• Andrew Kreckman completed his MM degree in spring 2010. He has entered the doctoral program in choral conducting at Texas Tech University.

• Steven Lorenz, MM ’02 (music education), has been appointed director of choirs at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor.

• Tim McMillin completed his DMA degree in spring 2010. He continues as director of choral activities at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, and artistic director of the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble. His doctoral document was a study of a group of choral works commissioned by the Dale Warland Singers.

• Kelly Miller completed her DMA degree in summer 2010. She has joined the faculty of Western Illinois University as assistant professor of choral music and music education. Her doctoral document was a study of the music for women’s choirs by David Brunner.

• Jeremy Nabors completed his MM degree in summer 2010. He has returned to his position as director of choirs at Chapel Hill (N.C.) High School.

• Trent Patterson will complete his DMA in the fall of 2010. He has been appointed director of choral activities at Webster University in suburban St. Louis. His doctoral document is a study of the career of Charlene Archibeque.

• Matt Olson, MM ’09, has begun doctoral work in choral conducting at the University of Minnesota.

• Bonnie Borshay Sneed, DMA ’90, has joined the faculty of Southwestern Oklahoma State University as director of choral activities. She will present an interest session at the ACDA National Convention in Chicago, entitled “National Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure for Collegiate Choral Conductors.”

• Sarah Stockton completed her MM degree in summer 2010. She continues as director of vocal music at Grand Blanc (Mich.) High School.

• Wes Stoner completed his MM degree in summer 2010. He continues as director of vocal music at Hillgrove High School in suburban Atlanta.

• Jason Thoms, DMA ’05 will sing with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale for their winter season in December 2010. He will also be the bass soloist with the Calvin College Oratorio Society’s December performances of Messiah. He continues as director of choral activities and music area chair at Concordia College in New York.

• Kate Wolfe Tiefel, MM ’08, will serve as guest conductor for the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod National Worship Conference and the WELS High School Choral Festival in 2011. She is now living in the Houston, Texas area.

• Robert Ward, DMA ’86, has been appointed director of choral activities at Ohio State University.

• Gary Weidenaar, MM ’88, led the Chamber Choir of Central Washington University in performances at both the Washington Music Educators Association convention and the ACDA Northwest Division convention. He currently serves as President-Elect of the Division.

• Marcia Wieland completed her MM degree in summer 2010. She has taken a position as director of choirs at Grand Junction (Colo.) High School.
Dear MSU Choral Alum,

Welcome to our annual choral newsletter—our yearly reminder that you are still a part of the MSU choral family. We’re off to a good start this year and hope you are as well. We have an excellent group of new and continuing graduate students in choral conducting. Our new DMA students are Derrick Fox, who received degrees from Arkansas State University and the University of Missouri and has taught for a number of years in the public schools of Arkansas and Missouri; Damon Dandridge, a Detroit native who holds degrees from South Carolina State University and Florida State University and most recently taught at Cheney University near Philadelphia; and Ryan Beeken, who received his undergraduate degree from Drake University, then taught for a number of years in suburban Des Moines, and recently completed his MM in choral conducting here at MSU in our “summers only” program. All three of these gentlemen are the recipients of significant University awards. Derrick won a highly competitive University Enrichment Fellowship, Damon received an Academic Achievement Graduate Assistantship, and Ryan was awarded a Rasmussen Fellowship. Megan Boyd is our new MM student. A graduate of Boston University, she has taught for several years in Durham, North Carolina. Our summer master’s program welcomed three new students:

Jeff Faux, a graduate of Westminster Choir College, who serves as Director of Sacred Arts at First Presbyterian Church in Bonita Springs, Florida, and Artistic Director and Conductor of the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers; David Hood, a freelance conductor in Australia who holds an undergraduate degree in music and a PhD (in Australian history!) from the University of Adelaide; and Eric Rubinstein, who earned an undergraduate degree from SUNY-Fredonia and currently teaches at Monticello High School in New York.

In our continuing effort to save paper and minimize printing costs, we are not including a schedule of vocal-choral events for the 2010-11 season with this mailing. You can find those performances on the College of Music website (music.msu.edu) in the “Ensembles” section under “Choral.” Or, upon request (rayld@msu.edu) I will mail you a PDF of the schedule. It’s an amazing list and serves as a reminder of the many fantastic performance opportunities that are available at the MSU College of Music.

Performance Highlights

On Saturday, December 4, the MSU Choral Union and Chorale joined the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of David Rayl, for a program that included Bloch’s Sacred Service, Rutter’s When Icicles Hang, and Vivaldi’s “Winter” from The Four Seasons. On Saturday, December 11, the MSU Men’s and Women’s Glee Clubs and State Singers, conducted by Jonathan Reed and DMA student Ryan Beeken, and the MSU Children’s Choir, conducted by artistic director Kristin Zaryski, will join forces with Leon Gregorian and the MSU Symphony Orchestra for MSU’s Home for the Holidays, a concert of seasonal music for the entire family. On Sunday, April 10, the University Chorale will join members of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra at St. Mary Cathedral in downtown Lansing to perform Joseph Haydn’s Lord Nelson Mass along with works by Michael Haydn and W. A. Mozart. The academic year concludes on Saturday, April 30, when the combined forces of the Choral Union, Chorale, and State Singers join the MSU Symphony Orchestra and faculty soloists Melanie Helton, Molly Fillmore, Richard Fracker, and Rod Nelman for a performance of the Verdi Requiem.
The MSU Opera Theatre will again present two fully staged productions with orchestra this year: Mozart’s *La Finta Giardiniera* was performed on November 19, 20, and 21, and Ricky Ian Gordon’s epic setting of *The Grapes of Wrath* will be presented on April 1, 2, and 3. Both productions are double cast and include many undergraduates, a tribute to the continuing quality of our vocal program.

