From the Chair

It’s no exaggeration for me to say that it has been an exciting year for the Department of Music. Performances by musical and cultural icons, teaching and student awards, and events that engage with our community are just a few of the opportunities that our students experienced in the course of this academic year.

Among the many accomplishments and activities you will discover in the following pages, I’m pleased to share news that the Department of Music received word of its re-accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Music in July. UE is among only 20 percent of institutions accepted by NASM’s highly selective accreditation process. Our membership represents an endorsement of the quality of programs and degrees available in our department. Our accreditation is the culmination of a multi-year process and the work of numerous members of our faculty and staff. Many thanks for their efforts!

One outgrowth of our accreditation process has been departmental strategic planning, about which you can find more details on the following page. Needless to say, the engagement of our friends, students, alumni, faculty, and administrators in this process has been both an energizing experience, and a source of great ideas that will guide many of our efforts in the coming years.

Another result has been the decision to make the historic Victory Theatre the home for many of our large ensemble concerts. Its exceptional facilities will offer a unique opportunity for our students to experience performance in a professional venue, and for our patrons to attend concerts within the Victory’s beautiful walls. As downtown Evansville grows with the addition of the medical school facility and convention hotel, we are excited to be a part of the energy and activity coming to our city.

Finally, as you have likely noted, we have adopted a new magazine format to replace the biannual newsletter. While you can now expect to receive the magazine just once a year, we hope to provide a better picture of the scope of department activities. You can still find news throughout the year by following our Department of Music Facebook page, our website (music.evansville.edu), or by signing up for our weekly e-mail updates (if you are not on our list yet, just send us an e-mail at music@evansville.edu).

Hope to see you often during the coming year!

Wylie Wins Teaching Award

Mary Ellen Wylie, professor of music therapy, was named the 2017 Outstanding Teacher at the University during UE’s 159th Commencement exercises.

The Alumni Association sponsors this award honoring distinguished service in teaching.

Wylie came to UE in 1991. She is an experienced music therapist having worked with children with severe developmental delays and multiple handicaps, adults with mental handicaps, the elderly and terminally ill, and patients with cancer.

Wylie is past president of the American Music Therapy Association and has served a number of years on the board of directors and executive committee of that organization. In March 2010 she was awarded the Honorary Life Member award from the region for distinguished contributions made over the years.

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As director of UE’s music therapy program, Wylie teaches courses in music therapy, supervises music therapy practica, and coordinates internships.

A record number of nominations for this year’s award were submitted for Wylie, not only from students, but also from alumni and fellow faculty members.
Wind and Jazz Ensemble Concert and Tour

The University of Evansville Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble presented a Tour Kick-Off Concert in November at Old National Bank in downtown Evansville. The ensembles also engaged in a three-day concert tour to Atlanta, Georgia, and Chattanooga, Tennessee. Special thanks to FUEM for their support of the tour and concert.

Department Strategic Planning Underway

Drawing upon the input and expertise of friends, alumni, students, faculty, administrators, and community members, the department engaged in a series of meetings to develop a strategic plan. The plan is intended to help guide and focus department initiatives during the coming three to five years.

Six broad goals were identified: 1) Strategically enhance enrollment; 2) Provide a premier musical environment for study and performance; 3) Increase awareness of the department to internal and external constituents; 4) Cultivate relationships with the development office, Friends of UE Music, and prospective donors; 5) Provide first-class equipment and instrument inventory; and 6) Raise awareness, effectiveness, and efficiency through vision articulation, restructuring, and designation.

Committees have been meeting to create and implement initiatives in each area, and several steps were taken during the spring. Among the efforts were developing plans for improvements to the Krannert building and landscaping (including handicapped accessibility), establishing stronger ties with the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, and establishing a capital budget and plans to update and improve the instrument and equipment inventory. We have also identified goals in other areas of our plan.

We will continue to share news of our efforts as plans move forward and evolve. We hope you will feel free to share your input with the department.

NASM Renews Department’s Accreditation

The Department of Music at the University of Evansville was recently granted renewed accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). UE’s music department has been accredited since 1948.

Founded in 1924, NASM is an organization of schools, conservatories, colleges, and universities with approximately 650 accredited institutional members. It establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials for music and music-related disciplines. It provides assistance to institutions and individuals engaged in artistic, scholarly, educational, and other music-related endeavors.

