewed her study in voice with Claudia Kennedy of Phoenix, AZ and her study of the Alexander Technique with Jane Comfort Brown of Boone, NC. Additionally, a comparison of Colorado colleges' and universities' music programs was completed. Dr. Keitges studied a wide variety of vocal repertoire, some of which was programmed on a September faculty recital. The semester was a time of renewal and confirmed that teaching is the best job she could ever hope to have.



Jamie VanValkenburg's composition *Variations on a Theme of Anthony Maiello* has been accepted for publication by Tuba-Euphonium Press, a major publisher of repertoire for the tuba and euphonium.

Tracy Doyle has recently implemented a new recruiting tool for the music department called "Music Major for a Day." This program, geared toward high school juniors and seniors, invites interested students to campus to shadow a music student through a typical day in the life of a music major. They will attend academic music classes, sit in on ensemble rehearsals, take a lesson with a faculty member, have lunch in the dining hall with music majors who share a common focus (choral/instrumental), take a campus tour, and have the option of taking a scholarship audition. This approach highlights one of the strengths of the music department which is our personal touch, while allowing the potential music student to determine if we are a good fit for them. For more information on this program, call 719-587-7621.

Percussion and Jazz professor, **James Doyle** was recently appointed to the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) Recreational Drumming Committee and will assume an appointment with the PAS Drum Set Committee in November. The two committees are responsible for selecting artists and clinicians for the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, as well as educational outreach. Additionally, Professor Doyle was recently elected Vice-President of the Colorado Chapter of PAS.

Student News

Junior Music Education Major Elected to State Office



Junior music education major, Melanie Hawthorne, has been elected to the office of president/president elect for the Colorado Music Educators Association's Collegiate Music Educators National Conference (MENC) music education clubs. Running against candidates from other Colorado colleges and universities, she was elected by her peers throughout the state on the platform of increasing awareness for rural music education in the state of Colorado. She has worked with successful San Luis Valley music educators to design a panel discussion on rural music education that will be presented at the state music education conference to be held in January at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs.

New Music Faculty Spotlight

Beth Wagstrom, Director of Choral Activities

Originally from Ohio, Beth Wagstrom has been an active performer and choral educator. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance and Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from Ohio University. While there, she was the conductor for the Women's Chorale and Title IX, their select a *cappella* women's ensemble. She earned her DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Kansas where she conducted both the early music ensemble, Collegium Musicum, and the University Singers.

For sixteen years between her undergraduate and graduate studies, Beth lived in the New York City metropolitan area where she enjoyed performing a wide variety of ensemble and solo repertoire. She has appeared numerous times at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and other concert venues with various professional ensembles including Musica Sacra, the New York Virtuoso Singers, Voices of Ascension, the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, the New York Concert Singers, and the Bard Festival Chorus. Conductors with whom she has worked include Richard Westenburg, Kent Tritle, Dennis Keene, Charles Dutoit, Dennis Russell Davies, Sir Charles Mackerras and Sir Roger Norrington.

Beth has worked extensively as a soloist and ensemble member with the Gregg Smith Singers and has toured both nationally and internationally premiering works by such composers as Libby Larsen, Louise Talma, Jacob Druckman and William Hawley. Through her years with Gregg Smith, she has also worked with Chanticleer, Ward Swingle, Dave Brubeck, Garrison Keillor, Eric Whitacre, Marilyn Horne and Ned Rorem.

Some of Beth's more diverse experiences in New York included recording with the World Wrestling Federation and appearing as a back-up singer with Andrea Bocelli on the *Late Show with David Letterman*. In September of 2001, she was honored to participate in the Prayer for America memorial service at Yankee Stadium in memory of those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center.

At Adams State College, she is enjoying directing the three collegiate choral ensembles as well as the Valley Community Chorus.



