Westminster Joins Chorus America to Publish *The Chorus Leadership Guide*

Chorus America, in collaboration with Westminster Choir College of Rider University, has published *The Chorus Leadership Guide*, a new book written by Matthew Sigman covering the most essential information about running a successful chorus, including the fundamental components of board leadership, artistic leadership and administrative management.

“The choral field in North America has made great strides in the seven years since our last book,” said Ann Meier Baker, president and CEO of Chorus America. “*The Chorus Leadership Guide* addresses the changing landscape in arts management and represents the collective wisdom of the best and brightest choral leaders today.”

*The Chorus Leadership Guide* synthesizes interviews with dozens of conductors, managers, board members and funding executives, as well as data from articles, surveys and reports. It also features day-in-the-life profiles of chorus leaders, as (continued on page 3)

Westminster Choir’s First Recording with Joe Miller is a Hit

*Flower of Beauty*, the Westminster Choir’s new recording with Joe Miller, has earned critical praise from *American Record Guide* in its March/April issue.

Reviewer Lindsay Koob wrote, “This choir can take the discerning listener to many places in the sprawling world of choral art, but in the process, they never fail to drop you off in choral heaven along the way.”

The ensemble’s first full recording with Maestro Miller, *Flower of Beauty* includes some of the rich, traditional values of the extraordinary catalog of choral repertoire while introducing fresh sounds and new voices to its audiences. The repertoire ranges from William Byrd’s *Haec Dies* and the Sanctus and Benedictus from Frank Martin’s *Messe* to K. Lee Scott’s arrangement of *In Bright Mansions Above* and *Lucis creator optime* by Vytatutas Miškinis.

Listeners can learn more about the works performed on the CD by listening to a Conductor Conversation podcast with Joe Miller speaking about the project. Part of the Westminster-to-Go podcast series, it’s available for download on iTunes and on the Westminster Web site at www.rider.edu/westminstertogo.

To purchase a CD go to www.westminsterchoircollege.org or call 609-921-7100, ext. 8308. Tracks and the full album can also be downloaded from most major download sites.
Future Musicians Benefit From Iveys’ Gifts

According to Robert Ivey ’58, MM’59, he’s never had to work a day in his life. That remark might seem surprising until you consider his 55 years as a church musician. Even after retiring in 2006 after 24 years as minister of music at the First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, N.C., Bob continues to devote his time to the music profession, serving on the Executive Board of the local AGO and on Westminster’s Alumni Council. As his wife of 51 years, Shirley Ivey, puts it, “He loves what he does. Not many people can say that.”

A pianist since the age of 6, Bob was introduced to the organ when he was 13 and a woman from his hometown asked him to play the organ at her wedding. He fell in love with the instrument. His piano teacher suggested that Bob pursue his love of the organ at Westminster Choir College.

“I felt Westminster Choir College gave me the preparation for what I wanted to do, what I did and what I continue to do,” explains Bob, who holds a Bachelor of Music in Organ and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Westminster.

Honoring Bob’s distinguished career, Shirley established a charitable gift annuity in 2006 in support of the Sacred Music department as a Christmas gift to Bob. “I knew that Bob had been inspired by his studies at Westminster. The Choir College was responsible for the passion he has for his career,” Shirley says.

“I was totally surprised and very overwhelmed that she made that sizeable a contribution,” says Bob.

The Iveys have established two additional charitable gift annuities to provide for future generations of Westminster students. “I would seriously recommend Westminster Choir College to any student looking to pursue studies in church music,” Bob explains.

Ingrid Clarfield is NJMTA Teacher of the Year

Professor of Piano Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield was named the 2009 Teacher of the Year by the New Jersey Music Teachers Association (NJMTA) at its annual conference in the fall. She was recognized for the success of her students, who have won top honors in competitions throughout the United States, including the Music Teachers National Association’s state, divisional and national competitions. She has presented lecture recitals and workshops in more than 100 cities in the United States and Canada. Clarfield is also the author and editor of 14 books published by Alfred Publishing Company. Her articles have appeared in *American Music Teacher*, *Clavier*, *Keyboard Companion* and *Piano Life*. She has also been the director of Westminster Piano Camp for High School Students since 1984.

Composer and conference clinician Dennis Alexander presented her with the award, noting how appropriate it was that she receive the Association’s first Teacher of the Year Award. He also acknowledged her more than 30 years of service to the Association, which included two consecutive terms as president, and described her as “New Jersey’s National Treasure.”

Ingrid Clarfield congratulated her students after they performed Mack Wilberg’s *Fantasy on Themes from Bizet’s “Carmen”* for two pianos, four hands at the 2010 Westminster Alumni Reunion. They were (from left) Ben Houghton, Richard Woo, Rebecca Leshures and Victoria Chow.
Jerry Custer’s Work Debuts at Carnegie Hall

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? If you’re Jerry Custer ’75, the shortest path goes through Long Island by way of Michigan. Custer, who describes himself as “a conductor who composes, except when I’m a composer who conducts,” teaches music theory and composition at Detroit’s Wayne State University, directs four choirs at First Presbyterian Church in Farmington Hills and guest conducts and leads clinics in the Northeast and Midwest. His work with various high school choirs on Long Island during the past three years led to an invitation to compose a major work for the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and Chorus of New York (MYO).

The result was a choral/orchestral symphony, *Everything Indicates*. Based on texts by a poet long associated with Long Island and New York City—Walt Whitman—the three-movement, 35-minute work received its world premiere on Saturday, June 5 at 8 p.m. at Carnegie Hall. Michael Sylvest- ter ’74 was the tenor soloist. “MYO draws its members by competitive audition from all five boroughs of New York City as well as Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island,” Jerry notes, “so the quality of musicianship far exceeds the ages of those performing. Writing for an ensemble of this size and ability is the kind of challenge every composer longs for. I’m very lucky to have the opportunity to work with them.”

The Chorus Leadership Guide (continued from page 1)

well as access to a variety of companion online tools and templates not available previously. These include job des- criptions, audition evaluation forms, bylaws, commissioning agreements, budgets, fundraising plans and more.