Accreditation by NASM is the result of a comprehensive review process. The institution must meet specific standards in a variety of areas, including degree programs offered, general operations, and facilities. An intense self-study by UE’s music department was submitted to NASM in January 2015. UE then hosted a site visit with NASM in March of that year.

“Accreditation by NASM is a significant achievement for our department,” said Thomas Josenhans, UE music department chair. “It is a testament to the excellence of the programs and level of professional experiences and development that we provide for our students.”

Josenhans noted that UE has five degrees that are accredited by NASM - Bachelor of Science in Music, Bachelor of Science in Music with an emphasis in Music Management, Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy, Bachelor of Music in Music Education, and Bachelor of Music in Performance.

“NASM’s renewal of the University’s membership is an external validation of the quality of the faculty, students, and programs provided by our Department of Music,” UE president Thomas A. Kazee said. “It shows their continuing success in creating life-transforming experiences for our students.”
IMEA Symposium

For a second year, the University of Evansville jointly hosted the Southern Indiana Music Education Symposium with the Indiana Music Education Association. The event brought K-12 music teachers from across the southern part of the state to UE for a day long professional development conference with guest clinicians and UE music faculty. A major feature of this event was "Bring Your Men," a choral/vocal workshop with nearly 200 middle and high school male choral singers taking part. The guest clinician for that workshop was Matthew Oltman, music director emeritus of the Grammy award winning and internationally renowned male vocal ensemble Chanticleer. Join us for this year’s workshop on August 31.

Organ Repairs

Wheeler Concert Hall’s Holtkamp pipe organ, originally installed in 1963, underwent repairs during the Fall semester. Master organ-builder Mike Rathke and a team of technicians rebuilt the Swell portion of the organ and related components.
Lessons from a Legend: Tonight Show Icon Doc Severinsen Works and Performs with Students

Donning a bright pink suit true to his signature style, Doc Severinsen, the former leader of The Tonight Show Band, took the stage with students in the University of Evansville Jazz Ensemble I to play to a packed Victory Theatre.

The event was part of UE’s Patricia H. Snyder Concert and Lecture Series, which brings renowned acts or speakers to Evansville at no cost to the public.

Selections included Max Anderson’s September Song, Hoagy Carmichael’s Georgia, a big-band arrangement of Soundgarden’s Black Hole Sun, and a Tonight Show Band’s rendition of a Count Basie favorite, 12 O’clock Jump.

After a difficult arrangement of A Night in Tunisia, Severinsen motioned toward the ensemble and asked for applause for the “brilliant work from all the folks in the back.”

Over the past several years, the Ensemble has performed with other jazz artists including Diane Schuur and Max Weinberg, and has been recognized at the Elmhurst Jazz Festival.

“Playing with Doc was an absolute dream come true,” said Griffin Honeycutt, a saxophone player and music education major. “I’m still in shock that I got to play and even solo with a living legend in the jazz world. It’s a performance that I will never forget.”

In 2017-18, be sure to attend the Jazz Ensemble’s November 28 Essential Ellington concert, and a guest recital by the jazz fusion ensemble Catharsis (January 26, 2018).

UE Jazz Program Hosts Second Annual Invitational

The Department of Music hosted the second annual Jazz Invitational in April. The event features performances by jazz ensembles from around the region, and also included a clinic with Jamey Aebersold.

In addition to the UE Jazz Ensembles, performers included the Signature School Jazz Band, F.J. Reitz High School Jazz Ensemble, Castle High Tuesday Jazz Ensemble, Castle 12 O’Clock Jazz Ensemble, Castle Bones, EVSC Honors Jazz Band, Owen Valley High School Jazz Ensemble, Harrisburg High School Jazz Band, University of Southern Indiana Jazz Ensemble, and Crossroads Big Band.

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Invitational, scheduled for April 29.
2016-17 Student Achievements

Theodore Presser Scholar
Awarded to a rising senior for musical and academic excellence.
Samantha Waddell ’18 (piano, performance)

Music Service Award
Awarded to a current student for outstanding contributions to multiple ensembles.
Logan Tsuji ’19 (trumpet, music management)

39th Gumberts Award
Recognizing seniors for outstanding achievements in performance.
Natsumi Yamada ’17, winner (violin, music therapy)
Hannah Nilsen ’17 (voice, music therapy)
Cynthia White ’17 (voice, music therapy)

Vukovich Concerto Competition
Awarded to a student judged to be the most outstanding in a concerto performance. Ms. Baker will appear as soloist with the UE Orchestra on February 20, 2018.
Melanie Baker ’19 (piano, performance)

Downtown Kiwanis Club Awards
Awarded to seniors for outstanding leadership and contributions to ensembles.
Kelsey Fields ’17 (voice, music therapy), choral award
Natsumi Yamada ’17 (violin, music therapy), orchestra award
Hayden McClure ’17 (saxophone, music education), band award

Pi Kappa Lambda Prize
Awarded to students for excellence in academics.
Hannah Nilsen ’17 (voice, music therapy)
Samantha Waddell ’18 (piano, performance)
Certificates of Honor awarded to Griffin Devoy, Kristyna Grimwood, Kristin Sportiello, Melanie Baker, and Catherine Duenne.