James Doyle, Percussion and Jazz

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, James Doyle earned a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Central Missouri and a master's degree in percussion performance from Louisiana State University. James served as principal percussionist with the Air Force Band of the Golden West where he spent 5 years touring, recording, and performing throughout the western United States, while maintaining an active freelancing schedule in the San Francisco Bay area. His performances have appeared on PBS, CNN, NBC, ABC, and CBS as well as numerous NPR broadcasts. Prior to his appointment with the band, James was a member of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra and performed frequently throughout the gulf coast. Other performance appearances include The Reno Philharmonic, Pacific Chamber Orchestra, Classical Philharmonic of San Francisco, Sacramento Chamber Orchestra, Napa Valley Symphony, California Wind Orchestra, Shreveport Symphony, Natchez Opera Orchestra, Louisiana Sinfonietta, and the Blue Lake Festival Orchestra. He has performed as soloist with the Air Force Band of the Golden West, Louisiana State University Wind Ensemble, American River Chamber Orchestra, and the Napa College Orchestra. As a classical, jazz, and rock musician, he has toured Europe, Southwest Asia, and East Africa. Additionally, he's performed with Grammy artists Dionne Warwick, Lee Greenwood, Mary Wilson, Nancy Wilson, and Grammy nominees Three Dog Night and Maureen McGovern. James is also a founding member of West Coast Impact, a percussion group dedicated to the performance of traditional Ugandan music as well as 21st century repertoire.

James is currently on faculty at Adams State College where he teaches courses in percussion, jazz, steel drums, world music, music literature, and directs the percussion ensemble. He has taught music literature at Trinidad State Junior College and undergraduate lessons, percussion ensemble, and marimba ensemble as a graduate assistant at LSU. Other teaching positions have included the Louisiana State University Music Academy, Yamaha Sounds of Summer Percussion Camp, LSU Chamber Winds Camp, the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Grandview High School, Knob Noster High School, and several high school percussion ensembles and drum lines in Missouri, Louisiana, California, and Colorado. Additionally, James presents clinics and master classes at numerous colleges and universities, maintains a successful private teaching studio, is an active music festival clinician and adjudicator, and is a member of the Vic Firth Education Team and a Vic Firth endorser. He currently performs with the Air National Guard Band of the Gulf Coast, Ft. Worth, The Medano Creek Jazz Trio, the celtic group, Tripping Upstairs, the Doyle-Kane Duo for flute and percussion, and tours and records regularly with the Air Force Band of the Golden West and the Band of Mid-America.





Upcoming Events

November 2-Faculty Collage Concert
7:00pm Leon/Sun @ 7

November 7-Fall Choir Concert
8:00pm Richardson

November 13-Guitar Area Recital/
Junior Recital: Antonio Lopez
Leon 7:00pm

November 14-Senior Recital:
Virginia Carty
Leon 7:00pm

November 15-Fall Band Concert
2:00pm Richardson

November 21-Fall Jazz Concert
8:00pm Richardson

November 23 -Chamber Strings
7:00pm Leon/Sun @ 7

November 24-Percussion Ensemble
& Steel Drum Ensembles
8:00pm Richardson

December 7-Winterfest
3:00pm and 7:00pm Richardson

December 10-Junior Recital:
Mike McLimore
Leon 7:00pm

December 14-Valley Community Chorus
3:30pm Richardson

Admission to most events is
\$5-Adults, \$1-Students

Free to AS&F and Friends of Music
Schedule is subject to change.

For more information, call (719) 587-7621

Friends of Music

ASC FRIENDS OF MUSIC are people who share an interest in the development of talented young musicians at Adams State College who will become tomorrow's teachers, performers and scholars. Members' annual contributions help the Department of Music continue to be a vital force for musical excellence in the San Luis Valley and in the State of Colorado. We invite YOU to become an Annual Member of the ASC Friends of Music.

The Department of Music is one of the most active and visible departments at ASC. Offerings in Music literature, performance and music education are substantial for a small college, and represent a model combination of liberal arts and pre-professional education in music for ASC students.

We are experiencing a period of growth in numbers and in musical quality. Each year, more than 700 of the 2200 on-campus students are actively involved with music through ensemble participation, private lessons or music classes. We presently offer three choirs, three bands, chamber music ensembles, and jazz combos. Our plans to actively recruit and retain musically and academically talented students will help us maintain an exemplary program.



The Music Department at Adams State College is an active and vital program, committed to musical excellence within a small college environment. Each year, more than 700 of the 2200 on-campus students participate in music through classes, lessons and performing ensembles. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education designated the ASC Department of Music a "Program of Excellence," the third ASC