“The prime objective of this book is to assist choruses in the United States and Canada to maximize their potential through applying a consistent set of principles in governance, artistic leadership, management, marketing, finance and community outreach,” said Sigman. “The maturing of the choral field was evident in all of these areas as I got deeper into the research for this book.”

Sigman is a two-time winner of the ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award for music journalism, a former editor of *Symphony* magazine and a commentator for National Public Radio’s *Performance Today*.

“Chorus America and Westminster Choir College share a focused determination to further the choral arts and those who lead choruses,” says Dean Robert L. Annis. “With our shared commitment of resources and the time and insight provided by leaders in the field, we have the privilege of creating this custom guide. We hope it will help all those in chorus leadership positions—veterans and aspirants alike—to build and nurture relationships that will fulfill their chorus’s mission.”

Additional support for *The Chorus Leadership Guide* was provided by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. *The Chorus Leadership Guide* is $35. You can order yours online at www.westminster-choircollege.org or by calling 609-921-7100, ext. 8308.

Westminster Exhibits at Summer Conferences

Are you planning to attend the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) or the American Guild of Organists (AGO) national conferences in July? If so, be sure to stop by the Westminster booth and say hello.

For alumni and friends in the Washington, D.C. area, there will be a reception on Tuesday, July 6 in conjunction with the AGO conference in Washington, D.C. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by June 25 to the Office of Alumni Relations at 609-921-3200 or alumni@rider.edu. Here are the details:

**Westminster Alumni and Friends Reception**

**Washington Marriott—Wardman Park**

**Maryland Suite A**

**2660 Woodley Road NW**

**Washington, D.C.**

**Tuesday, July 6 • 3:30–5 p.m.**

Subscribe to our podcast series for free via iTunes or RSS feed. Go to www.rider.edu/westminstertogo for details.
Westminster Center for Critical Pedagogy Explores New Options for Teaching and Learning

Completing its first year under the leadership of Professor of Music Education Frank Abrahams, the Westminster Center for Critical Pedagogy promotes teaching and learning based on the principles of critical pedagogy and post-modern ideologies. This spring, the Center collaborated with the Office of Continuing Education to present webinars with conductors Joe Miller and James Jordan. With the Piano department, it also facilitated two sessions with George Litterst and Paul Sheftel, who explored practical, Internet-based options for teaching individual students, master classes, and even music history or theory courses. Watch the Web site for news about additional online offerings in the coming year.

An ear for music, an eye for learning

Imagine you’re a seventh-grader sitting in music class and you’re asked—no, you’re required, because your grade depends on it—to relate to the music of Annie, the Broadway musical about the Depression-era orphan.

How likely is it that the play’s perennial song “The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow” will have any relevance for you? Your iPod is full of titles like “Dead and Gone” and “Drug Ballad” and every third song is rap music.

Frank Abrahams has been a professor of music education at the Westminster Choir College of Rider University for 18 years. Through studying, refining and thinking—something he believes many teachers have forgotten how to do—he believes he has an answer to the disconnect in so many American classrooms.

The answer is critical pedagogy, a heady term used for many years to describe a way of teaching literacy and history and even mathematics. But not music. Never music. Not until Abrahams came along.

“In a critical pedagogy environment, the power structure in the classroom changes,” says Abrahams, expounding his theories in his office one afternoon last week with the sound of piano music and student voices filling the air outside.

“The teacher teaches the students but the students also teach,” he explains. “In this kind of learning, you put yourself in the position of, OK, the kid’s got something to offer here. Let’s start from the point that they already know something worthy. What can I take from that and then add value? How can I enhance their musical experience, their understanding of music based on what they already know?”

So, when the students in his Music Education classes were preparing to go into a seventh-grade class at a public school and teach Annie, Abrahams challenged them to make the musical relevant. Add media images. Put in a percussive beat. Squeeze rap lyrics between the stanzas. Make a modern statement about music that isn’t.

One of his students took news images of orphans from the Haitian earthquake and put them in a slideshow with “The Sun Will Come Out” ... playing in the background. Suddenly the word “orphan” comes alive in a way no textbook could describe. Goosebumps ensue. Now, perhaps only now, the kids are ready to see what Annie has to say.

“The kids in schools today have a very rich musical life outside of school. The point is to bridge the gap between that rich musical life and what the school thinks you should learn,” says Abrahams, who gives his age as very old.

“So it’s not, OK, let’s do a unit on the singer Lady Gaga. Instead you look at how the music of Madonna connects to Mozart, or how the music of rap connects to Gregorian chants. Teaching isn’t a monologue. It’s a dialogue.”

Wendy Plump
Special to The Times
Sunday, April 25, 2010
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Read the entire story at www.rider.edu/criticalpedagogy
Asian Music Mondays Bring New Sounds to Campus

“Am I really in Princeton?” a visitor to the Westminster campus might have thought this winter, as some unexpected sounds emanated from Bristol Chapel and The Playhouse on Monday evenings.

Thanks to Associate Professor of Music History Eric Hung and Talbott Library Chair Mi-Hye Chyun, Westminster welcomed internationally renowned performers of Asian music on five Monday evenings in February and March. Coordinated with an East Asian music seminar Hung taught during the second semester, Asian Music Mondays included a class for students followed by a public performance featuring both traditional and contemporary music from Japan, China, Korea and Indonesia.

Hung said of the series, “The class and the concerts were designed to showcase the great variety of music that is played in East and Southeast Asia. Many people think that all East Asian music has lots of cymbals and is based on five-note scales. There is certainly some East Asian music that sounds like the recordings you hear at Chinese buffets, but there is a lot more music that sounds nothing like that. The series was designed to introduce the great variety of East Asian music to our community.”

