



Radford University Department of Music
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A Message from the Chairman

Construction on the new Douglas and Bea Covington Center for the Visual and Performing Arts has been completed. An official gala opening celebration in honor of Dr. Covington, including a luncheon, reception, concert, gallery showing, and dinner took place on the 15th of November, 2008. The building will be fully operational with all scheduled rehearsals and performance events beginning in January, 2009. The performance hall has already been proven an extraordinary acoustical success and may well gain a reputation as the premiere acoustically excellent venue of its size in the country.

At the close of the Fall 2008 semester, it is my pleasure to announce that my successor as Chairman of the Radford University Department of Music will be Professor Al Wojtera. Mr. Wojtera has been a long-time member of the Department and is widely respected as an artist/musician/teacher with a long

and admired record of success as performer, conductor, musical director, ensemble coach, and applied teacher in the areas of jazz and percussion. On behalf of all of our faculty, students and alumni, I wish him the greatest success in fulfilling the mission, goals and objectives of our department.

As I complete thirty-eight years on the faculty of Radford University and thirty-three years as Department Chairman, I share the pride with our faculty, past and present, in the many significant accomplishments through these years, including the achievement of NASM membership and accreditation in 1977; the introduction of the Music Therapy programs, first at the undergraduate and later at the graduate levels, which have produced many of the finest professionals currently in the field; the introduction of the Music Business Concentration; and the significant recent growth of the Music Education Concentra-

tion. Many Radford music alumni from all of our past and current programs have completed advanced degrees at the most prestigious universities in the country and have excelled as performers and as music professionals throughout the country. Others have taken their invaluable musical experiences and accomplishments with them as they followed many other varied career paths, including the important responsibilities of parent and homemaker.

However, the greatest source of pride in our Music program at Radford University is the priority given to fostering the highest standards of musical performance and musical experience. This involves the performing musicianship of our students, strongly supported by all music courses, that is developed in applied studios and rehearsal halls for presentation in performance. This includes a long record of offering to our campus and community the highest quality of

musical experiences as performed by faculty, other professional artists and performing groups on and off campus in and well-beyond the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We encourage our alumni to visit our *Alumni* website to review or update their current information: <http://music.asp.radford.edu/alumni/alumni.htm>. Alumni who would like to be included on the *Alumni* website are invited to contact me or Professor Wojtera. We value the close communication that we have with our alumni and we always welcome news about your most recent accomplishments.

Eugene C. Fellin
 Chairman

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Construction complete!



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Retiring Faculty News

Eugene Fellin



In his thirty three years as Chair of the Department of Music, Dr. Eugene Fellin has been a steward of the music programs, a true leader of the faculty, a guide for his students' progress and development, and a visionary for the future of music at Radford University. As a steward of the music programs, he not only knows all their details and nuances, but knows how they "breathe." His understanding of the dynamic quality of the degree programs permitted him to best lead the faculty and students as change occurred or was necessary, either in response to internal developments or external influences. In this leadership capacity, he worked tirelessly to communicate with the faculty, honor their ideas and contributions and apply his vast experience to ultimately move the department forward. His knowledge and expertise in accreditation, specifically with the National Association of Schools of Music, added to his effectiveness in making the quality of programs the essential goal of his tenure. This, it must be noted, was consistently done with a devout respect

of both his faculty and his students. Those students enjoyed the security of a "master advisor" who applied an encyclopedic knowledge of the curriculum, the catalog, and the policies to counsel them through their programs – from first inquiry to graduation check-out. Likely, his most important legacy is that every student knew that he or she was always receiving his full attention and always left feeling cared for in the process. This may seem routine for a department chair, but is, in fact all too rare. However, his students were and are very aware of his attentiveness and the assurance of service he provided as a result. They saw it in his advising, his insistence on high standards, and even just by attending the great majority of their performances which, over the years, became an increasing source of pride for him. It is well known that no one felt more genuine satisfaction in the success of his students and faculty as he has in the role of department chair. As a visionary, Dr. Fellin would always keep his eyes and ears open for the next opportunity that would move the department forward. Be it through discussions with his peers at institutions throughout the country or information gained at a conference session. As a result, the Department of Music experienced a series of benchmark evolutions in the form of the creation of the programs in music therapy, music technology, music business, the opera performance trips, and the current

resurgence of the orchestra program. All were carefully and methodically researched, vetted, and implemented. So thorough was the preparation that these programs quickly became vital components of the department and college immediately upon approval, attracting students from every corner of Virginia as well as the nation and the world.

