FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MAFA

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well and enjoying the fall season.

As most of you know, MAFA had our first annual Marching Band Exhibition on Saturday, September 15. By all accounts, it was an enormous success and looks to be the first of many to come! There are so many people to thank for this enormous task, but I want to thank Brian Grant, in particular, for having the idea and seeing it to completion. It definitely championed MAFA’s mission to bring attention to the Cline School of Music of North Greenville. For those alumni and friends who may not be as active in MAFA as you’d like, I ask you to please make us a part of your calendar. You’ll be glad you did!

I hope to see you at a cultural event supporting the best School of Music around!

Sincerely,

David Pickens

FROM THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Alumni and Friends.

It seems impossible that we have already had mid-term and we are just now getting the newsletter out. It has been a busy semester. The Marching Band Exhibition on September 15 was a great event for NGU. I especially want to thank 2 Board members – Mr. Brian Grant and Dr. David Cudd, and faculty member Dr. Chris Davis for the commitment they made to this endeavor. The Exhibition allowed us to spread the mission of NGU to many people in the county, and introduce prospective students and families to the Cline School of Music.

We always want to hear from our alumni and friends, and a good way to keep in touch is through the NGU MAFA Facebook page. See the box under the Alumni News in this newsletter and become a part of the network.

Keep in touch, and thanks to all you do in service to the Lord.

Jackie Griffin

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MAFA Executive Board
President – David Pickens – davidpickens@gmail.com
President Elect – Holly Hill - hhill@greenville.k12.sc.us
Secretary – Ashley O’Sheilds - oshosh@hotmail.com or ashleyoshields@pickens.k12.sc.us
Assistant Secretary–Camilla Pitman - capltman@charter.net
Treasurer – Brian Grant - btgrant@greenville.k12.sc.us
Historian – David Cudd – cuddjd@aol.com
Chaplain – Kevin Whitt – whitt.kevin@yahoo.com

2013 AUDITIONS

Next spring, the Cline School of Music will be holding scholarship auditions on the following Saturdays: February 16, and March 23. These auditions will begin at 8:45 am in the Sullivan Gallery and will get under way with a question and answer session with the faculty. These auditions are held for all prospective students interested in majoring in music.
Music Education student teachers from 2011-12 have secured employment in many school districts. Kenneth Perkins ('12) is teaching Elementary Music at Joseph Keels Elementary School, Columbia, SC. Brandon Leonard ('12) is teaching general music and strings at two middle schools in Laurens District 55. Allison Bryan ('11) and Sarah Meekins ('11) have both been employed by Greenville County Schools in the area of Elementary Music.

Lance Stockton ('07), who became Band Director at Hartsville High School in the fall of 2011, reports things are going well, and he has a larger band this year. Lance received the Young Educator of the Year Award from SCMEA in February of 2012.

Laura Bolt Brooks ('02) moved from Pickens High School to the York County School system this fall.

Jennifer O’Bryan Pepper ('07) is teaching strings in Pickens County at Pickens Middle School.

Gina Aaron Jolly ('96), the choral director at Greenwood High School, is serving as President Elect of the Choral Division of SCMEA. She will become President of the Choral Division in 2013. Gina is also a National Board Certified teacher.

There are 3 student teachers in schools this fall. Mary Elizabeth Hendricks (strings) and Rachel Baker Goodwin (choral) are student teaching at Florence Chapel Middle School, Beech Springs Intermediate School, and Byrnes High School. Sam Studley is a student teacher at Riverside Middle and Riverside High School.

Casey Plyler ('10) completed his Master’s degree at the University of Georgia and is now employed at a middle school near Atlanta.

Tyler Cason ('11) began his second year at Fairforest Middle School as the choir director. He also started his Masters in Music Education at Anderson University this semester.

Matt Chastain ('07) is now Director of Bands at Union County High School.
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The North Greenville Singers will perform at the Biltmore House in Asheville, NC, as a part of their Biltmore Estate Candlelight Christmas Evening on Friday, November 16, 2012. The ensemble is directed by Dr. Barry L. Combs and accompanied by Mrs. Lauren Cason.

On May 6, 2012, the North Greenville University Percussion Ensemble, along with director, Dr. Christopher Davis, performed Carl Orff’s “Carmina Burana” with The Community Chorus from Tryon, North Carolina. This ensemble is under the direction of Mr. Mark Schweizer.