The performers were Masayo Ishigure, a virtuoso on both the koto, a 13-string zither, and shamisen, a Japanese lute; and Music from China, a Chinese chamber music ensemble; and China Youth Orchestra, a 30-piece ensemble of musicians ages 8 to 18 who perform on traditional Chinese instruments. Washington and New York Samulnori performed samulnori, Korean percussion music; and Wu Fei, a composer and virtuoso on the Chinese guzheng, a 21-string zither, performed new music for guzheng and voice.

The final concert in this series featured New York-based Gamelan Dharma Swara, led by Balinese directors I Nyoman Saptanyana and Ida Ayu Ari Candrawati. The group performed traditional instrumental and dance works, as well as new compositions. The ensemble was recently invited by Made Mankgku Pastika, Governor of Bali, to perform at the 2010 Bali Arts Festival beside other Balinese ensembles. This is the first time a non-Balinese group has been asked to perform in this format.

Not only did the members of the Westminster community enjoy this series, it attracted a number of first-time visitors to the Choir College.

Faculty Recording is a Critics’ Choice

A compact disc by Westminster faculty members Elem Eley and J.J. Penna—Drifts and Shadows: American Song for the New Millennium (Albany Records: TROY1050)—was selected by American Record Guide’s Stephen Estep as one of his six Critics’ Choices 2009. In his earlier review of the disc, Estep wrote, “Eley’s voice is warm and clean. He is definitely one of the best singers of English I’ve ever heard…. Buy this record.”

This is just one of several positive reviews of the recording. The Journal of Singing also praised Drifts and Shadows, declaring, “No matter what technical and expressive hurdles these songs present, Eley surmounts them with conviction and assurance…. What they [Eley and Penna] achieve here is truly profound.” Fanfare magazine wrote about the recording, “This is a miraculous compilation of gems…a Want List candidate.”

Best Wishes

Talbott Library hosted a farewell reception for Librarian and Archivist Nancy Wicklund ’70, who is retiring after 40 years of service to Westminster. Flanking her were Dean of Libraries Chick Chickering and Mi-Hye Chyun, director of Talbott Library. The good news—Nancy will remain on board until her successor is appointed.
Imagine... what your gift can do for their future.

For 83 years, Westminster has trained leaders in the field of music. Every year, aspiring performers, educators, church musicians and composers benefit from an atmosphere that promotes individual growth in music and citizenship. It is the choir that remains Westminster’s foundation, where each musician, regardless of his/her area of study, contributes a voice for a common, unifying goal. Each is an integral part of the choir’s success. Likewise, every alumnus, parent and friend, through their gifts to the Westminster Fund, contributes to the triumph of each student-artist by supporting Westminster’s commitment to educate the whole student. Feel proud knowing that, with your help, Westminster graduates are contributing to the cultural, social and economic life of our communities, the nation and the world.

Happy 15th!

Westminster Jubilee Singers alumni returned to campus in April to celebrate the ensemble’s 15th anniversary. The weekend included lots of music making, lunch at the home of Dean Annis and a concert with the current Jubilee Singers. Pictured at the concert are (from left) Lisa Komonchak ’00, faculty member Rochelle Ellis, Janine Dunlap Momasso ’02, Lucia Bradford ’03 and Steven Kirby ’02.

Broadway Bound

Westminster presented the annual Showcase of New Talent for industry professionals featuring the music theater seniors at the Signature Theater in New York in April. Chatting with Alison Ball after the performance were Fred C. L. Mann III and Director of External Affairs Anne Sears. Mr. Mann generously donated his extensive costume collection to Westminster last year, and it has proven to be a valuable resource for music theater productions.

Please give online by visiting www.rider.edu/wccgive or by calling The Office of Annual Giving at (609) 896-5392.
Thank You.
Bristol Chapel benefited from some much needed renovations this year. The floor was completely refinished, and the pews—some of which were in very bad condition—were removed. They were replaced by arts-and-crafts–style cherry wood chairs with padded linen seats, which offer the opportunity for flexible seating for performances, lectures, worship services and other events.

Additionally, a new sound system has been installed in Bristol Chapel, The Playhouse and Williamson Hall that enables students and faculty to easily record recitals and rehearsals.

“I wanted to have a piece of Westminster’s history in my home,” says Anthony Rafanelli ’05, who recalls hearing the creak of the pews during Fall and Spring Convocations. His purchase became a family affair when his grandfather, Ernest Werner, offered to refinish the pew in his Connecticut workshop. They’re pictured here admiring the newly refinished and pristine pew.

In recognition of Westminster’s heritage, two of the original pews have been placed in the Chapel and two in Williamson Hall. The remaining pews that were in good condition are available for purchase by alumni and friends for $500. They are not assembled, and purchasers must arrange for pick up or shipping. To learn more or to purchase a pew, call Steven Spinner, associate director of major gifts, at 609-921-7100, ext. 8213. Quantity is limited.

The festival will present 10 United States and New York premieres and debuts by artists and companies from 15 countries, including Belgium, China, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, India, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Westminster Symphonic Choir will perform Brahms’ Ein deutsches Requiem with the Dresden Staatskapelle and soloists Christiane Karg and Matthias Goerne led by Daniel Harding on Sunday, October 31. Watch the Westminster Web site for details.

Listen to a recording of the radio broadcast of the Westminster Symphonic Choir perform Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and Sir Roger Norrington on Westminster’s Web site. Go to www.rider.edu/symphonicchoir, select the performance date (February 21, 2010) and click on the broadcast link.
Under Construction: Projects Enhance the Campus

As anyone who’s owned an older home knows, maintaining and improving Westminster’s beautiful and historic campus is an ongoing process. Over the past year, Rider University invested in several projects that preserve the Choir College’s architectural integrity and enhance the quality of life on the campus. This included repairing the chimney in Williamson Hall—an expensive but necessary undertaking—and rewiring the relocatable classrooms.

The practice rooms in Seabrook Hall were renovated, and technology was installed in several classrooms, making them SMART classrooms. SMART classrooms have an instructor station equipped with computer and audiovisual equipment, allowing the faculty to teach using a wide variety of media. They also contain SMART Boards—interactive whiteboards with a touch-sensitive display that connects to a computer and digital projector. Using a finger, faculty can control computer applications, write notes, pull up charts and images, search the Internet, play videos and save work.