The only possible manner in which to maintain this level of stewardship, leadership, mentorship and vision over such a significant period of time is through a very real and authentic love for his students, faculty, and the "art of music"! Poetically, his efforts and devotion are validated through the love and respect he has earned from hundreds of colleagues and thousands of students over the breadth of his career. Without doubt, his influence will be a part of music at Radford University for as long as the institution stands!

— Dean Scartelli



Retiring Faculty News

Marilyn Meador



Marilyn Meador joined the music faculty at Radford College in 1978. Her appointment filled the vacancy in Elementary General Music Education created by the retirement of Jean Bird Einstein, whose term of service had extended back to 1938. Dr. Meador was also given responsibility for instructing about half of the dozen organ majors, with Mildred Heimlich continuing to teach organ as well. Eugene Fellin was already serving as Chair of the Music Department, and David Philips was a member of the piano faculty. Other members of the music faculty included George Parish, Norm Todenhoft, Lloyd Zurbrigg, Nicolo LoMoscolo, Bob Richards, Lewis Sheckler, John Hitchings, Bennett Lentzner, Jack Barnard and Kitty Obenshain. Dr. O and Dr. M quickly developed a close personal friendship that has remained strong through the ensuing decades. In 1978, the Music Department was focused on Radford's historic mission, as established at the founding in 1910—training teachers to serve Virginia public schools.

Drs. Meador and Sheckler provided an early example of “going rogue” when they attended the state music teachers’ conference in January, 1979, and had “Radford University” inscribed on their name badges. The Virginia General Assembly made that name change official a few weeks later. The change was more than name only—it

signaled that Radford was on the move to become a larger and more comprehensive institution. Soon the Music Department added new degree options in Music Therapy and Music Business, and new people joined the faculty.

Throughout the 1980's, Dr. Meador organized and facilitated summer courses for public school teachers in Orff and Kodaly methods, which were among the first in the Commonwealth. She was one of the founders of the Virginia Highlands Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. During the 1990's, Dr. Meador collaborated with Cheryl St.John at Christiansburg Elementary School to offer an Orff Ensemble, first for CES students only and then for students throughout Montgomery County Public Schools. The Montgomery County Orff Ensemble performed for schools across the Commonwealth, from Wytheville to Virginia Beach, as well as at two VMEA In-Service Conferences and for the General Assembly at the Virginia State Capitol Building in Richmond.

Dr. Meador became Director of the Radford University Community Arts School during the 1990's, after the retirement of CAS founder, Dr. Obenshain. CAS facilitated applied music instruction from RU students and faculty members to people in the surrounding community, as well as children's classes in choir, ballet, art, musical theater, and Kindermusik. A state-wide budget downturn led to CAS being discontinued in 2002.

Musical horizons expanded for Dr. Meador in 1997, when she found herself the owner of a gamelan—a set of musical instruments from Indonesia. She traveled to Minnesota to study with gamelan master teacher Joko Sutrisno, learning the basics of a musical tradition that differs greatly from the western one. She then shared these non-western musical understandings with students in the MC Orff Ensemble and with Music Education students at Radford.

Performances on the mighty Möller organ in Preston Hall have been a regular contribution from Dr. Meador. In the early 1980's, she joined other members of the faculty in establishing the

“Faculty Music Scholarship Series”—the first student scholarship initiative at Radford. This scheme, like so many others, was the brainchild of Dr. Obenshain and eventually evolved into the present RU Arts Society. Unfortunately, the condition of Radford's Möller organ gradually declined over the years, and, at the beginning of the 21st century, it had become almost unusable. Then Vice President for Student Services, David Hill, assisted with procuring funds to restore the organ, and a contract was awarded to Grooms and Payne, Ltd, of Louisa, Virginia. The organ's 3000 pipes were cleaned and repaired, old leathers were replaced, and the console was rebuilt and fitted with state-of-the-art technology. With the organ returned to its original glory, Dr. Meador worked to ensure that it was featured on programs each semester, performing regularly herself and soliciting performances by others. Some of the themed organ programs during this early 21st century organ revival were “Meet the King,” “Music for Organ and Brass,” “Happy Birthday, Virginia,” duo organ concerts with David Jones, Messiaen Centennial Concerts, and Halloween Organ Concerts.

Throughout her 30-year career at Radford, Dr. Meador's primary mission has always been to provide Music Education students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed as teachers of Elementary General Music. Having instructed more than 300 persons who went out to teach music in public schools in Virginia and beyond, Dr. Meador takes great pride in impacting the Music Education of thousands of school students. Two quotes from the great American educator, John Dewey, provide a summary of Dr. Meador's life and work at Radford:

Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself.