Students Represent Indiana at National Conference
The American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) selected the University of Evansville to represent the state of Indiana in the ACDA National Collegiate Honor Choir in March in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as part of the 2017 National Conference. The choir featured one quartet from each of the 50 states for a total of 200 singers. UE’s representatives included senior music therapy majors Rebecca Laskey and Cynthia White, junior vocal performance major Adam Smith, and freshman music education major Griffin Devoy.
Music Therapy Students Attend Conference

In November, students from the University of Evansville Music Therapy Association (UEMTA) attended the American Music Therapy Association conference in Sandusky, Ohio. At the conference UEMTA received a grant from Blue Star Connection for two electric guitars, amps, and accessories to use in practicum settings and for educational purposes. UEMTA would like to thank the founder of Blue Star Connection, John Catt, for his generosity. The student music therapy association has already put the equipment to work in the practicum setting and is looking forward to using the guitars in many more therapeutic interactions with clients.

Performance Workshop

The Department of Music hosted a series of clinics featuring noted performance psychologist Noa Kageyama. The sessions focused on learning sport psychology principles to help musicians perform under pressure. A member of the faculty at Julliard, Kageyama has provided similar seminars for institutions and organizations such as the New England Conservatory, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Thanks to FUEM for helping to bring this clinic to UE.
# Fall 2017 Calendar

## September
- **5** First Tuesday Concert Series
  - Fall Faculty Gala
- **12** Faculty Recital
  - Shawn Teichmer, saxophone
- **19** Faculty Recital
  - Garnet Ungar, piano
  - Robert Anemone, violin
- **23** Family Weekend Concert
- **26** Faculty Recital
  - Kenneth Steinsultz, euphonium
  - Timothy Zifer, trumpet

## October
- **3** First Tuesday Concert Series
  - Eykamp String Quartet
- **17** Faculty Recital
  - Kirsten Jermé, cello
- **24** Faculty Recital
  - Emily Britton, horn
  - Elizabeth Robertson, oboe
- **27** Schmidt Opera Series
- **31** University Orchestra and Wind Ensemble

## November
- **7** First Tuesday Concert Series
  - University Choir
- **12** Oboe Day
- **14** Guest Recital
  - USAF Strings
- **16** String Ensemble
- **19** Woodwind Ensembles Concert
- **19** Mixed Choir and Women’s Chorus
- **19** Brass and Percussion Ensembles
- **20** University Band and Jazz Ensemble II
- **28** Jazz Ensemble I
  - “Essential Ellington”

## December
- **1** University Vespers
- **5** First Tuesday Concert Series
  - Holiday Concert
# SPRING 2018 CALENDAR

## JANUARY
- **9** Faculty Recital  
  Anne Fiedler, piano  
  Eric McCluskey, baritone
- **14** Bassoon and Saxophone Day
- **16** Faculty Recital  
  Shepard Brass Quintet
- **21** Brass and Percussion Day
- **23** Faculty Recital  
  Carol Dallinger, violin  
  Thomas Josenhans, clarinet
- **30** Faculty Recital  
  Harlaxton Woodwind Quintet

## FEBRUARY
- **7** First Tuesday Concert Series  
  Faculty Chamber Players – Mahler and Debussy
- **13** Guest Recital  
  Roger Wright, piano
- **20** Wind Ensemble and University Orchestra
- **27** University Choir and Opera

## MARCH
- **13** Faculty Recital  
  Ross Erickson, percussion
- **20** Faculty Recital  
  Alanna Keenan, soprano  
  James Sullivan, double bass
- **22** Guest Recital  
  Mariela Shaker, violin
- **27** Faculty Recital  
  Eykamp String Quartet

