

INDIANA ORGANISTS UNITED

Indiana University School of Music Alumni Association • Vol. 1/Spring 2006

From the president

IU organ alumni to gather for 'Return to Campus' reunion

Greetings from your "new" Indiana Organists United Board, an affiliate of the IU School of Music Alumni Board. The mission of the Indiana Organists United is to promote and support the IU organ department in maintaining and enhancing its position as one of the pre-eminent departments for organ performance study in the world. Through the IOU we hope to nurture continued interest in the organ as both a concert instrument and an instrument for worship. In June, we will host our first "Return to Campus" Reunion, where we will have the chance to reconnect with friends, classmates, and colleagues, and where we hope to name our first distinguished organ alumni. We'll laugh, we'll eat, we'll share with old friends, we'll have the chance to make new friends, and Dr. Keiser has plans in the works for some wonderful "back to school" experiences. We encourage every organ graduate to become an active member of the IU School of Music Alumni Association. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us now.

IU School of Music alumni have a sense of pride in having earned a degree from one of the top schools of music in the world — and if music is your profession, the value of your music degree is

one of your most important assets. As the IU School of Music continues to enhance its reputation as one of the best in the world, the value of your degree grows. It is in the personal and professional interest of all of us that "our" IU organ department prospers.

We alumni are the IU organ department's "family"; we are its musical children. It nurtured us and matured us musically, and it prepared us for our musical careers. Becoming a member of our alumni association is one great way that
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Organ scholarship honors Ragatz duo

Oswald G. Ragatz was a professor of organ at Indiana University's School of Music from 1942 to 1983.

In 1942, Professor George Wilson was drafted in to military. He was, at the time, teaching a young woman by the name of Mary L. Christena, who was the first organ major at IU. In order for Christena to complete her degree, administrators brought in another professor to finish her classes. This professor's name was Oswald G. Ragatz. Christena finished her degree, and, as the story goes, became Mrs. Oswald G. Ragatz. Oswald retired in 1983 and is currently living in Bloomington, Ind. Mary died in 1999.

The students of Professor Emeritus Oswald Ragatz created the Mary and Oswald G. Ragatz Organ Scholarship to honor them for 45 years of devoted teaching and support at the IU School of Music. The scholarships are given to students enrolled at the School of Music whose major is in organ or church music.



Professor Emeritus Oswald G. Ragatz at the IU Auditorium, February 1983

Save the date!

• **June 23–24, 2006:** Attend the first annual Indiana Organists United Reunion & Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

We will convene on Friday, June 23, for a gala dinner where we will name our first distinguished alumnus. Saturday, June 24, involves a "Back to Class" day.

Alumni Notebook

1960s

Thomas F. Wood, BM'66, MM'68, retired in 2003 as president of Goulding & Wood, an Indianapolis-based builder of organs, but he still serves as a consultant for the company. He became treasurer of the American Institute of Organbuilders in 2003. In 2004, Wood received the Organ Historical Society's American Organ Archives research grant. His research topic was how different American organ builders transitioned from mechanical-action organs to other systems at the turn of the 20th century. Wood writes, "I spent most of July and August on the third floor of the Music Annex [at IU Bloomington] helping to restore and install a Holtkamp Martini practice organ that the School of Music purchased from Penn State. I noted that while the building looks just as I remembered from 30 years ago, the notable differences were students in shorts and T-shirts, constant cell-phone conversations, and the unique sounds of flip-flops in the hallways." A member of the Organ Department alumni board, Wood lives in Unionville, Ind.

John G. Simpson, MM'69, DM'93, retired at the end of June from IU Bloomington after more than 25 years as director of the Health Professions and Prelaw Center. As director, he writes, he had the opportunity to work with a wonderful staff and with thousands of highly motivated premedical, pre dental, and prelaw students, many of whom inspired him. "What began as a job to support graduate studies became a passion to help students realize their dreams," he writes. Simpson was honored for his work on the board of directors and as a past president of the Midwest Association of Pre-law Advisors, and he served on many university committees through the years. For more than 30 years, he has been organist/choirmaster at Sandy Hook United Methodist Church in Columbus, Ind., where he has seen many changes in church music. Simpson's hopes for retirement are to enjoy his garden (which, he writes, others might view as a miserable patch of weeds winning the battle against order and beauty), read, travel, and practice organ for fun. He lives in Bloomington and is a member of the Organ Department alumni board.