This summer, the brick walk around the Quad and the brick wall that runs between Erdman Hall and the Scheide Student Center will be replaced. Additionally, the restrooms in the Scheide Student Center and Bristol Chapel will be renovated to meet ADA standards.

Plans are also being finalized for the construction of a new parking lot behind the library, which was approved by the Princeton Planning Board in early spring.

Over the coming months, some of the 15 trees lost during a devastating storm in the spring will be replaced.

Westminster Flash Mob!

Music Education students and faculty member Sharon Morrow surprised hundreds of people gathered at the corner of Nassau and Witherspoon Streets for the annual Community street fair in Princeton. What appeared to be a few college students swaying to some pop music quickly became a full-fledged dance team—bringing smiles to the crowd and generating photo ops galore.

Award Winner

Professor of Voice Laura Brooks Rice received an alumni award from her alma mater, Georgia Southern University, in recognition of her accomplishments as a singer, performer and innovator. Pictured with her following the ceremony were (from left): former Georgia Southern University President Bruce Grube and Georgia Southern University’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Associate Dean Curtis Ricker.
Westminster Choir College Alumni Council

The mission of the Westminster Choir College Alumni Council is to facilitate connections among Westminster’s alumni and to build stronger relationships with Westminster. Alumni Council members are drawn from a number of class years who represent regional districts. Each fall the Council returns to campus for their annual meeting. So you can get to know the Council better, information about the officers is included in this issue of Symphonic. Information about all of the Council members is in the News and Events/Alumni News section on the Web site. If you would like to get involved with Westminster alumni activities, please feel free to contact the Council member in your area.

President
Jaimie Gilhooley Flack ’77
gilhooj@comcast.net
Following graduation from Westminster, Jaimie Gilhooley Flack received her Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Temple University and went on to pursue a career in arts administration. Her professional experiences range from grass-roots organizations to prestigious international assemblies in New York, the Midwest and Florida. Jaimie has held managerial positions with Columbia Artists Management Inc. (CAMI), Frank Solomon Associates, The Marlboro School of Music and Festival, The Spence School, College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Arts Association, Aronoff Center for the Performing Arts and the Weston Art Gallery, BIG ARTS (Barrier Island Group for the Arts, Inc.), Alliance for the Arts and the Southwest Florida Symphony. As a development professional and consultant, she has managed endowment, capital and annual campaigns. Specializing primarily in fundraising for the arts, she played an integral role in the $56.8 million capital campaign for the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati as part of the University Master Plan. Jaimie credits her experience with Westminster Choir at the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, for providing her with the inspiration to pursue her dream to “make the arts happen.” She and her husband reside in Ft. Myers, Fla., where she continues to sing and conduct.

Vice President
Anthony Michael Celentano ’78, MM’80
amcelentano@optonline.net
Anthony Celentano earned degrees in church music/organ and choral conducting at Westminster, and he earned a master’s degree in counseling in 1995 from Seton Hall University. Before assuming his current position, Anthony worked at Westminster, first in the counseling center and later in the admissions office. For the past eight years he has been a school counselor at Pope John XXIII High School in Sparta, N.J. Additionally, he runs the student information system software and makes the school schedule. Happily, he also manages to keep his hand in music by serving as music director at a small Presbyterian church in Succasunna, N.J., where he directs adult and children’s choirs and plays the organ.

Secretary
Nancy Taylor Ginsburg ’75
ntgmusic@gmail.com
With music always at the core of her being, Nancy Taylor Ginsburg has enjoyed careers in business, information technology and church music. A 1975 graduate of Westminster Choir College (voice principal, education certification), Nancy earned a master’s degree in Applied Mathematical Sciences at Rice University in 1986. Currently director of music ministries at Ashford United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, Nancy is also a student again, expecting to complete her Doctor of Worship Studies in 2012! At home, she and husband of more than 30 years, Roy, are currently sharing the house with two yorkie puppies.

Alumni Trustee
Dr. Mark C. DeMareo ’78
DeMareoM@newegypt.us
Mark DeMareo has served in various leadership positions in the Alumni Association including service as a district representative, secretary and president. He joined Rider University’s Board of Trustees in September 2006. He is currently a member of the Headmaster’s Association, a select group of 100 educators consisting of 75 American private school headmasters and 25 public school principals. For four years he served as co-chair of the Advisory Board at the Principal’s Center, Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Mark is superintendent of the Plumsted Township Schools in New Egypt, N.J. His honors include a Leonardo Da Vinci Institute Fellowship at Rutgers University and being selected as one of 10 recipients for a music fellowship to Northwestern University. Not least of his contributions are several New York appearances as keyboard artist for Westminster’s annual benefit event at the Racquet and Tennis Club in New York.

Past President
Dr. Brian D. Fogelson ’75
bfogelson@northwarren.org
After graduating from Westminster Choir College, Brian taught K–12 music in Lunenburg and Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada, for 13 years. His choirs and bands won numerous awards in music festivals and were chosen twice for cross-Canada exchanges. He also started computer programs in two schools and taught other subjects

(continued on page 19)
A Time to Celebrate!
2010 Alumni Reunions and Commencement

More than 250 Westminster alumni returned to campus to reconnect with classmates in May. In addition to the traditional Alumni Chapel Service, performances and choral reading sessions, the schedule included a panel discussion focusing on the current state of classical music. Led by Dean Robert Annis, the panel included Ann Meier Baker, president and CEO of Chorus America; David Osenberg, host of WWFM’s Cadenza program and a veteran of the recording industry and Peter Fretwell, general manager of WWFM, the Classical Network. Three Alumni Merit Awards were presented at the All-Alumni Luncheon. The recipients were Emily Magee ’87, Cj Sambach ’70 (posthumously) and Blake Henson ’05, MM’07. A Distinguished Alumni Merit Award was presented to John Burke ’40, MM’41. Another highlight was celebrating the 80th birthday of Lois Laverty ’51, MM’55, which included everyone singing the final chorus of Warren Martin’s *The True Story of Cinderella*.