## APRIL
- **3** First Tuesday Concert Series  
  University Orchestra
- **10** University Choir
- **12** Tri-State Ensemble Festival
- **14** Rite of Spring
- **17** Wind Ensemble
- **19** String Ensemble
- **20-21** Schmidt Opera Series
- **22** Woodwind Chamber Concert
- **22** Mixed Choir and Women’s Chorus
- **22** Brass and Percussion Ensembles
- **23** University Band and Jazz Ensemble II
- **25** 40th Gumberts Award Competition

Follow the UE Department of Music on Facebook at: [UE Department of Music](music.evansville.edu)
Schmidt Foundation Supports UE Opera Program

The support of the William E. Schmidt Foundation continues to bring energy to UE’s Opera program. Thanks to a three-year grant, the 2016-17 academic year saw the growth of the opera program into many new areas.

The William E. Schmidt Foundation was formed in Indiana in 1992 through the generosity of William Schmidt and his extended family. The foundation has been true to its goal of promoting education, initiative, and hard work, and in helping young people interested in and talented in the arts.

The Schmidt Opera Series presented two main stage productions, Musical Mayhem and Offenbach’s Orpheus in the Underworld. Musical Mayhem focused on the supernatural in opera, with a large cast of students presenting scenes from Verdi’s Macbeth, Britten’s Turn of the Screw, and Gilbert and Sullivan’s Iolanthe. For both productions, performances were also presented at the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana. In addition to serving as cast for productions, students are involved in costume design, set building, lighting, make-up, and publicity.

The Schmidt Opera Collaborative is an outreach program bring opera to the tri-state. During the spring of 2017, the collaborative presented Little Red Riding Hood’s Most Unusual Day, telling the fairytale through the music of Mozart and Offenbach. The cast performed in schools and libraries.

UE Opera is also pleased to continue to partner with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra. In the fall students took part in a performance of Bernstein’s Mass. The semi-staged production gave opera students a chance to perform alongside Grammy Award winner Jubilant Sykes. This fall, UE Opera will collaborate in a production of Verdi’s La Traviata.

“Unique opportunities for students come through the support of patrons and foundations like that offered to our students by the Schmidt Foundation,” says director of UE’s opera program Alanna Keenan. “We are deeply appreciative to the William E. Schmidt Foundation and its board, and are excited about the potential for our continuing partnership.”

Students Enjoy Met Broadcast

Students in UE’s Schmidt Opera program attended the New York Metropolitan Opera simulcast of Don Giovanni at AMC 16. Students in attendance were Madeline Cox (music performance), Darwi Sandleben (music performance), Tyger Lilley (music therapy), Kathryn Lee (music performance), Griffin Devoy (music education), Grayson Gerni (music therapy), Mardi Sramek (music therapy), Katie Grubb (music education), and Emma Kelley (music therapy). Thanks to FUEM for support of this event.
The Department of Music was pleased to host a variety of guest artists this year. Among those who visited our campus, performed, and worked with students were: Kathy Karr, principal flutist of the Louisville Orchestra; saxophonist Jonathan Hogan; oboist Dwight Parry and bassoonist Maya Stone; faculty members from the University of Louisville and Austin Peay University; mezzo-soprano Jami Rhodes; and composer Michael Daugherty.
**EMERITI NEWS**

**Paul Dove**
UE professor emeritus Paul Dove was one of two 2016 Outstanding Hubbard County Senior Citizens on Friday – “Senior Day” at the county fair. The title put Dove in the running at the Minnesota State Fair to be Minnesota’s Outstanding Senior Citizen.

Paul Dove moved with his wife, Pat to Park Rapids, where they have led the creation of a thriving arts community. Being a retired music professor, Dove co-founded the Northern Light Opera Company in 2001, the Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council and proposed the Medici Project. Through Paul the PRLAAC has created art events such as the Art Leap, Red Bridge Film Festival, Noon Hour Concert Series, Youth Music and Art Showcase, Arts Downtown PR as well as others. He also does Meals on Wheels and volunteers at the Hubbard County Food Shelf. Paul Dove has been instrumental in helping to create a healthy community.

**James Bursen**

Jim Bursen was in the service for four years, played trumpet professionally and hit the road to freedom after retiring at the age of 50 from being a professor of music for 21 years. That was 1991. Now in his second Alaskan Camper, Jim’s still having fun, 23 years later. When he retired, he sold all of his horns or gave them to students. He played in orchestras for 30 years and still goes to many live recitals and maintains a very high interest in Jazz and music festivals. When he travels he doesn’t drive more than 200 to 250 miles a day. He stays on the map’s blue highways, and seldom drives on the interstates and volunteers in various places. Every day is different on the road. When Jim is on the road, he is not by himself. He meets people everywhere and he hopes he can keep doing this.