The North Greenville University Brass Quintet has been invited to perform a concert at the South Carolina Music Educator’s Association In-Service Conference in Charleston, SC in February 2013. The SCMEA Conference is a gathering of music educators from across the state of South Carolina, who come together for a variety of professional development opportunities. The NGU Brass Quintet is comprised of the top brass music education and performance majors at the Cline School of Music, including Jamal Harper and Jon Haney, trumpets; Meredith Boyd, horn; Austin Blake, trombone; and Nick Viviano, tuba. The quintet regularly plays for campus chapel services and performs a wide variety of standard works from the brass quintet repertoire in two concerts annually. They also have performed for events in the greater Greenville area, including at the SC Technology and Aviation Center for state representatives, military personnel, and delegates from the Iraqi embassy. In addition, the quintet has performed at various local churches. The NGU brass quintet contributes to music education outreach, traveling to various schools to work with high school and middle school students. In 2010, the quintet was invited to perform Leonard Bernstein’s Suite from Mass for brass quintet and wind ensemble with the Blue Ridge High School band of Greer, SC, directed by Brian Grant. The NGU brass quintet performs under the direction of Dr. Darian Washington, director of the Concert Band and Professor of Brass.

FACULTY NEWS

Fabio Parrini was included in the faculty roster of the International Music Academy in Cremona, Italy, and received grants from NGU and the Metropolitan Arts Council towards a new solo recording project. During the Spring and Summer of 2012 he performed with several colleagues in recitals for the Pro Mozart society of Atlanta, the radio station WVIA in Scranton (PA), the Olin Fine Arts Center in Washington (PA), the Altamont Theater in Asheville, the Brooks Center at Clemson University, the NGU CEVT series, The Fine Arts Center of Greenville County, Tryon Estates, and the East North Street Concert House in Greenville. Among the musicians was his daughter and sometime student, Maria Parrini, 15, a former guest of the NGU CEVT series, who later in the season performed with the Brevard Music Center Orchestra as the piano division winner of the Jan and Beattie Wood Concerto Competition. For updated information please visit www.fabioparrini.com

Sonja Coppenbarger graduated with an MFA in Creative Writing from Converse College.

Dr. Christopher Davis will be performing as part of the Centennial Celebration of John Cage’s Birth at PASIC 2012, to be held in Austin, Texas on October 31-November 3. This will be the second year in a row that Dr. Davis has performed at PASIC. This past February, Dr. Davis became a Yamaha Performing Artist.

Dr. Barry L. Combs has been chosen by the Singing Churchmen of South Carolina to be their assistant conductor for their new concert year. The group is comprised of Ministers of Music from Baptist churches throughout South Carolina. Dr. Combs will lead portions of their concerts which take place once a month in churches all across South Carolina. The group will tour portions of South Carolina in April of 2013. Dr. Combs has been an active member of the Singing Churchmen of South Carolina since 1998.
Dr. Cheryl Greene recently performed in the South Carolina Children's Theatre production of the Sound of Music as Mother Abbess. She will be singing the role of Juliette in a Christmas opera, "St. Nicholas" with the Carolina Community Chorus in Tryon, NC on December 9, 2012.

The NGU Chamber Players (Leslie Taylor Warlick, violin; Michael Weaver, viola; Brenda Leonard, cello; Brian Gencarelli, double bass; Fabio Parrini, piano) gave performances and master classes at Spring Valley HS (Columbia, SC), the SC Governor's School in Greenville, Powdersville HS, Wren HS, and Eastside HS. They participated in a fundraising concert for the Meyer Center for Special Children at Wade Hampton HS, and have been invited back to perform for the Hendersonville Chamber Music series on March 3rd, 2013. They are also scheduled to perform at NGU on Feb. 25, 2013, and at the Governor’s School in Greenville on Feb. 28, 2013.

Dr. Barry L. Combs attended a conducting master class at the University of North Carolina Greensboro in September. The classes were led by Dr. Ann Howard Jones who is the director of choral activities at the Boston College of Fine Arts.

Mrs. Lauren Cason ('08) was recently named Teacher of the Week at Piano Central Studios where she teaches private piano. Mrs. Cason teaches Theory here at NGU and accompanies the Concert Choir and NGU Singers.

Craig King has joined the music faculty as trumpet professor. Mr. King has the B.M. in Performance from Furman University and the M.M. in Trumpet Performance from Yale School of Music. He also is a founding member of the Reedy River Brass of Greenville, SC and plays regularly with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Saturday, September 15, the 2012 Greenville County Schools Marching Band Exhibition was held on the North Greenville University campus, hosted by MAFA and the NGU marching band. This event included performances by all 14 Greenville County High School Marching Bands as well as your NGU Marching Crusaders. The evening culminated in a mass band performance of “America,” arranged by NGU alumnus, Brett Ensley (04). This performance included close to 1,000 students from all of the county’s bands.