The Princeton University Chapel was packed with excited family, friends and alumni as 140 graduates entered to the strains of Warren Martin’s Processional. David Robertson, music director of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and principal guest conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, delivered the Commencement address and Christian Carey, assistant professor of Music Composition, History, and Theory, delivered the Charge to the Graduating Classes.

Honorary doctorates were awarded to Maestro Robertson and Albert McNeil, the founder and conductor of the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers.

Check the Westminster Web site for additional Commencement and Reunion photos.
Lois Laverty ’51, MM’55 and Mark Husey ’91

Joseph Beck ’59 spoke about Westminster’s heritage at the Golden Encore luncheon.

Karen Lowder, Nancy Kahler Wright ’58, Martha Blackburn Lowder MM’55

Roommates from the Class of ’55 reunited: Eleanor Gomolinski-Lally and Josalee Morrell Birchfield

David Osenberg, Peter Fretwell, Ann Meier Baker

Andrew Monath ’93; Tony Thornton ’90, MM’91; Professor Stefan Young; Richard Spotts ’97, MM’00

Doug Renfroe ’70 and Dorothy Marcil
Visiting Artists Bring New Perspectives to Campus

More than 35 guest artists visited Westminster this year, bringing with them new perspectives and expertise in virtually every discipline. Some participated in the weekly Sacred Music Colloquium; others led classes, such as Opera Auditions. And, of course, some orchestral conductors worked with the Westminster Symphonic Choir in preparation for major performances. Listed below are some of the guests who visited campus this year.

Thomas Hampson  
Cynthia DeDakis  
Mark Miller  
Rev. Paul Jeanes III  
Patrick Evans  
James M. Butler  
Rebecca Thompson  
Peter Conte  
Lauren McFeaters  

John Adams  
Anne Fennell  
Michael Burkhardt  
Robin Leaver  
David Morrow  
Renee Norris  
Kip Rosser  
Ashlee Mack  
John McMurtrey

Roger Norrington  
Lenore Rosenberg  
Jeffrey Werbock  
Kirk O’Riordan  
Benjamin Zander  
Emily Mann  
Susan Ashbaker  
Bethany J. Collier  

Simon Carrington  
Maud Mary Hickey  
Judith Kuhn  
Adam Kantor  
Markus Flanagan  
Jeffrey Larson  
Mikael Eliason

Thomas Hampson performed Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Westminster Symphonic Choir and the Westminster Festival Orchestra, conducted by Joe Miller, in October. He returned to campus several weeks later to lead a master class with voice students. He’s pictured with soprano Katie Matheson.

Joe Miller reviewed the score of *El Niño* with composer and conductor John Adams in preparation for the Westminster Symphonic Choir’s performance at Carnegie Hall in December.

Simon Carrington worked with several choirs and recorded a Westminster-to-Go podcast. Listen at www.rider.edu/westminstertogo.

Sir Roger Norrington rehearsed for a performance and broadcast of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s at Carnegie Hall. You can listen on the Web at www.rider.edu/symphonicchoir.
Class Notes

36
Virginia Fischer ’36, who will be 98 years old in September 2010, sings in two choral groups: one every week and one every other week. She attributes her long life to singing.

49
Marjorie Casanova ’49 is 91 years old and retired from a church job. She spent three years in Tokyo, Japan, and taught music in Nigeria for three years.

51
Janice A. Clark ’51 will retire from her church job of 55 years, but will continue to accompany choirs.

53
Natasha Lutov ’53 is still conducting her Russian church choir and will sing the Verdi Requiem with Hunter College.

54
William F. Forrest ’54 is a retired Episcopal priest. He still serves part time at Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Sherman, Texas.

John B. Horner ’54, MM’55 is an elder in the Great Conewago Presbyterian Church of Hunterstown, Pa. On Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009, John’s church sang a hymn written by Richard Lapo ’54, MM’55, entitled Visions of God’s Presence Now. It was sung to the tune of St. Kevins.

55
Shirley J. Smith ’55 and her husband Herman have nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

56
David Wehr ’56, MM’57 and wife Nancy Stone Wehr ’56 have retired to Catonsville, Md., after spending 29 years in Houston, Texas. Nancy continues her volunteer work in music ministry and music education and David continues to guest conduct, most recently the premiere of Joe Utterback’s Missa Jaziss at First Congregational Church in Stratford, Conn.

57
David Harper ’57 has spent 52 years in music ministry in the Hartford area and has retired for the second time.

59
Carolyn A. Hatch ’59 received a Master of Music from Michigan State in ’63. She enjoys teaching overseas and has been to Senegal. She has also traveled to the Middle East (Istanbul and Bahrain) and Panama.

60
Robert Fraumann ’60, minister of music at the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Marietta, Ga., for the past 26 years, was invited by Senator Johnny Isakson to play piano at the 58th annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. More than 3,000 people attended, including 170 heads of state and our President, Vice President, Secretary of State and Speaker of the House. Bob played several songs, including a blend of Beethoven’s Fifth with How Great Thou Art and the Warsaw Concerto with God Be the Glory.

61
Richard Nice ’61 was recently featured in an article in the Bucks County Herald. After graduating from Westminster Richard became the organist and choir director of the Wicomico Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, Md., where he ran six choirs and taught 30 students in piano and organ. After 21 years of service, he left Salisbury to become organist and choir director of Solomon’s United Church of Christ in Bedminster, Pa. Last July, he celebrated his 25th year there.

62
Virginia Space Sheay ’62 is an associate at two Episcopal churches and was recently honored by the Diocese of New Jersey to become an Honorary Canon.
65
Michael Mae Irons ’65 has retired after 35 years of teaching in the Philadelphia school system. She started The Lawnside Music Studio, a music school for underprivileged youth ages 3–13, which offers group and private lessons on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon in Magnolia, N.J.