To find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it, is the key to happiness.

Retiring Faculty News

David Brandon Phillips

DAVID BRANDON PHILLIPS has been an active pianist and composer as well as a lecturer, clinician and adjudicator throughout Virginia and beyond. He has often performed in solo recitals, lecture/recitals and in chamber music ensembles as well as soloist with symphony orchestra and wind ensemble. His compositions have been performed by various soloists and ensembles and he has received several commissions for his work. He came to Radford University in the Fall of 1976 after receiving the Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan under the direction of well-known concert artist Gyorgy Sandor. While at the University of Michigan, he also completed two Master of Music Degrees, one in Piano Performance and the other in Composition. His composition teachers included Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and William Bolcom.

Since David Phillips came to Radford University, he was instrumental in setting up the Jury System for all applied music majors and minors and for setting up Recital Hearings for all music students who wished to perform a recital. He was also responsible for adding Accompanying to the curriculum in the Music Department and for establishing the specific requirements for piano students in the Applied Music Level System. He most recently taught Applied Piano and Composition, Class Piano, Form and Analysis and Orchestration. During his tenure at Radford he also taught Keyboard Harmony, Keyboard Literature, Ear Training and Sight Singing, Theory, Art of Music and at one point was even asked to teach clarinet when the applied clarinet teacher was on leave. However, he respectfully declined.

He is an active member of the Virginia Music Teachers Association, serving as president from 2003-2005. He was a judge for the adult division of the International Bartok/Kabalevsky/Prokofieff Piano Competition almost every year since its inception until it was moved to Sicily. He has also judged numerous festivals and competitions sponsored by the Virginia Music Teachers Association and the Virginia Federation

of Music Clubs. He was a member of the Curriculum Committee and the Scholarship Committee in the music department for many years. He also served on several university-wide committees as well including the Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee and the Faculty Grievance Committee. He chaired the piano faculty and the applied piano juries for many years and was in charge of the Class Piano area in the music department. During his tenure at Radford University he was a member of Pi Kappa Lambda and Phi Mu Alpha, the music fraternity, for which he served as faculty advisor for many years.

His most recent solo piano recitals have included a performance of the Complete Transcendental Etudes of Franz Liszt, which he performed in several concerts throughout Virginia and elsewhere. His last performance at Radford University included music by Schubert, Haydn, Debussy and a solo piano version of a piece he wrote, Synergy, for the dance department as a ballet. The original piece was choreographed by Dr. Mary Pat Balcus with the set and costumes designed by famous New York artist Dorothy Gillespie, whose sculptures and other art works are located across the campus at Radford University.

For the centennial celebration of Sergei Prokofieff, Dr. Phillips performed all nine of the solo piano sonatas of the composer along with other works including the Episodes and the Toccata. He also released a video tape of the Complete Chopin Etudes which has sold internationally. He has had a number of his orchestral and wind ensemble compositions performed by such groups as the George Peabody College Orchestra, the Little Rock Symphony, The Knoxville Symphony and the Albany Symphony Orchestra. He has had four substantial compositions for wind ensemble, including three for piano and wind ensemble performed by the Radford University Wind Ensemble. He has also written music for colleagues in the Music Department including Clarity James, mezzo-soprano and part-time violist Martin Irving.



David has many plans for the future including continuing to write new music and to perform as a pianist in recital. He also plans to do a lot of traveling and spend some time in Florida during the cold months. From his house perched on the top of a hill overlooking the New River and with a view of Radford University in the distance, he will not forget all his colleagues and students at Radford University and hopes to see many of them in the future.

Welcome New Faculty

Tim Channell - Music Business

The Radford University Department of Music has invited Tim Channell to be the new director of the music business program. Mr. Channell comes to RU after serving over 20 years as a music educator and arts administrator.

Mr. Channell has worked with various promoters to bring nationally recognized performers to various concert venues. He has performed on or produced over 10 CD recordings and has been very involved in working to raise funds, market, promote and develop relationships for various constituencies. Additionally, he has vast experience in event planning, contract negotiation, and budget development and has presented numerous workshops on fundraising throughout the east coast.

Mr. Channell holds a Master of Business Administration degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Marshall University. He is working on his doctorate in educational leadership with a secondary emphasis in curriculum and instruction from Marshall University. Tim plays the trumpet and the bagpipes!



Performance Season — Spring 2009

Link to the 2008-2009 Performance Calendar:

<http://music.asp.radford.edu/calendar.html>