**Helen Bartlett Fellowship in Choral Music**

Dr. Dale Bartlett, retired College of Music faculty member, MSU alum (BM ’55; MM ’56) and current conductor of the Lansing Arts Chorale, has endowed a scholarship in memory of his late wife, Helen, who was a long-time member of the Choral Union. This year's recipient is master's student Danny Singer. Thank you, Dale!

**Robert Harris Fellowship**

Dr. Robert Harris, director of choral organizations at Northwestern University, a Michigan State alumnus (PhD ’71), and former MSU director of choral activities, continues to fund the Robert A. Harris Award for Excellence in Choral Performance to be given annually to an outstanding choral musician. This year's recipient is master's student Megan Boyd. Thank you, Bob!

**Smith Fellowship Recipient**

The Charles K. Smith Endowed Fellowship in Choral Conducting, created upon Smith’s retirement in 2002 by members of the MSU Choral Society, is now fully endowed and provides important financial help to graduate students in choral conducting. This year, Zeb Highben is partially funded by a scholarship from this endowment. Thank you to the many donors whose generosity made this endowment possible. Although the scholarship is fully funded, additional gifts are needed to increase the principal, thus providing additional scholarship dollars to our graduate students. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact Rebecca Surian, director of development in the College of Music, at surian@msu.edu.

**J. Loren Jones**

Former MSU music faculty member and conductor of the Men's Glee Club, J. Loren Jones, died August 8, 2009 in Texas. He was 87.
Guest Clinicians

Charlene Archibeque, director of choral activities emeritus at San Jose State University, was our guest for the Choral Invitational on November 3-4, where she worked with eight high school choirs from around the state. She spent the following day working with our ensembles and graduate conducting students. Her focus was on rehearsing Renaissance music with particular attention to appropriate editions.

Kirk Aamot, director of choral activities at Montana State University, lectured to our graduate choral conducting students on the topic of ornamentation in Renaissance music.

The appearances of both Dr. Archibeque and Dr. Aamot were partially paid for with funds from the Paul and Martha Niland Endowed Lectureship in Choral Music to Honor Charles K. Smith.

Choral Society News

The Choral Society will again sponsor a “sing along” Messiah on Sunday, December 12, at Edgewood United Church in East Lansing featuring student and alumni soloists. This annual event has been well attended and enthusiastically received in recent years and typically raises about $1,500.

Through its dues and fundraising activities the Choral Society provides scholarship assistance to graduate students in choral conducting. This year, the society provides assistance for DMA student Zeb Highben and MM students Megan Boyd and Danny Singer.

Keeping Up with MSU Alumni

This section of the newsletter is intended to help you keep up to date on the careers of our MSU choral alumni. If you’ve recently changed jobs or want to share some aspect of your professional life with your fellow alumni, please submit information online at my.music.msu.edu.

- Aaron Bouwman, MM ’08, teaches 6-12 music at Freedom Christian School in Hudsonville. He continues as Associate Director of Choirs at Cornerstone University and as Artistic Director of the Great Lakes Men’s Chorus.

- Ted Brimeyer completed his MM degree in the summer of 2010. He has taken a new position as director of vocal music at Urbandale High School in suburban Des Moines.

- Jeff Buettner, DMA ’05, was accepted as one of the conductors for the Philadelphia Bach Institute workshop with Helmut Rilling at the Eastern Division ACDA convention.

- Andrew Crane, DMA ’05, will appear as headliner for the Southern California Vocal Association Fall Conference.

- Clint Desmond, DMA ’09, has been appointed director of choral activities and chair of the music department at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota.

- Zach Durlam completed his DMA degree in the spring of 2010. He has been appointed director of choral activities at Fresno Pacific University. His doctoral document was a study of the influence of Handel on Mendelssohn’s choral music.

- Meghan Vollbach Eldred, a current student in our summer master’s program, will lead the Chamber Choir of DeWitt High School in a performance for the Michigan Music Conference in January 2011.

- Tom FitzStephens completed his MM degree in the spring of 2010. He has taken a position as director of vocal music at Woodland High School in suburban Atlanta.

- Trey Jacobs, DMA ABD, will lead choirs from Eastern Michigan University in two convention performances this year. In October the EMU University Choir will perform for the Michigan-ACDA fall convention, and in January the EMU Chamber Choir will present a 45-minute concert as a featured ensemble for the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids.

- Tom Hart, DMA ’89, has been appointed to the choral music faculty at Ohio State University.

- Jeff Kitson, BM ’03, MM ’05 (composition), has been appointed Repertoire and Standards Chair for Two-Year Colleges for the North Central Division of ACDA. He continues as a music faculty member at Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska.