

Bowling Green State University Saxophone Studio Newsletter 2018-2019

Claire Salli, editor

From the desk of Dr. Sampen...

So many great memories!

Our first "Saxophone Sentinel" publication (issued in 1988 with Kim Bain, editor) showed pictures of our outdoor program in the Musical Arts courtyard with a black and white sculpture installation draped throughout the entire space. The highlight was a performance of Terry Riley's IN C featuring choreographed movements by the entire class plus four soprano saxophonists in the upper balcony playing repeated eighth notes for forty-five minutes.

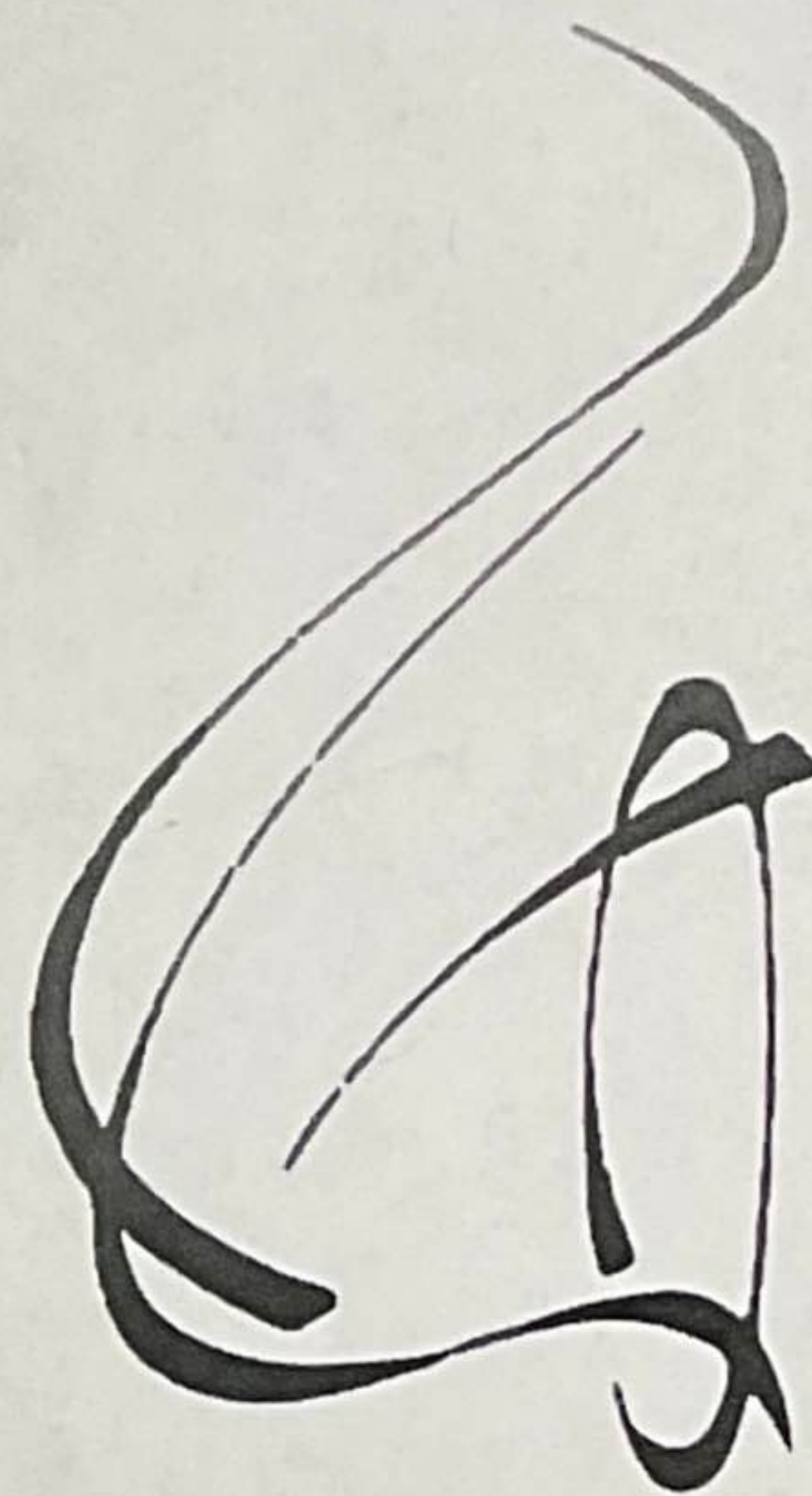
The courtyard concert was thirty years ago, but perhaps some of our "younger" alumni participated in the Sciarrino LA BOCA spectacle in 2011 with one hundred saxophonists performing in a Kobacker Hall concert and then marching to the Union for a "flash mob." This composition featured our own "River Rouge Quartet" with John Cummins, Noa Even, Jim Fusik, and Elissa Kana.

And of course, you may remember our "Earth Day" appearance in 1989--an outdoor "happening" outside the Union where we staged Ryo Noda's LES OISEAUX. How about Attahir's NOUVELLE performance at the New Music Gathering (2016) featuring twelve soprano saxophones. And we enjoyed a Ping Pong tournament in 2000 and a ski trip in 1994. Or perhaps you competed in our various "Bowling in Bowling Green" parties and our many saxophone team basketball and football games - in fact, in the 1980s we even beat the Ohio State saxophone team.

In 1992, we collaborated with the BGSU art sculpture class as our saxophonists improvised on their sound art creations. This same year, our entire class traveled to a nearby 4H camp for various "problem solving" group experiences such as climbing trees in order to traverse the high wires. And we loved our BGSU visit with Fred Hemke in 2006. Many of you know that Dr. Hemke passed away in April of this year.

Of course, most of all we enjoyed making great saxophone music together. Thanks to all of our terrific saxophone alumni for these treasured experiences.

John Sampen



Sampen & Hemke, 1979

Masterclass with Dr. Randall Hall!

This past fall we were fortunate to host Randy Hall for a masterclass and recital. Dr. Hall is a leading interpreter of contemporary music and improvisation. He has given concerts across North America, Europe, and Asia and is currently an Associate Professor of music at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.



Pictured above: Dr. Hall and concert celebration.

Pictures left to right: Dr. Hall with students Drew Hosler and Jonathan Kierspe.



Masterclass with Dr. James Umble!

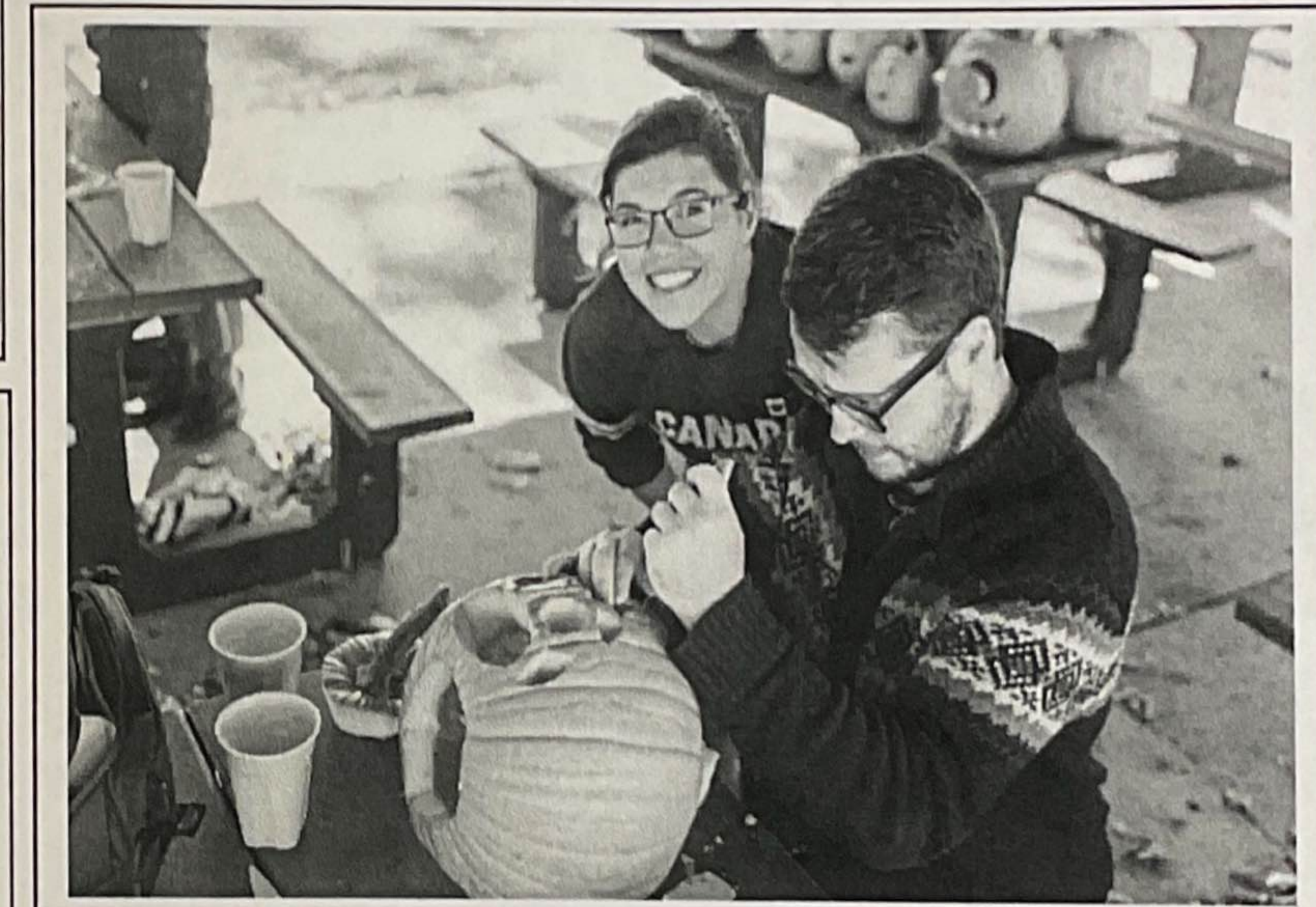
We also had the pleasure of hosting Jim Umble (MM 1984) for a masterclass last fall. Dr. Umble received his Master's in saxophone performance from Bowling Green State University and currently is the professor of saxophone at Youngstown State University.



Pictured left: Dr. Jim Umble giving a masterclass to students.

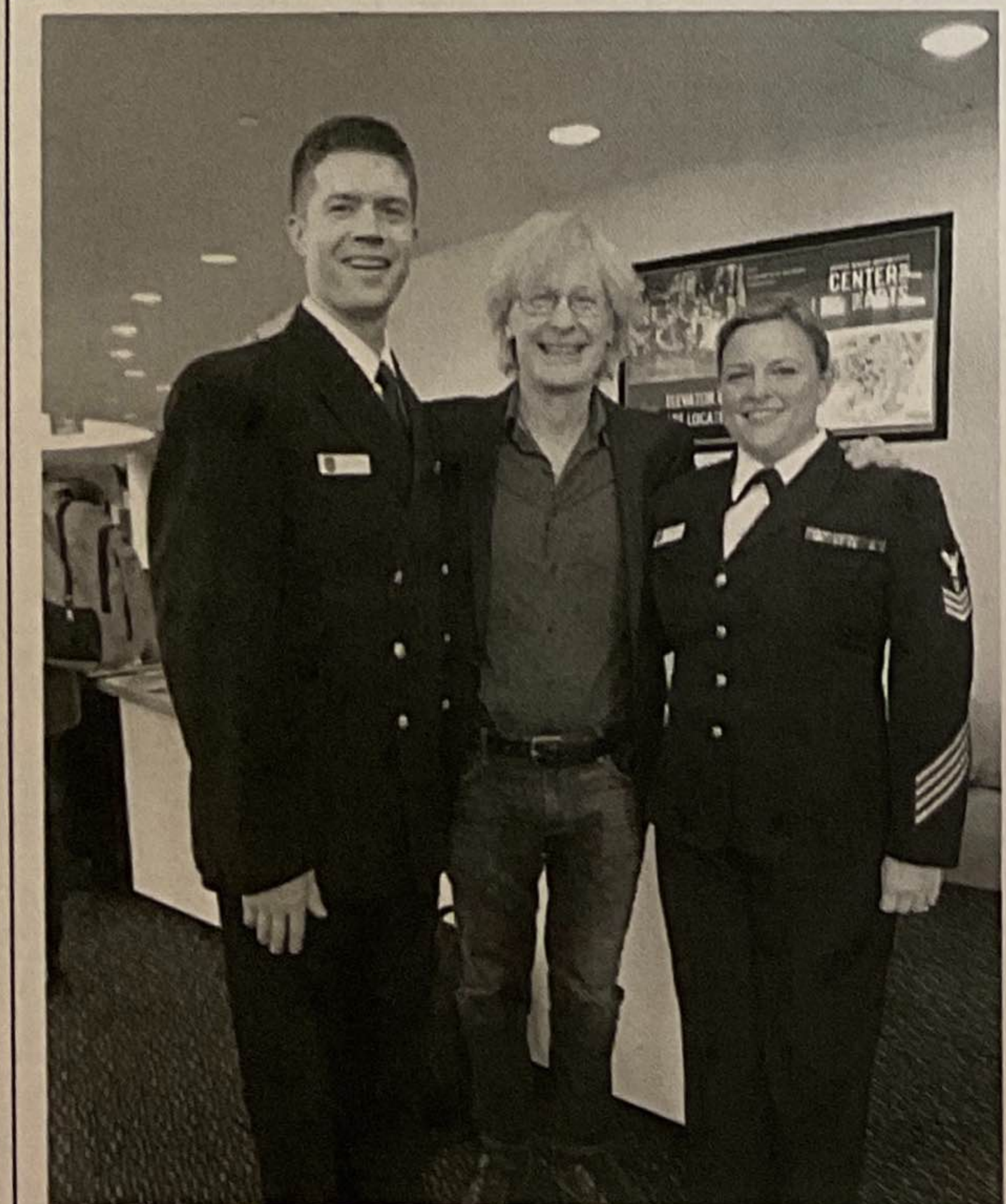
Fall studio party!

We brought the studio to City Park for some fun fall activities including pumpkin carving, sports, and eating!



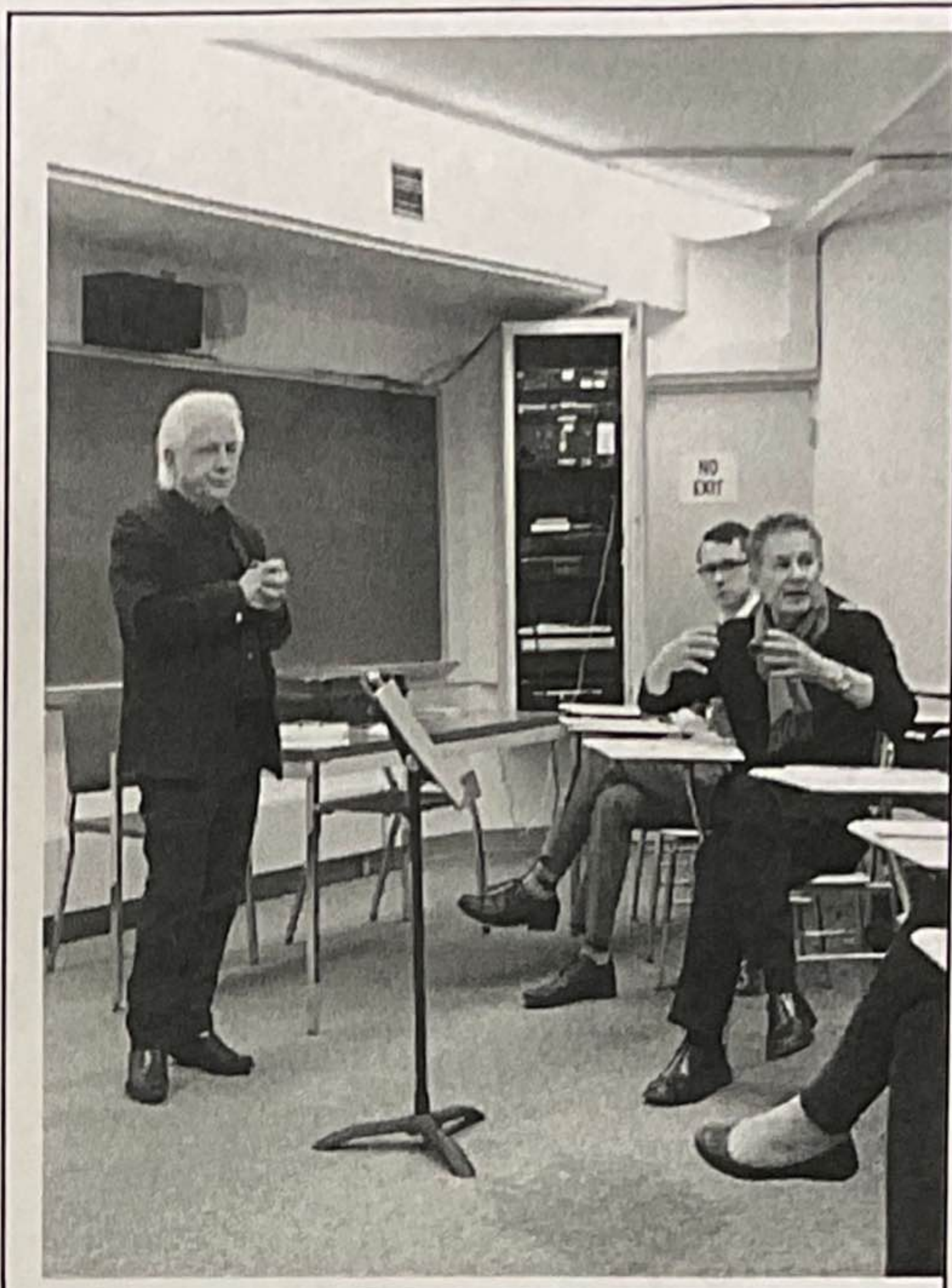
Navy Band Saxophone Symposium!

Every January it is always fun to come together for this conference hosted by the Navy Band saxophone section. The 2019 year was no different featuring a ton of current and former BGSU saxophone alumni performing in a variety of concerts.



Masterclass with Daniel Kientzy and Dr. William Street!

Originally Jean-Marie Londiex was scheduled to visit BGSU as a part of his final US tour, but he had to cancel due to illness. Instead, we had 2 fantastic musicians come in his place! Daniel Kientzy is a leading contemporary saxophonist with over 650 commissions and William Street is also a major saxophonist who currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Music at the University of Alberta. Together with pianist Viktoria Reisch, they presented a masterclass and recital.



Pictured above: Daniel Kientzy and Bill Street teaching student Drew Hosler.

Pictured left: Daniel Kientzy and Bill Street teaching student Claire Salli.



Masterclass with Dr. Gail Levinsky!

In the spring, Gail Levinsky presented a recital, masterclass, and discussion for our studio. She performed a recital by Jewish composers, and held a discussion over race, gender, sexuality, and politics. Dr. Levinsky currently is Associate Professor of Music at Susquehanna University and also is a Program Director of the Snow Pond Music Festival in Maine.



Pictured above (left): Dr. Levinsky performing a recital.

Pictured above (right): Masterclass with student Kaitlyn Grella.

Pictured right (immediate): Masterclass with Nicole Grimone.

Pictured right (far): Masterclass with Hayley Plauger.



North American Saxophone Alliance!

This year the NASA Region 5 conference was held at Marian University in Indianapolis, Indiana. There were plenty of current and former BGSU saxophone students and alumni who performed.



Pictured above: The BGSU Saxophone Ensemble performed Marilyn Shrude's *Quietly Revealed*.

Pictured left (immediate): Dr. Sampen performing.

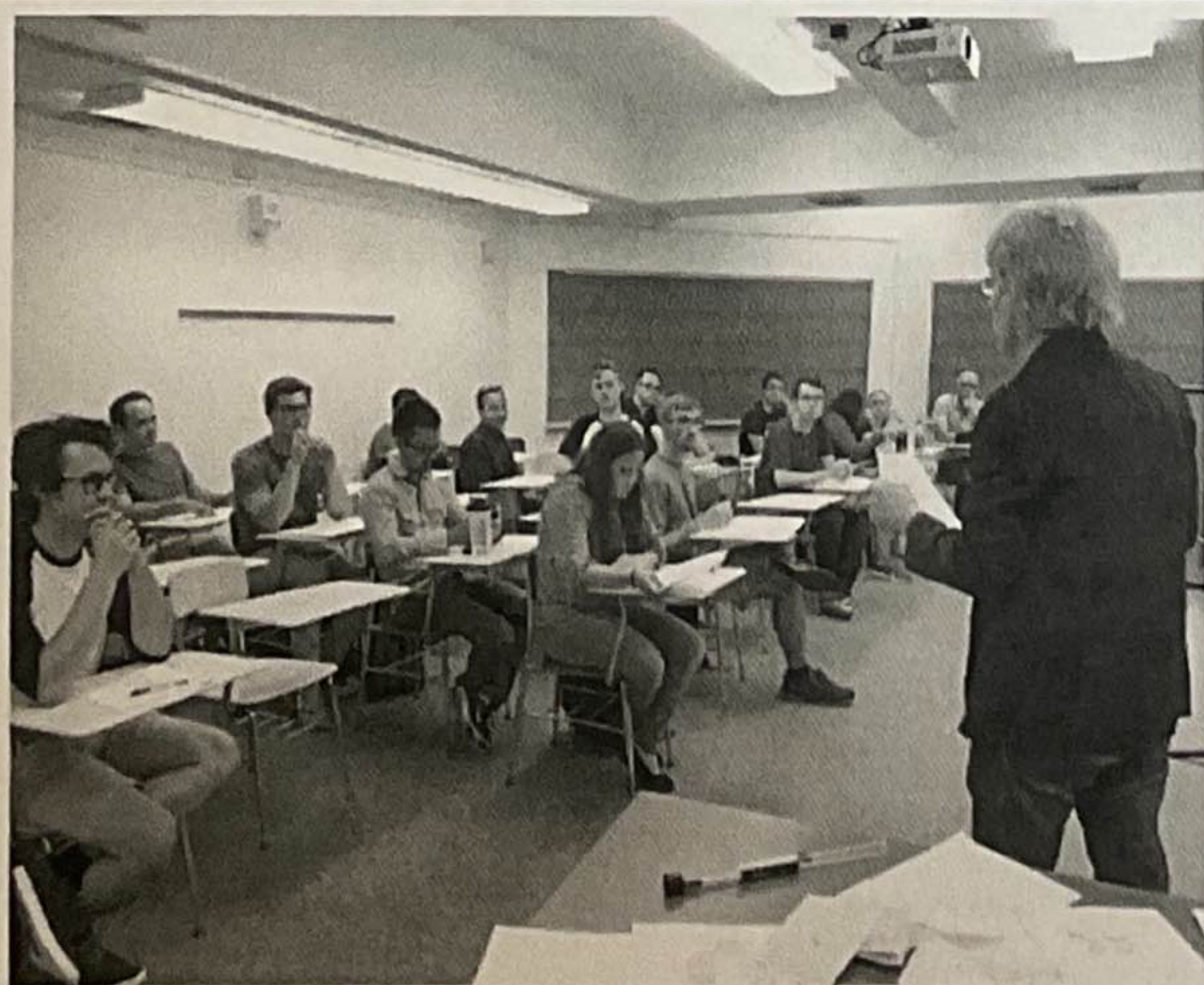
Pictured left (far): Students Hayley Plauger and Garret Klauss.

Pictured below: The BGSU saxophone ensemble in action.

Pictured below (left): Student Drew Hosler performing with pianist Casey Dierlam.

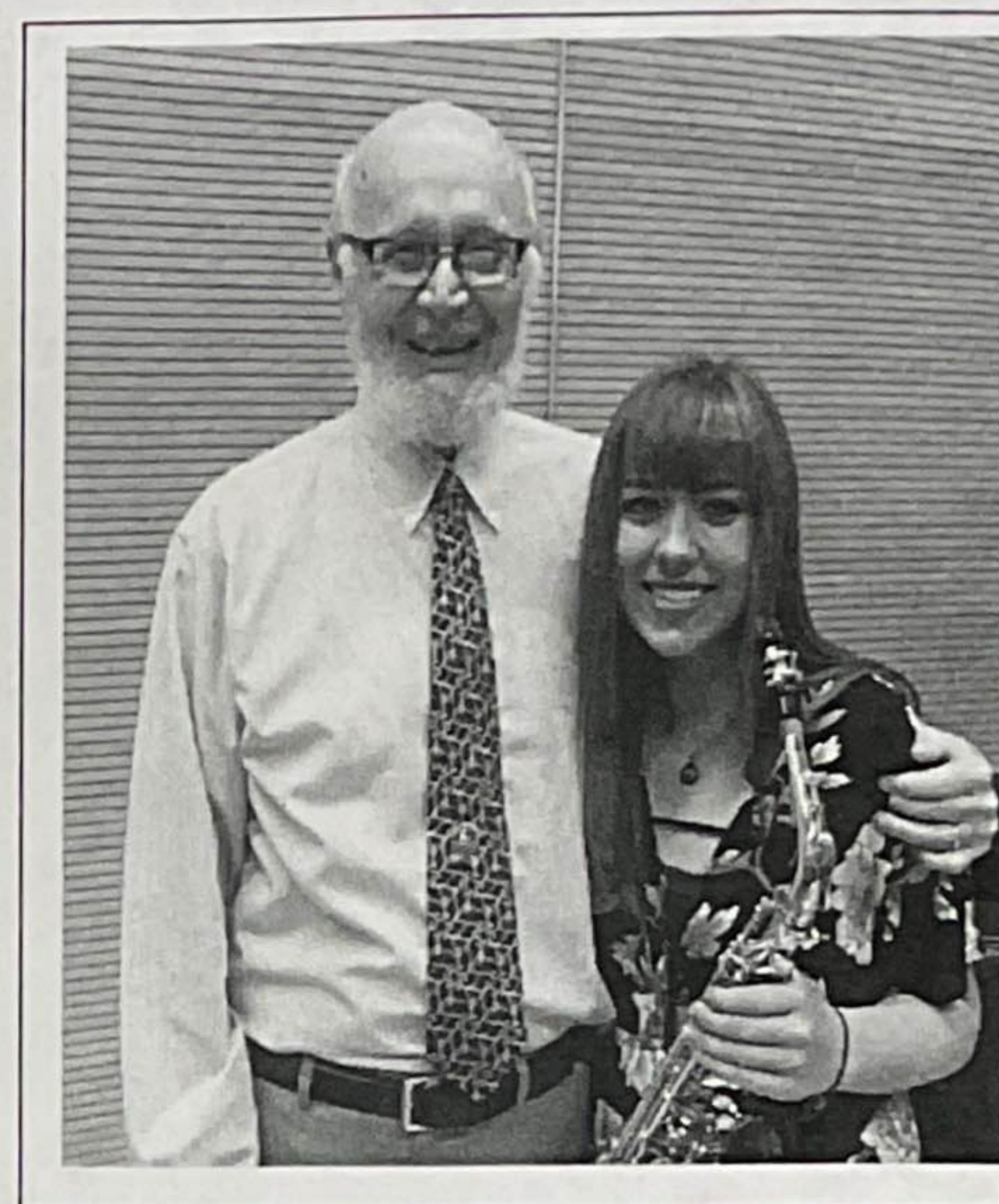


Studio Pictures!



Remembering Dr. Fred Hemke

We have lost a great musician and friend of the saxophone. Dr. Hemke was a wonderful musician, educator, and person whose legacy will not be forgotten. He has made a huge impact on the BGSU saxophone studio, with many current and former students studying with him in some capacity. His close friendship and mentorship with Dr. Sampen also long benefitted the saxophone community. We mourn the passing of Fred Hemke but we rejoice in his legacy and inspiration for music.



Saxophone Newsletter Alumni Updates

2017-2019

David Babich (BM 2007) is a member of the United States Navy Band and the Navy Band Saxophone Quartet. David is highly involved with the organization of the International Navy Band Saxophone Symposium which hosted many BGSU students and alumni in January of 2018 and January 2019.

Christopher Blossom (BM 2002) is a saxophonist in the United States Field Band in Maryland. He and his wife have three children including a new baby girl born last year.

Valeri Conley Brokaw (MM 1986) returned to America with her three children in 2016 after teaching in Malaysia for the past 18 years. She is now teaching band and chorus in Lima, OH with alumnae **Melinda Dicke Smith** (BM 1987).

Andy Braet is principal saxophonist with the Band of the Irish Guards in London where he also plays with the Household Division Saxophone Quartet.

Michael Chamberlin (BM 2005) joined the United States Jazz Ambassadors (US Field Band) as Baritone Saxophonist in 2017. Michael completed his DMA from the University of Maryland and his MM from the University of North Texas and he continues his scholarly activities with plans for a new book. Michael presented a lecture at the 2018 Croatia World Saxophone Congress. He is married to his wife Victoria.

Po-Fang Chang (MM 2012) and **Pin-Hua Chin** (MM 2012) are (finally) married. And **John Cummins** (MM 2012) and **Elissa Kana** (MM 2012) are also engaged.

Noa Even (DMA 2014) is Assistant Professor at Kent State University. Noa has been actively touring throughout the USA with her Ogni Suono Duo and the Patchwork Duo. She founded the Uncommon Sound Project and the ReSound Festival in Cleveland and she performed Schmitt's Legende with orchestra at the 2018 NASA Biennial in Cincinnati.

Chris Ford (MM 1979) is Director for the Baltimore School for the Arts. He lives in Elkridge, MD with his wife Betsy and two children).

James Fusik (DMA 2013) was former saxophone teacher at Minot State and then instructor of saxophone at Austin Peay University. Jim has just recently accepted a full-time lecturer position in saxophone and marching bands at Wayne State University.

Kayla Gallatin (BM 2017) Kayla has completed her second year of teaching at Bowling Green High School.

Soren Hamm (MM 2018) won the 2018 Frances Walton Competition in spring 2018. His prize included Seattle's King FM Radio performance and an outreach tour of western Washington and a purse of \$3000.

Barry Hartz (BM 1982) accepted a new position as a Music Education teacher at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He also is writing and soon will be publishing a book on music versatility for young bands.

Jeffrey Heisler (DMA 2010 and MM 2006) is Associate Professor at Oakland University where he teaches saxophone and directs the concert band. In the spring of 2018, Jeff soloed on Marilyn Shrude's Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Band at Oakland University, the CBDNA Conference and the Michigan Music Educators Conference. Jeff and his wife I-Chen had a 2nd daughter born in October 2018.

Michael Weiss-Holmes (BM 2004) is Interim Assistant Dean and Head of the Woodwinds at Roosevelt University. He also is a frequent performer with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra along with **Brian Polacek** (BG student from 1993-2000) and **Carey Valente** (BM 2002).

Ryan Hurd (BM 2014) was named the 2018 OMEA Most Outstanding Young Teacher Award. Ryan teaches in the Jackson, Ohio City Schools where he resides with his wife Katlyn and his daughter Florence.

Michael Ibrahim (MM 2002) is Director of the Music Department at West Virginia University. He also continues teaching saxophone at WVU but he has been assisted by **Joel Diegert** (MM 2008) who returned to the USA after spending nine years abroad

studying and performing in Paris and Vienna. Several BGSU alumni are now continuing advanced degrees at WVU, including **Chris Delouis** (MM 2017), **Julia Kuhlman** (BM 2016), **Jacob Kopcienski** (BM 2013), and **Justin Massey** (MM 2015).

Sheldon Johnson (MM 2011) is the saxophone instructor at Radford University and was formerly teaching at Claflin University. Sheldon was married to his wife Michelle in 2017.

Jessica Heller Knopf (BM 2010) completed a 100-mile race (in 28 hours) with 80 mile an hour winds and a thunderstorm. She and her husband Gerred recently enjoyed a trip to Alaska with dog sledding, skiing and minus 25-degree weather. Jessica lives in the St. Louis area where she had a new baby in late 2018. She teaches a private studio of 25 students.

Amanda Materne (BM 1994) is living in Oregon with her husband Brian Sheaffer where she is a veterinarian's assistant and a specialist in anesthesiology.

Kathy McGrady (BM 1981) was a longtime teacher at the Springfield Local Schools and the Northwood High School. Kathy has retired but she remains active as the President of the Ohio Music Educators Association.

Paxton Young, Connie (1984-1987) is living in Sandusky, OH where she is a quality engineer for a major automotive corporation. Connie's daughter Abigail is a talented HS saxophonist.

Sean Patayanikorn (MM 2008) is a police detective and member of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police in Saskatoon. Last year, Sean was engaged to Ruth and we believe they celebrated a September wedding in Regina.

Erin Rogers (MM 2005) is an active performer/composer in New York City where she performs with the New Thread Quartet and Hypercube. Erin was a featured performer at the 2017 BGSU New Music Festival and will be a special guest for New Music On The Point this summer in Vermont.

Greg Ruffer (BM 1987) is President and CEO of the Boston Center for the Arts. Greg was awarded the Accomplished Alumni Award from BGSU in 2017.

Richard Schnipke (BM 1993) is Choral Conductor in the BGSU Music Education Department. Rich comes to BGSU after many years of public school teaching and faculty service at Xavier College and Ohio State Universities.

Theofilos Sotiriades (MM 2007) is the saxophone teacher at the State University of Thessaloniki. Theo is finishing his PhD from the University of Macedonia with a final research project on the history of the saxophone in Greece.

Narda Hyter Wishka (BM 1980) has retired after 20 years of work as a Financial Planner. Narda continues playing saxophone in the Dexter Community Band.

Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet hails from the countries of Italy, Cyprus and the USA. The Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet includes **Marco Albonetti** (MM 1996), **Yiannis Miralis** (MM 1995), **Russell Peterson** (MM 1995) and Carrie Koffman (non-BGSU alumna). Their quartet was formed at BGSU in 1995 and they returned to BGSU on February 11, 2018 for a guest concert and masterclass. The Transcontinental was featured on the opening concert of the 2019 national MTNA Conference in Washington state. All are prominent saxophone artists and each have developed successful teaching and performing careers.

Jeff Vickers (1999-2000) is Acting Chair and Assistant Professor at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. He also is founder and editor of the Resolute Music Publishing Company which handles the music of Christian Lauba.

Matt Younglove (DMA 2017) completed his Doctorate of Music degree in 2017. Matt was Instructor at Wayne State University and has just accepted a new teaching position at Tennessee Tech University. He is a member of the Assembly Saxophone Quartet along with **Jeff Heisler** (DMA 2010).

Aiwen Zhang (2011-2014) has completed her undergraduate studies at the Eastman School of Music and she is currently a master's student at the Paris Conservatory with Claude Delangle.

Yufei Zhang (MC 2016; MM 2018) has returned to Beijing, China where he was hired as saxophonist for the Dunshan Symphonic Wind Orchestra.



2019 ALUMNI PHOTO COLLAGE (L-R)

Top Row - Cody Greenwell, Matt Balensuela, Scotty Stepp, Po-Fang Chang, Shyen Lee, Jimmy Lee, Pin-Hua Chen, Kenny Tsai, Ku, Wu, Chi-Him Chik, Theo Sotiridias and wife Maria

Second Row - Rhonda Taylor, Andy Braet, Stan George, Barry Hartz, Keith Young Allison Balcetis, Hantao Li and family, Adrienne Welker Moore, Richard Schnipke, Jessica Heller Kanapf (pregnant), David Babich, Chris Blossom

Third Row - Jessica Maxfield, Sampen, Shrude, Cory Whitt, Brian Polacek, Carey Valente, Michael Weiss-Holmes, Lee Morrison, Matt Younglove, Michael Ibrahim

Fourth Row - Jeff Vickers, Russ Peterson, Yiannis Miralis, Marco Albonetti, Sheldon Johnson, Erin Rogers, Barry Hartz, Chris Ford

Bottom Row - Sampen, Matt Younglove, Greg Ruffer, Michelle Dewald Henn, Sampen, Joel Diegert