with Musica da Camera, Piazzola with the Chamber Orchestra, and even Fallout Boy with Forteffect. My love of language eventually led to a second major—this one in English, in which I’ve enjoyed being frequently confounded by the subtleties and mysteries of literary communication.

“My junior year I spent in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh. In addition to studying English literature in its birthplace, I enjoyed incredible musical opportunities. I studied violin with Michael Rigg of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, who took me from Prokofiev Sonatas to the Beethoven Violin Concerto. I was named co-concertmaster of the Edinburgh University Chamber Orchestra, conducted by David Watkin of the Eroica String Quartet. I also performed with the University Symphony Orchestra and with the Scottish Sinfonia, Scotland’s premier semi-professional orchestra.

“After Muhlenberg? I plan to continue on to postgraduate work, either in transnational or intercultural communication, or in international law. My long-term goal, though perhaps vague, includes study of cultures different from my own and using the written word to take part in their respective dialogues. Few things fascinate me more than the way written language can be used simultaneously to understand and to join cultural conversations. Wherever my academic interests lead, the violinist in me will not fail to make music an integral part of my involvement in whatever community I call my own.”
Departmental Headlines

We welcome the return of Dr. Karen Hiles, Assistant Professor of Music. Dr. Hiles, who received the ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Recent Doctoral Recipients fellowship, spent the 2010-2011 academic year as a Mellon/ACLS Postdoctoral Scholar-Fellow at the University of California at Davis.

Dr. Andrew Oster, who taught for us in Dr. Hiles’ absence, will be Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Haverford College next year.

We also welcome the return of Dr. Douglas Owens from a Spring sabbatical which saw the premier of one of his works by the Allentown Symphony. He also composed the music for the Theatre Department’s production of Orlando. Details below (p. 3).

Hearty congratulations to Dr. Ted Conner on his promotion to Professor!

With the retirement of Jeremy Slavin (see article below), Ed Bara becomes the director of the College Choir and the Chamber Singers. Megan Monaghan will direct the Opera Workshop in Spring, 2012.

BOOM held elections at the end of the Spring, 2011, semester, and the Executive Board members for the coming year are President: Ryan Zitofsky; Vice-President: Amy Osika; Treasurer: Gillian Irwin; Secretary: Melinda Clemmer; Public Relations: Erica Rosenbaum. BOOM welcomes all Muhlenberg students with an interest in music.

BOOM is an acronym for the Berg Organization of Music. It also represents a musical sound!

Jeremy Slavin

The end of the 2010-2011 academic year also saw the end of an era at Muhlenberg. After 39 years of service to Muhlenberg College, Jeremy Slavin announced his retirement and has now begun the next phase of his life.

Jeremy came to Muhlenberg in 1972. Over the years, he taught hundreds of voice students and conducted the College Choir and the Opera Group. He started the Chamber Singers, an elite choral ensemble that sings particularly challenging repertoire. And, with Charles Richter and Curtis Dretsch, he founded the Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre, serving as its Music Director for many years.

On Friday, May 6, 2011, Jeremy was given a rousing send-off by his colleagues and his students. And, fittingly, at the end of final exams, he was off to New York City for a long weekend of plays and operas. We thank Jeremy for his invaluable contributions to the Music Department and the lives of our students. We will miss him, but we wish him well!

Jeremy doing what he did best – Teaching!
Focus on Faculty/Staff: Douglas Ovens

Spring and Summer were busy and productive for Douglas Ovens. In March, his Concert Fanfare: Endless Possibilities was premiered by the Allentown Symphony. Commissioned as part of the Symphony’s 60th Anniversary Celebration, the piece honored the family of Judge James Knoll Gardner and his wife, Linda Kay Gardner. In April, Dr. Ovens composed the music for the Theatre Department’s production of Virginia Woolf’s Orlando. Also, selected works from Dr. Ovens’ CDs have been broadcast recently over RadioArts Indonesia: Play Us A Tune for soprano and orchestra in May and Moving Image for piano in August.

Dr. Ovens spent most of the summer as the composition instructor for the Summer Arts Program of the Accademia dell’Arte in Arezzo, Italy. His music composition course was called “The Sonic Landscape” and was taught in the unique setting of the Villa Godiola, a 16th century villa overlooking the Tuscan countryside.

Students composed music for dance, for theater scenes, for film and also wrote chamber pieces in an intensive six-week course. In addition to individual composition lessons, the students participated in score study seminars and frequent readings of their sketches. Student work was presented both in a final concert at the Villa and in “site-specific” dance performances in various locations around Arezzo. Dr. Ovens will return to Arezzo next June to teach the course again.
Alumni News – 2011 Graduates

Our 2011 graduating class looks forward to a bright future. Immediate plans for some of our music majors and minors include:

Victoria Ahrens is on the West Coast beginning work on a PhD in Ethnomusicology at UCLA. Tori, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, is the recipient of a Cota Robles Fellowship. Tori was featured in our Fall, 2010, newsletter.