66
Jane Shaulis ’66 is celebrating her 19th season as principal artist at the Metropolitan Opera.

67
Robert T. Volbrecht ’67 retired on May 31, 2009, after 33 years as director of music ministries at Tustin Presbyterian Church in Tustin, Calif. He has been a driving force in promoting church music that is both theologically sound and of exceptional quality, taking the best of modern composers and classical literature. As an educator, Bob has molded and mentored some of the finest young voices in Southern Calif. When looking back on his years at Westminster, Bob credits singing in Warren Martin’s choir as pivotal in his training for a career in church music. To honor Bob, a work, titled *California Canticles: Magnificat and Nunc Dimiti*, by noted British composer Andrew Carter was commissioned and premiered at Bob’s final celebration of Evensong.

68
Bruce D. Campbell ’68 retired in 2007 and is currently teaching at Cazenovia College.

Elizabeth Hall Harmon ’68 played Buttercup in a Gilbert & Sullivan show this summer. She also gave a solo recital in Ocean Park, Maine.

69
Kenneth A. DeBoer ’69 and wife Sharon McCann DeBoer ’69 announce the installation of a new 72-rank Reuter pipe organ in the Sardis Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, N.C., where they have served as the directors of music ministries since 1996. This instrument, Opus No. 2233, was built by the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kan. Bill Klimus, MM’81, is the vice president of Reuter and was instrumental in all aspects of the design, installation and voicing of this instrument. The organ was featured as the cover story in the February issue of *The American Organist*. The DeBoers invite all alumni to visit the Sardis Church if they are ever in Charlotte.

On December 6, 2008 Ken played the piano at the White House as part of the holiday celebration in Washington, D.C. This is the second time Ken has played at the White House. The first time was for the 2004 holiday celebration. In addition, Ken and Sharon have prepared singers for both White House performances and also for The Capital Fourth Concert on the Mall in Washington, D.C., for the 4th of July celebration.

70
Nancy Beighley Strimel ’70 has a new address: 211 E. 125th Place, S. Jenks, Okla. 74037

71
Karen Stockard O’Malia ’71 has two new grandchildren: Scarlett Jane born in January and Amanda Molly born in October.

Albert Pendleton ’71 teaches at Frank K. Hehnley School in Clark, N.J.

72
Dr. Valerie B. Manning ’72 accepted a part-time organ position at Messiah Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City.

73
Rebecca Lapetina Cahill ’73 has retired after teaching for 33 years in Kingsport, Tenn., and Basking Ridge, N.J. Lucy Owen Hoyt ’73 completed her doctorate in voice performance at UNC-Greensboro.

Taylor Lamberth ’74 has retired after teaching elementary school for 32 years.

Edward E. Peirce ’74 is retired and living in Marietta, Ga. Drop him a line at comjji2006@yahoo.com.

Samuel Hutchison ’75 begins his fifth season as curator and principal organist for the Madison Symphony Orchestra’s Overture concert organ at the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, Wis. Built by Orgelbau Klais of Bonn, Germany, the Overture concert organ was the gift of Pleasant T. Rowland. Consisting of 72 ranks and three enclosed divisions, the instrument includes a 64’ Vox Balinae in the pedal division. Mr. Hutchison has appeared as soloist with the Madison Symphony in performances of the Poulenc Concerto for Organ, Strings & Timpani, numerous Handel concerti and Saint-Saëns’ Symphony No. 3, as well as in frequent solo recitals and hymn sings in Overture Hall. The instrument’s outreach and education programs were endowed with a $1 million gift from Diane Endres Ballweg and the Wayne Curtis & Maybelle Slavens Hall, and the Francis Vincent & Lettie von Kalweit Dunnebacke Organ Curatorship was established by an anonymous gift of $500,000. In the current season, Mr. Hutchison will be heard in performances of Respighi’s Fountains of Rome, Handel’s Concerto in F, Op. 4, No. 5 and the Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony.

Thomas Purviance ’74 gave Martha Stewart tips on buying and caring for orchids and showed an innovative basket planting technique when he appeared on her television show in January. Owner of the very successful Parkside Orchids in Ottsville, Pa., Purviance has returned to the piano after a 10-year hiatus. He will perform works by Chopin, Mozart and Schoenberg in Croatia in June. You can watch his appearance on the Martha Stewart Show on the Parkside Orchids Web site at www.parksideorchids.com.

Bill Perrot ’75 took his Annapolis Valley HS Honor Choir to Paris and Prague last summer.

Jennifer Yocum ’75 is director of a 50-person choir at a retirement community and director of a 20-person community choir, and she has been director of a church choir for 20 years. She gives private lessons and is an elementary music teacher.

Karen Grasso Colonnese ’77 is grandma to twin two-year-olds.

Marcia Sommers ’77 is celebrating the birth of West Chester native Samuel Barber in concerts and special events at the church where she serves as director of music and fine arts ministries, First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, where the Barber family was very active and where Samuel learned to play the organ (his funeral was held in that church in 1981 and Westminster Choir sang). In February she hosted Conspirare from Austin, Texas, and had Conspirare member Glenn Miller ’77, as a guest. First Presbyterian celebrated its third Weekend with the Arts March 5–7, with an art show and concerts featuring the music of Samuel Barber.

Katharin Rundus MM’78 has published a book, CANTABILE—A Manual about Beautiful Singing for Singers, Teachers of Singing and Choral Conductors. Her new textbook offers a fresh and comprehensive approach to vocal pedagogy and is a definitive source for individual singers, voice teachers and choral conductors. CANTABILE provides intricate illustrations, a complete glossary and extensive index and specific vocal exercises for every student and teacher. It is available at music retailers, bookstores and at www.PavanePublishing.com.
Kenrick S. Mervine ’79, MM’81 and Barbara Feldman Mervine ’79 recently celebrated the marriage of their oldest daughter, Amanda. Their son, Gabriel, is a thriving jazz trumpeter and their youngest daughter, Laken, who is at Colorado State University, is a competitive swing dancer.

Brenda Moore-Logan ’81 is teaching at Maxson Middle School in Plainfield, N.J. Her students presented the musical Broadway Santa in December with a chorus of more than 80 voices, dancers and actors. Her students also presented What If There Were No Black People for Black History month to rave reviews. Their spring concert featured a medley from Phantom of the Opera with the band, actors and dancers.

Jason Kent West ’82 participated in the Inaugural Service held prior to the Inauguration of President Obama and Vice President Biden. This by-invitation-only service was held at St. John’s Lafayette Square. Known as the “Church of Presidents” (every president since James Madison has worshipped there), the church was built in 1816 and is located across from the White House. In addition to the Obama and Biden families, others in attendance were members of the Cabinet, as well as friends of the new President, including Oprah Winfrey.

Jean Keister Kellogg MM’83 returned from Chicago to the Washington, D.C., area in January of 2008 to be the executive director of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, currently under construction at the Manassas, Va., campus of George Mason University. From 1999 to 2008, she was director of education at Lyric Opera of Chicago, managing programs that served more than 80,000 adults and children annually in the Chicago area. Ms. Kellogg has been a frequent lecturer on opera and arts education, recorded eight opera commentaries on CD through Lyric Opera of Chicago and moderated panels of artists for the company’s Discovery Series annually. She is the former acting executive director and dean of the Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C., one of the largest community music schools in the country. From 1986 to 1989 she was artistic administrator of Greater Miami Opera (now Florida Grand Opera), and she has been on the administrative staff of Chautauqua Opera, Westminster Choir College and Rochester Opera.

Catherine Krizan ’83 has been happily working as a school counselor for Mentor High School. She said “I know that I would not be the person I am without my Westminster education.” She also encourages everybody to join the Westminster Choir fan page on Facebook—www.facebook.com/westminsterchoir.

Christine Margitich Janis ’85 is the music director of the Walla Walla Choral Society. In December 2009 she conducted the ensemble’s first performance of Handel’s Messiah. She enjoys teaching voice, diction, voice performance and pedagogy.

Ted. W. Barr MM’88 and F. Anthony Thurman presented Noon Prayer organ recitals at Cologne Cathedral in August 2009 for audiences that exceeded 1,000. Their programs, which included works of Bach, Buxtehude, Franck, Schroeder, Thalben-Ball and Vierne, were played on the Cathedral’s Swallow’s Nest organ, built by Orgelbau Klais in 1999. The 30-ton organ hangs in the Nave on four reinforced steel rods mounted in the Cathedral ceiling. Barr and Thurman will return to Germany in 2010 for recitals at Mainz Cathedral. Until then, their performance engagements include recitals in the New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas, Princeton and Chicago. Ted is director of music at Trinity Presbyterian Church (USA) in Cherry Hill, N.J., and artistic director of the Trinity Community Concert Series. F. Anthony Thurman is music director at the Irvington Presbyterian Church (USA) in Cherry Hill, N.J., and director of development and communications at the National Headquarters of the American Guild of Organists in New York City.

Teresa E. Jaeschke ’88, MM’00 was married to Jonathan Stone in September of 2007. She teaches piano and accompanies her local school’s vocal and instrumental ensembles.
Darren N. Dailey ’89 reports that the Jacksonville Children's Chorus sang *Carmina Burana* with the Jacksonville Orchestra and chorus, conducted by John Carlson ’63, MM’64, and featured baritone soloist Leon Williams ’88. Darren will be guest conductor at Avery Fisher for the children’s chorus festival.

Barbara E. Shadis Caruso ’90 has a 10-month old daughter.

Timothy Cloeter MM’93, accepted a job at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. He is one of three full-time choral faculty members in the College of Musical Arts where he conducts the 120-voice Men’s Chorus that tours annually and the 50-voice A Cappella Choir, composed of all music majors. He also teaches two sections of an undergraduate conducting course, a graduate seminar and a choral literature course and coaches graduate students in recitals.

The university’s enrollment is about 20,000 students and the College of Musical Arts has 500 music majors (400 undergrads). There are 60 full-time music faculty members, and Timothy has two senior colleagues just in his specific field. In addition, the reputation of the CMA at BGSU is strong (the governor of Ohio identified it as a center of excellence, which has helped to shield it from most of the economic pressures affecting such state universities), and the faculty members all report great collegiality within the CMA and outstanding work by its administrators.

Rebecca Oswald ’98, is a composer and pianist. Her song “Regatta” on her *October Wind* CD was nominated for a 2009 Just Plain Folks Song Award in the Solo Piano category.

Marion Russell Dickson ’98 made her Carnegie Hall debut in a solo recital in March 2009.

Erica J. Washburn ’00 taught at the New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) in 2008 and 2009. In November 2008 she conducted Zone 7 of the NYSMA choir.

Danielle Talamantes ’01 has been offered a full cover contract with the Metropolitan Opera Company for the 2010–2011 season. She will be covering the role of Najade in Strauss’ *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Bridget Devlin Burke ’03 married Ian Albetski on October 31, 2009.

Karen Lebowitz Geiger ’04 and her husband Steven have a baby girl named Alexandra.

Pamela Stein ’04 sang the principal role of Julia Dehning in the world premier performance of Anthony Gatto and Jay Scheib’s new opera *The Making of Americans* at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Minn. In 2009 she sang in the premier performance of *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*, a new work for four singers, string orchestra and video by composer Jacob Cooper, as part of the *New Music, New Haven* series at the Yale School of Music. She was invited to give a recital at Yamaha Concert Hall in New York, where she performed works by George Crumb and gave the American premiere of a recent work by composer Erick Flores. Future performances include Monteverdi’s opera *L’incorozione di Poppea* with the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey and premiering a role in a new opera by American composer and conductor Robert W. Butts. Check her Web site www.pamelastein.net for details and for news about the return of Legally Brahms in 2010 and her upcoming multimedia new music recital at the College of Saint Elizabeth’s Dolan Performance Hall.