As part of the day, the Admissions Office awarded $56,000 worth of scholarships by offering a $1,000 renewable scholarship for one lucky student from each of the 14 bands. This scholarship may be redeemed by attending North Greenville and being a member of the NGU Marching Crusaders. Also, throughout the day, the Admissions Office booth as well as the Cline School of Music booth received well over 100 prospect cards. Many people affiliated with NGU stated that this was one of the largest recruiting events that they have seen in several years.

God blessed us with a gorgeous day for this event and everything ran smoothly. This event was the first of its kind and we hope it is the first of many years of collaboration between the Greenville County school system and NGU. Many thanks to Brian Grant ('00) NGU alumnus, Blue Ridge Band Director, and MAFA secretary), Jim Kilgus (Lead band director for Greenville County), and all NGU alumni, students, faculty, and staff that helped this event be a great success.
CLINE SCHOOL OF MUSIC CALENDAR – FALL 2012

October
M 10/22  Parrini Recital  7:00  HRH
M 10/29  Percussion Brass Concert  7:00  HRH
T 10/30  Leonard/Smith Cello Concert  7:00  HRH

November
M 11/5  Flute Choir Concert  7:00  HRH
W-S 11/7-10  Cotton Patch Gospel  7:30  BT
Th 11/8  Chamber/NG Singers & Strings  7:00  HRH
M 11/12  Concert Band Concert  7:00  TA
T 11/13  Orchestra Concert  7:00  TA
W-S 11/14-17  Cotton Patch Gospel  7:30  BT
Th 11/15  Opera Workshop  7:00  HRH
M 11/19  Jazz Band  7:00  TA
T 11/27  Concert Choir Concert  7:00  TA

MAFA SEARCH FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Allen, Ruthann Garrett  '71
Arbaugh, Teresa Ann  '70
Avant, Pat
Bailey, Karen Hawkins  '76
Barrett, Wayne  '77
Barnett, Martha Jo  '74
Bellamy, Carole
Benoy, Buzzy  '81
Bishop, Michael Bryan  '76
Bland, Bertha Jean
Blanton, Martha Annette  '60
Campbell, James Lynn  '77
Center, Steve
Chandler, Brenda Kay  '66
Chilton, Thelma Regina  '70
Clintora, Lourdes Del Pilar  '60
Clayton, Sammy
Coker, Kevin  '85
Cole, Jackie Taylor  '71
Cole, Robert Daniel  '79
Cox, Shirley Diane  '71
Davis, Janet Jenkins  '78
DeShields, Robert Russell  '75
Dill, Keith  '76
Earnest, Margo Anita  '65
Easley, Dewey Mark  '80
Fallaw, Anne Warner  '65
Fowler, Elizabeth Joan  '75
Fowler, Floyd Robert  '63
Funderburk, Robert Wayne  '01
Garcia, Donald
Gordon, Debra Lita  '77
Hardman, Myra Pearl  '64
Harmon, Elizabeth A  '85
Hill, Cyndi McInnis  '74
Hinson, April Daves  '81
Horton, Dana Lynn  '00
Hutto, Barbara Ann  '60
Johnson, Elizabeth Raghib  '95
Jones, William Henry III  '71
Lundy, Roy Thomas  '60
Mack, Mary Elizabeth  '62
Martin, David  '67
Martin, Jesse Nelson  '01
McCullough, David Wayne  '82
McKnight, Toni
Munday III, Marion R.  '94
New, June Elizabeth  '65
Pickensheets, Debbie Ramsey  '75
Powell, Janice Elizabeth  '77
Quinn, Catherine Anne  '60
Raynor, Linda Ann
Reed, Delores Waters  '67
Reed, Phillip  '74
Renrick, LeRoy
Riddle, Toni Cheryl  '67
Salley, Betty Doris Garrick  '60
Smith, Peggy
Slaton, Krystal Runion  '77
Slaton, Teresa Lynn  '77
Sulley, Betty Doris Garrick  '60
Taylor, Steve Vincent  '74
Taylor, Steve Vincent
Thomas, Jane Dacus
Toups, Madeline  '65
Tucker, Jerry  '81
Waltrip, Mike  '76
Watkins, John  '83
Watson, Betty Jean
Watson, Shannon  '98
William, Virginia Dare  '66
Wright, Joyce  '61
Young, Judith Gail

This newsletter is issued each January/February and September/October.
You may receive this newsletter by email by notifying us of your email address.
Please submit news items/articles to liz.boehm@ngu.edu