1970s

Daniel J. McKinley, BM'75, MM'78, lives in Ipswich, Mass., and is a member of the Organ Department alumni board.

He writes, "Since 2005 was my seventh year as organist and choirmaster of Christ Church of Hamilton and Wenham, Mass., the church banished me for a six-month, paid sabbatical leave. I spent two weeks in Oregon and Washington doing trumpet and organ concerts with Joan (Haaland) Paddock, BME'82, MM'84, DM'90, a professor at Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore. I spent a week with my parents on the beach in Texas and five months bumming around Europe. I spent Holy Week at Canterbury Cathedral in England; attended the Leipzig Bachfest in Germany; heard recitals, concerts, and operas; and played organs whenever possible. While in Poitiers, France, I hadn't had the opportunity to hear the cathedral's magnificent 1790 Clicquot organ, so I decided to stay an extra day for Sunday Mass. As

I walked into the church that morning, I ran into **Jesse E. Eschbach III**, BM'73, MM'75, a professor at the University of North Texas in Denton, who was preparing for his annual French organ study institute. Would I like to stick around that afternoon and play the organ? Silly question!"

Faythe R. Freese, MM'78, DM'91, associate professor of music at the University of Alabama, had a busy summer. She was the organist for the International Horn Symposium and served as guest organist and clinician for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod conference "With Hearts and Hands and Voices." She also performed four concerts in Denmark and led the University of Alabama German Organ Study Tour. Her other performances in 2005

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Indiana Organists United Distinguished Alumni Award Nomination form



A statement of nomination, including a résumé or biographical data, must accompany this form. Additional letters of support are welcome. Additional forms may be obtained from the IU Alumni Association office.

Nominee: _____

Year(s) and degree(s): _____

Business title: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____

Nominated by: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Return form to IU Alumni Association, Indiana Organists United Alumni Association, 1000 E. 17th St., Bloomington, IN 47408-1521.
Telephone: (800) 824-3044 or (812) 855-4822 • Fax: (812) 855-8266

Alumni notebook

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included concerts in California, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia. Her latest CD is *Roaring Ranks with Faythe Freese*. A member of the Organ Department alumni board, Freese lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Janet (Pfister) Hamilton, MM'79, DM'91, of Borden, Ind., teaches organ as an adjunct professor at IU Southeast. She is the music director at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lanesville, Ind., a member of the Southern Indiana chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and a member of the Organ Department alumni board. In 2002, she recorded a CD of the organ works of Joseph Clokey, and in 2005 she performed recitals in Columbus and Madison, Ind. Her husband, Robert, BS'77, works at General Electric in Louisville, Ky. They have three children: Michelle, Angela, and Ricky.

Anna M. Leppert-Largent, BME'79, BM'81, MM'83, reports that she continues to enjoy life to its fullest. The Saginaw, Mich., resident has left the church ministry for now to enjoy the antics of her two teenage daughters, teach music appreciation to nonmusic majors at Saginaw Valley State University, and produce concerts and special events for the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra. Her CD-ROM *Sacred Piano Literature: A Comprehensive Survey for the Church Musician* was published by Church Publishing Inc. in 2004. A member of the Organ Department alumni board, Leppert-Largent also maintains the business office of the Leadership Program for Musicians, a nonprofit organization that helps church musicians improve their skills so that they can better lead corporate worship. Her husband, **Gregory H. Largent**, MM'81, is in his 19th year as director of music ministries at the First Presbyterian Church in Saginaw. Over the past seven years, the Largents have renovated several houses in Saginaw's Heritage Square Historic District.

1980s

David K. Lamb, BM/BME'83, MS'85, SME'94, DM'00, has served as director of music and organist for the First United Methodist Church in Columbus, Ind., for 10 years. To honor this anniversary, the church's chancel choir commissioned a new choral anthem, "With Mighty Organ, Magnify God's Name," which premiered in November. In addition, the church commissioned the organ piece "Anniversary Flourish," which Lamb also premiered in November, to celebrate his 30th anniversary as a church organist. He started at age 14 in Clarksville, Ind.