**NEW FACULTY**

**Kristen Strandberg, PhD**, joins the UE faculty as assistant professor of music history. Her teaching and research is driven by her interest in how audiences hear music based on their cultural experiences and frames of reference. She frequently designs assignments, activities, and class trips that challenge students to consider the mindset and values of past musicians, composers, and audiences. She has presented at conferences throughout the US and Europe, recently appearing as an invited speaker at the annual conference of the National Chopin Institute in Poland. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in cello performance from the University of Minnesota and a PhD in musicology from Indiana University.

**Leanne Hampton**, consortium instructor of flute, enjoys an exciting and versatile career as an orchestral performer, chamber musician, soloist, and teacher. She completed a DMA at the University of Colorado Boulder where she served as a teaching assistant to Christina Jennings. Since 2012, she served as the instructor of flute for the Continuing Education Department at the University of Colorado. Additionally, Leanne was a member of an award-winning graduate wind quintet, 40th Parallel. She has performed with the Boulder Opera Company, Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. Leanne has attended the Aspen Music Festival and the Texas Music Festival, and she is a semi-finalist for the New World Symphony’s 2017-18 season. A native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Leanne received her MM from the University of Colorado and BA from the University of Central Arkansas.

**Alex Malaimare** joins UE as violinist with the Eykamp String Quartet. The Romanian violinist has studied at the National University of Music in Bucharest. Currently he is completing a doctorate at the University of Illinois. He has performed in recitals and concerts in Austria, Czech Republic, Belgium, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, and the United States. Awards include Judges Special Recognition Award at Plowman Chamber Music Competition 2017 and first prize at New York Artists International Competition.

**Violinist Emily Brandenburg** joins the department as a member of the Eykamp String Quartet. Emily is an avid orchestral and chamber musician throughout the New England area where she has performed with the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, and the Unitas Ensemble. She holds a BM from the Robert McDouffie Center for Strings, a MM from New England Conservatory and an MMA from Yale University. She has worked with prominent quartets such as the Emerson, Brentano, St. Lawrence, Miro, Borromeo, and Ehnes quartets in her chamber music studies. Her most recent awards include Yale’s Irving S. Gilmore Scholarship and Fellowship, an award though Yale’s Belding Fund, the Clarence J. Osborne Foundation Scholarship, the Beneficent Society Scholarship through NEC, the McDouffie Center for String’s Presidential Scholarships and String Honors Award.

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FACULTY NEWS

Professor of Piano Anne Fiedler and members of the Eykamp String Quartet were recognized with Mayors Arts Awards by the Southwest Indiana Arts Council. Fiedler was recognized as outstanding artist, and the ESQ received the award for outstanding ensemble. Awards were presented by Evansville mayor Lloyd Winnecke at a ceremony in the Victory Theatre.

In May and June Eric McCluskey kept busy with performances of Rossini’s William Tell as Trumbull and the Patriot Hunter with the Southern Illinois Music Festival. He also gave a recital of American Art Song as part of the same festival. In December he shared the bass solos in Handel’s Messiah with his student, Adam Smith, with the Owensboro Choral Society. He also sang with Winter Opera St. Louis.

Professor of clarinet, Thomas Josenhans, was appointed to serve as chair of the Indiana Chapter of the International Clarinet Association. The ICA is dedicated to fostering communication and fellowship of clarinetists around the globe, and supports projects that promote performance, composition, and research in clarinet related areas.

Retiring professor Renato Butturi was honored at a campus tree planting ceremony this spring.

Consortium faculty members Elizabeth Robertson (oboe) and Emily Britton (horn) taught at the Csehy Summer School of Music at Houghton College in New York this summer. Activities included a performance of the Reinecke Trio with pianist Bethany Brooks.

BECOME A MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF UE MUSIC…

Please complete the following form and mail it, with your tax-deductible donation, to:
Friends of UE Music, Department of Music, University of Evansville, 1800 Lincoln Avenue, Evansville, Indiana 47722.

Name _____________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip Code ___________
E-mail __________________________ Membership Gift $ _________

Additional Gift to the FUEM Endowment for Assistantships for Music Students $ _________

☐ Check (payable to University of Evansville) for $ ____________ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge $ ______________________ to my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Name on card ________________________________________________
Card Number __________________________ Expiration Date __________

Signature __________________________________________________ Security Code __________

You may also make your gift online at www.evansville.edu/give.