Stephen Brickman is employed as the Youth Director at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA.

Haley Brown has begun an internship with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in Newark.

Westminster Choir College welcomed Steven Finkelstein as he moved to Princeton, NJ, to begin work on a Masters of Vocal Performance and Pedagogy.

As a Language Assistant in Teaching English under the auspices of the Council on International Educational Exchange, Maura Golebiowski is living in Andalucia, Spain. Maura is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated Summa Cum Laude in May.

As he prepares for a career that will draw on his Anthropology major, Dylan High, a Summa Cum Laude graduate who also majored in Music, is attending the University of Washington for an M.A. in Museum Studies.

The University of Pennsylvania welcomes William Konicki as he begins work on a DMD in Dental Medicine. Bill was featured in our Spring, 2011, newsletter. A Dana Scholar, Bill received the Bachelor of Arts and Science – Dual Degree in May.

Sarah Messbauer has received both a teaching assistantship and a music department fellowship at the University of California at Davis, where she is beginning work on a PhD in Ethnomusicology. Sarah double majored in Music and Anthropology and graduated with Honors in Anthropology.

Hannah Winckelmann is pursuing MAT plus K-12 Music Certification as part of a Master in Teaching in Music at Montclair State University in New Jersey.

David Yoo is at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO, where he’ll pursue a Master of Divinity.

We congratulate the Class of 2011 on their many accomplishments and wish them well as they begin new endeavors!!
Fall 2011 Calendar of Events

September

17, Saturday, 4 pm, Recital Hall – Alumni Recital: Katrina Holden ’05, soprano, with Vincent Trovato, piano

20, Tuesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Jazz Recital: Gary Rissmiller, drums, Tom Kozic, guitar

22, Thursday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Galen Abdur-Razzaq, jazz flutist

23, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series Recital: Hanchien Lee (admission charge)

October

16, Sunday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – College Choir, directed by Ed Bara

21, Friday, 8 pm, Baker Theatre – Carducci Quartet: co-sponsored by the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem (admission charge)

23, Sunday, 3 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Michael Toth, piano, with guest artists – Quartet for the End of Time

November

4, Friday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – First Student Recital

5, Saturday, 5 pm, Egner Chapel – Collegium Musicum, directed by Elizabeth Conner

8, Tuesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improv Concert, directed by Tom Kozic

9, Wednesday, 4:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Second Student Recital

9, Wednesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improv Concert, directed by Tom Kozic

11, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series Recital: Alon Goldstein (admission charge)

18, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Chamber Orchestra, directed by Daniel Boring

19, Saturday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Musica da Camera, coached by Dr. Diane Follet

Cont’d. on p. 6...
November, cont’d.

19, Saturday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Wind Ensemble, directed by Al Neumeyer
21, Monday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Third Student Recital

December

2, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Jazz Ensemble, directed by Tony Gairo
3, Saturday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Lehigh Saengerbund Christmas Concert (free-will offering)
5, Monday, 6:30 pm, Location TBA – Chamber Singers Advent Concert
10, Saturday, 7:30 pm, Egner Chapel - Candlelight Carol Services (no charge, but tickets required)
11, Sunday, 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Candlelight Carol Services (no charge, but tickets required)

Please note: these events are subject to change. For the latest information, consult the College Calendar online.

Unless otherwise noted, admission is free. Call 484-664-3363 for further information.
Disney Worlds

Dr. Karen Hiles describes her new First Year Seminar to be offered in Spring, 2012:

“Nearly 18 million people visit Disney World’s Magic Kingdom in Orlando every year, making the theme park one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Of the top ten highest-grossing films of all time, four have been Disney productions. Clearly, Disney claims much of our leisure time and many of our leisure dollars.

“In this interdisciplinary, writing-intensive seminar, we will investigate Disney’s role in shaping the many worlds – physical, social, commercial – that we inhabit daily. We will explore how Disney stories and values have constructed the world beyond the park boundaries and away from the movie screens, from the redevelopment of Times Square in the 1990s to your younger sister’s princess phase.

“To chart this ever-expanding cultural geography, we will examine Disney theme parks, marketing materials, and feature-length films (including Fantasia, Beauty and the Beast, Enchanted, and Toy Story 3). These primary texts will be supplemented by readings from cultural studies and critical theory to help us develop our own perspectives on Disney’s representations of nature, race, gender, love, violence, progress, individualism, family, and nation. By the end of the semester, students will

Cinderella’s Castle

have developed a sophisticated understanding of the multiple, often surprising, ways in which Disney is ‘part of your world.’”

Music exalts life, enhances life, and gives it meaning . . . It is an irreplaceable, undeserved, transcendental blessing.

~Anthony Storr, Music and the Mind

Music at Muhlenberg,

Diane Follet, Editor,
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We hope you have enjoyed reading about us. If you have ideas for articles, alumni news, or comments about this newsletter, please contact the Editor at dfollet@muhlenberg.edu.

We’re on the Web:
http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/academics/music/