Lamb is an adjunct instructor of voice at Franklin (Ind.) College. His CD of Christmas music performed on an organ, *A Joyous Yuletide Journey*, was released in November by the Miller Pipe Organ Company of Louisville, Ky. He has performed organ concerts in Seattle; Fayetteville, Ark.; Stamford, Conn.; Bronxville and Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Washington, D.C. Lamb is an ex-officio member of the IU Jacobs School of Music Alumni Board and is president of Indiana Organists United, the Organ Department's alumni club. He lives in Columbus.

Edward L. Cobb, BM'89, is assistant carillonneur and librarian at the Historic Bok Sanctuary in Lake Wales, Fla. He performs three times a week on the 60-bell Taylor carillon in the Bok Singing Tower and is librarian of the Anton Brees Carillon Library. In 2003, Cobb received a master of music degree in organ performance from the University of Florida, and he is pursuing a Ph.D. He has served numerous churches and denominations as an organist/choirmaster, is an accomplished tenor soloist and conductor, and is a commissioned and published composer.

1990s

Tom Nichols, BME'92, has been invited to perform at the national convention of the Organ Historical Society being held in Indianapolis in July 2007. He is in his 10th year as the director of music and liturgy at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Indianapolis' original Catholic parish and pro-cathedral. Nichols is a member of the Organ Department alumni board. He is also a certified railroad conductor and has recently earned his student engineer license.

Marko O. Petricic, MM'99, DM'04, is assistant organist/choirmaster at the Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis. Also an accomplished bayan-accordion performer, Petricic has won awards in numerous national and international competitions, including first place at the San Marino National Organ Competition in California. He participated in the French Organ Music Seminar in Paris and performs Balkan folk music with Paris Orchestra violinist Mathieu Névéal in the duo Gypsy Moods. His performances on organ and bayan in 2006 include concerts in Minnesota, Toronto, and New York City. A member of the Organ Department alumni board, Petricic lives in Indianapolis.

2000s

Robert P. Ridgell, BM'00, is associate organist/choirmaster at Trinity Church on Wall Street in New York City.

William David Coleman, MM'04, is associate director of music at White Memorial Presbyterian Church and chapel organist at St. Mary's School (Episcopal), both in Raleigh, N.C. He won first prize in the Miami International Organ Competition in February 2005. In September, Coleman had recitals at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta and at Elon (N.C.) University. His future engagements include the Church of the Epiphany in Miami in March and the Greenville, S.C., Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in May. He is a member of the department's alumni board.

Patrick E. Pope, MM'04, is director of music and organist at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C. He also is accompanist for the boys and girls choirs at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Charlotte and serves on the executive board of the Charlotte chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In 2004, Pope was a recitalist for the Wednesday Noon Recital Series at Princeton University Chapel. In 2005, he presented recitals at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta and St. Thomas Church in New York City. While at IU, Pope served as sub-dean and dean of the AGO's Bloomington chapter and was a graduate assistant in the Organ Department. Today, he is a member of department's alumni board.

More news

Oswald G. Ragatz, professor emeritus of organ at IU Bloomington, is the author of *Murder Twice Two*, which is due to be published by AuthorHouse. He writes, "The unwitting detective is an organist and dean of a music school, and much of the setting involves an Austin organ in an Episcopal church and a college campus in a Midwestern town."

From the president

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we can "unite" to give something back. Join or renew your IUAA membership; speak out for the organ department at every opportunity; send your top students to IU; and please let us know about your achievements and activities. Stay updated through our alumni magazine, *IU Music* (free with your alumni membership!), newsletters, and online publications.

On behalf of our IOU board, we hope that you are making beautiful music wherever you are, that you're having a successful and enjoyable life, and that you're fondly remembering the IU organ department, your musical alma mater.

— David K. Lamb, BME'83, BM'83,
MS'85, SME'94, DM'00

INDIANA ORGANISTS UNITED

Indiana Organists United is published by the IU Alumni Association in cooperation with the IU School of Music Alumni Association to encourage alumni interest in and support for IU. For membership information, please call (800) 824-3044 or e-mail ialumni@indiana.edu.

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