Erszébet Gaál Rinne was a guest performer at the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution at Indiana University. Among the guests was the Hungarian Ambassador to the United States. Gail Rinne has given a presentation at the Care of Musicians’ Work Capacity Conference, which was held at the Lőránd Eötvös University School of Music, Budapest, Hungary.
FUEM Celebrates a Century of Teaching

Friends of Music celebrated the Rite of Spring by honoring three faculty members whose combined teaching at the university spans over a century. Renato Butturi, John Jordan, and Edwin Lacy were feted for their outstanding contributions to our students and department. The event featured performances by students and alumni, and dancing accompanied by UE’s Jazz Ensemble. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year’s Rite of Spring on April 14, 2018.

Friends of UE Music

Fiscal period June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017

Our deepest gratitude to all of the Friends of UE Music who support our students and department!
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

ALUMNI UPDATES

Congratulations to Meghan Becker ’15, David Wantland ’15, and Andrew Statham ’15 on their new teaching positions. Becker recently accepted a position at Mater Dei High School, Wantland started a new position at Castle North Middle School, and Statham accepted a position at the Joshua Academy.

Candice Murray ’15 completed a semester of teaching at Mt. Carmel School before beginning a new position as band director at Brookville Middle School and assistant band director at Franklin County High School (her alma mater).

Jennifer Wetzler ’15 has accepted a board certified music therapist position at Life In Harmony Music Therapy, LLC in West Salem, Wisconsin.

Alex Henderson ’15 won an Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Houston District.

Timothy Gaisser ’13 visited campus and gave a presentation on freelancing and networking to music majors. Gaisser has been living and working in Los Angeles, California, and recently toured in China with his ensemble.

Members of the wind and jazz ensembles had an opportunity to meet music management grad Kaitlin Gress ’12 and visit Symphony Hall in Atlanta, Georgia on their recent tour. Gress currently serves as manager of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Major Michelle A. Rakers ’90, took part in the 58th Inauguration of the President of the United States on January 20, 2017, as a member of “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band. Rakers serves as assistant director major, having joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in May 1998 as a trumpeter/cornetist. She was appointed assistant director and commissioned as a first lieutenant in July 2004 and promoted to captain by Commandant of the Marine Corps General Michael W. Hagee on January 1, 2006. She was promoted to major and appointed executive officer and senior assistant director in July 2014. She is both the first female assistant director and first female commissioned officer in the history of “The President’s Own.” With the Marine Band, Maj. Rakers has performed at the White House, in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, and across the country during the band’s annual concert tour. As an advocate for education outreach, she led the band’s Music in the Schools, Music in the High Schools, and Concerto Competition programs from 2007-14. Additionally, she served as a conductor and supervisor for the acclaimed fall and winter Chamber Music Series, which feature the virtuoso musicians of “The President’s Own.” The Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Founded in 1798, the band has performed for every US president since John Adams. Known as “The President’s Own” since the days of Thomas Jefferson, the Marine Band’s mission is to provide music for the president of the United States and the commandant of the Marine Corps.

In memoriam
Helen Reed 1948-2017

Helen Reed, lecturer and instructor of Organ and Harpsichord, died on March 19, 2017. She served on UE’s faculty for several years and was a long-time friend of the department.

Born in Halifax, Canada, Reed completed her undergraduate degree at Dalhousie University, and a Master of Music degree at the University of Michigan where she studied with Robert Glasgow. She also held diplomas from the American Guild of Organists and Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. She was principal harpsichordist for the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and active as a recitalist, adjudicator, accompanist, and chamber music performer throughout the country. Helen also had a second career as a law librarian for Vanderburgh County, a position she held since 1985.

Reed is survived by her son Eric Reed, his wife, Sarah Zun, and their son, Oliver; Eric’s father and Helen’s dear friend Douglas Reed; and brother John Skuggedal and Deidre Floyd. A memorial service was held in May.
UE Hosts Summer Music Camp

The 2017 UE Wesley Shepard Summer Music Camp brought over 150 area middle and high school students to campus in June for a week of rehearsals, classes, and performances. Wind, percussion, and string students took part in the camp’s two bands, two orchestras, and two jazz ensembles, while piano and vocal students experienced choir, musical theater, and piano activities. All had opportunities to learn from the department’s faculty and area music educators. Stay tuned for news about next summer’s camps at UE.