Blake Henson ’05, MM’07 has been commissioned by the United States Army to write music for a performance by the United States Army Band.
**Class Notes (continued)**

**06**

Monica Wallace ’06 is working toward a Master of Arts and Religion at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

**09**

Antoni Mendezona MM’09 made her European and television debut this fall in Hungary in a principal role in Tobias Picker’s opera *Emmaline*. Recently she covered a role at Dicapo Opera in the New York debut of Thomas Pasatieri’s *The Hotel Casa-blanca*. At the last minute she received a call that the soprano she was covering was ill, and she would have to go on in four hours (which was the final dress rehearsal with an invited audience). She had a 15-minute rehearsal with the maestro, sang through all the music for the very first time and went on stage immediately following the rehearsal. She ended up singing opening night as well. *The New York Times* critic wrote…

“Dicapo’s young, energetic cast deftly negotiated that balance, conveying both belly laughs and relatable pathos. In particular…Antoni Mendezona, a last-minute substitute as the hotel clerk Veronique, stole scenes with her pealing voice and bubbly personality.” According to Antoni, she is now nicknamed “the 11th hour!”

**In Memoriam**

Edward Rondthaler ’29 passed away on August 19, 2009.

Mildred Crowder Templeton ’45 passed away on September 2, 2009.


John Albert “Jack” Davis ’47 passed away on March 18, 2010.

Barbara Bair Hodges ’51 passed away on March 23, 2009.


R. Dale Peiffer ’53 passed away on September 12, 2009.

William King Hart ’56 passed away on March 7, 2009.

Martha P. Laverty ’58 passed away on July 22, 2008.

Donald G. Mason ’58, MM’59 passed away on April 26, 2009.

Robert J. Rooks ’59, MM’60 passed away on April 15, 2009.


Gail L. Walton ’76 passed away on February 24, 2010.

Mary Stuligross Dykhouse ’94 passed away on April 16, 2010.


Nicole Spencer Santrizos ’96 passed away on April 5, 2010.

Adrienne Bruchok Selgrath ’01 passed away on March 26, 2010.

**Former Faculty/Staff**


Information as of May 20, 2010
as well. In 1988, Brian moved to Florida and pursued graduate studies in education, earning a master’s degree in education from Stetson University and a doctorate in education from Florida State University (FSU). He worked for FSU and the Florida Department of Education before his appointment as assistant principal at Key West High School. Moving north in 1995, Brian became assistant principal and later principal at Catasauqua High School in Pennsylvania. In 2000, Brian began eight years of service to Delaware Valley Regional High School in Frenchtown, N.J. In July 2008, he became Superintendent of Schools for the North Warren Regional School District in Blairstown, N.J. Brian has served the Westminster alumni as district representative, class agent, vice president and president of the Alumni Council.

Alumni Council (continued from page 9)

Westminster Choir College Alumni Council

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Jaimie Gilhooley Flack ’77

Vice President
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District 6
Anthony Michael Celentano ’78, MM’80

District 7
Open Position

District 8
Scott Dettra ’97, MM’98

District 9
Robert A. Ivey, Jr. ’58, MM’59

District 10
Jaimie Gilhooley Flack ’77

District 11
Constance M. Fee ’71

District 12
Ben Foster Allaway MM’87

District 13
James Hejduk ’66

District 14
Open Position

Ex Officio
Natalie M. Pollard R ’93, R MA’98
Director of Alumni Relations

District details and Alumni Council member profiles are in the alumni section of the Westminster Web site: www.rider.edu/westminster.
Young Alumni Challenge

As a part of a new Young Alumni Participation Challenge, Ann Emmans ’55, James ’57 and Norma ’58 Chidester and Joseph G. Beck ’59 challenge Westminster’s Young Alumni, classes of 1999–2009, to give to The Westminster Fund. These four Westminster Choir College alumni will match all gifts made by young alumni, dollar for dollar, up to a total of $5,000. That means if you’re an alumnus/a from one of these classes and you make a $10 gift to The Westminster Fund, your gift will be matched—doubling your gift.

The challengers’ goal is to increase alumni participation, which is reviewed by foundations and corporations who are considering supporting Westminster. Already the challenge has set new benchmarks for participation. To date, participation by Westminster’s Young Alumni is just a few people shy of reaching 10 percent participation—an extraordinary accomplishment and doubling participation from the previous year!

The Challenge will run through Wednesday, June 30. Young Alumni can make a gift online at http://alumni.rider.edu/wccgive, by phone 609-896-5392, or by mail: Westminster Young Alumni Challenge, Annual Giving Office, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Photos on the Cover

Left column, top to bottom:

Rider University President Mordechai Rozanski (right) congratulates Albert McNeil after awarding him an honorary Doctor of Music at Westminster’s Commencement. Dr. McNeil is founder and conductor of the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers.

Elsie Hilliard Hillman ’48 and Louise Walker Resor—both descendants of Katharine Houk Talbott—began the holiday season at the annual Westminster Choir benefit concert and dinner at the Racquet and Tennis Club in New York. This year’s event will be Tuesday, December 7, 2010.

Westminster Conservatory student Jason Kiniko performed as part of the Barnes & Noble Bookfair held in Princeton Market Fair in May. A portion of each sale that day went to the Conservatory.

John Cloys ’07 and Katie Comstock ’06, MM’08 connected with classmates at the Young Alumni reception at Triumph Brewery in Princeton during Westminster Reunions in May.

Top, left to right:

Hope for Haiti: The Westminster community opened their hearts and their wallets for a student-organized benefit concert Spirit & Song: Hope for Haiti in May. Proceeds from the concert, which featured students, faculty and staff, went to Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church’s Harmony Ministries, aiding three different schools in Haiti, one of which is located directly in Port-au-Prince. Student Cristina Lenore DiMuro was one of many who signed a banner that was sent to one of the schools, along with a DVD of everyone attending the performance singing the Lutkin Benediction.

The Flower of Beauty CD.

Renowned baritone Thomas Hampson worked with student Elise Brancheau during his master class on campus in November.

The Chorus Leadership Guide.