



# Take Note!

Noteworthy Headlines from the  
College of the Ozarks Music Department



## College Music Department Represented at MMEA

Every year Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach hosts the Missouri Music Educators Association conference (MMEA). Members of this association come from all over the state to attend workshops for professional development, do group readings of new music, browse the vendors to see what they have to offer, and listen to outstanding musical performances. This year, one of the performances included the Missouri All-Collegiate Choir. Colleges and Universities state-wide selected up to eight participants to represent their college. Those selected from College of the Ozarks included the following: Megan Campbell, Daniel Cummings, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Lindsay Fitzpatrick, Ethan Hall, Jachin Mann, Ashley Pack, and Justin Schrock. Students had the valuable opportunity to sing difficult repertoire with fine singers from other schools.

Said students were under the direction of Dr. Richard Sparks. Dr.



*Above: Students pose with clinician Dr. Richard Sparks*

Sparks has just taken a position as Professor of Music at the University of North Texas, where he conducts the Chamber Choir and Collegium Singers, and teaches a variety of academic courses. He is a clinician that has worked in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Students felt very blessed to have the opportunity to work with such a prestigious conductor. Not only is it a good experience for every singer to be in front of a different conductor, but also for those who hope to conduct in the future. By learning new rehearsal and conducting techniques from a master teacher, future conductors are able to learn a variety of useful skills.

*Left: Professors perform with professional ensemble*



*Right: Associate Professor of Music, Lynda Jesse poses with student workers: Dominique Bennett and Sadie Huff*

The college was also represented by a booth in the vending section of the conference. Senior Dominique Bennett and Sophomore Sadie Huff spent several days at the conference speaking to potential students.

Students were not the only ones present to represent College of the Ozarks. Bob Smither, brass professor, and James Goldapp, woodwind professor, were in the Missouri Educators Jazz Ensemble. As a teacher, one should never cease to seek every available opportunity to perform and develop professionally so naturally, this was an exciting moment for both Smither and Goldapp. The department was proud to be well represented by our teachers and their desire to expand their musicianship. All participants had a wonderful time and look forward to returning to this event in the future.



# Jazz Combo Buys Celebrity Jacket



**Brad  
Pitt's  
Jacket**

On Saturday, January 22, 2011 the College of the Ozarks Jazz Combo played for a charity event hosted by Tony Orlando at the Payne Stewart Golf Club. The event was held to raise awareness of poor water sanitation in Ethiopia and a fund raising opportunity for building wells to provide clean water for thousands. The combo was made up of Leslie McCullough, Grant Allen, Andy Petry, Andrew Asche, Brice Maynard, and Isaiah Cadena. They

performed standards such as "All of Me" and "Mr. Clean." Tony Orlando even sang "Summertime" with McCullough. Orlando was very complimentary of the group!

Silent auctions went on as the combo entertained. The evening finished with a live auction of articles from Ethiopia, and two genuine jackets, owned and worn by Brad Pitt. The first jacket sold for \$750. The last jacket was a Burberry Brit black leather coat. The coat

retailed at \$5,500.00. The combo themselves pitched in and bought this jacket along with a certificate of authenticity for \$625 total, split among the six of them. They have hopes of reselling the jacket to turn a profit. The Food and Beverage Manager was impressed with the talent of the group and hopes to have them back at the club during the tourist season.



**Above and Below: Students rehearse opening number**



**Left: It's not all work and no play; students have a different dress up theme for every rehearsal**

## Students Put on Musical

Every spring the music and theatre departments team up to perform a musical. This spring the musical of choice is Cole Porter's *Kiss Me, Kate*. Part of what makes this musical so interesting is

that it is a play within a play. Cole Porter captured Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, and put it to music while giving the audience a glimpse of backstage life for cast and crew.

Students, community members, and faculty work five nights a week on stage, in the dance studio, or in the choir room in order to bring this story to life. Cast members involve many music and musical theatre majors such as Ashley Pack as Lilly Vanessi, Ashley Bench as Lois Lane, Kyle Bradley as Bill Calhoun,

Courtney Roe as Hattie, and many others in the chorus. The orchestra includes over a dozen members, also mostly music majors. *Kiss Me, Kate* is being directed by Lisa Young and conducted by Gregg Busch. Danielle Ryan is the assistant musical director. Student Ethan Hall is helping with orchestra rehearsals, learning the ropes of conducting a musical, and will also be playing in the pit. *Kiss Me, Kate* is a challenge for all members of the production, but everyone is anticipating opening night! Performances will run March 4-8. For ticket information please call 417-690-2466.



## The New Faces of Keeter

This semester we are very blessed to have four new music majors in our Music department here at C of O. Each of these individuals brings a fantastic personality with them and their attitudes add to the bright ambience of the music office. We are excited to see what the rest of the semester holds!



Daniel Cummings is a sophomore music major from Willow Springs, MO.



Elizabeth Clark is a freshman music major from Clay Center, KS.



Lyndi Samson is a freshman music major with an emphasis in piano from St. Charles, MO.



Andy Petry is a sophomore music major from Cedar Hill, MO.

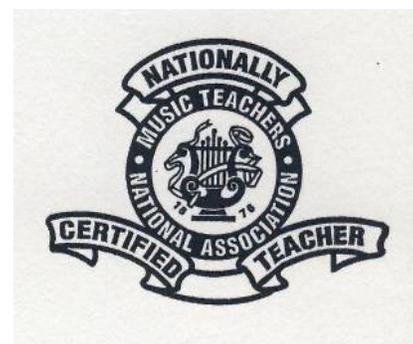
**“I am very excited to see how the new Piano Emphasis and student organization develops! It will add so much to the whole music department!” - Dr. Dwayne Huff**

## MTNA and Exciting New Piano Emphasis

The College of the Ozarks Music Department continues to grow and this means the faculty have a responsibility to continue to find ways to better serve the talented music students that God brings through our doors. There are many new exciting opportunities for students to explore and as of December of 2010, there is a new emphasis available to music majors—Piano. In addition to the existing Music Major Emphases (Music Education, Music Ministry, and General Emphasis), students can now earn either a Bachelor of Arts or Sciences in Music with a Piano Emphasis. The coursework for the new emphasis includes Applied Piano, Piano Pedagogy (piano teaching), Piano Literature, Keyboard Improvisation, and Piano Chamber

Ensemble. The goal of the new emphasis is to provide pianists who come to College of the Ozarks with a preparatory program that will train them to be able to function as professionals in several areas: as teachers in the professional piano studio, as church pianists, and as accompanists. The new emphasis will also serve as an excellent preparation for students who want to pursue a graduate degree in piano. In addition to the new emphasis, the department now offers a student organization for students interested in studio teaching. The College of the Ozarks Collegiate Chapter of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) will give students access to professional development opportunities that are offered by the MTNA.

Some of the activities planned for the new organization include recitals in the music building, an annual music festival for Branson-area studio teachers, and other outreach events for the campus and community. “I am very excited to see how the new Piano Emphasis and student organization develops! It will add so much to the whole music department,” said Dr. Dwayne Huff, assistant professor of music and sponsor of the new student organization. “Hopefully it will complement our other excellent programs and make us even more effective in training future music professionals.”



## Dom Bennett



**High School:** Central High School

**Favorite Food:** Italian

**Favorite Color:** Blue

**Favorite Artists:** Death Cab for Cutie/ Amos Lee

**Favorite Song:** In the Arms of a Woman by Amos Lee

**Random Fact:** Has lost 140 lbs. since coming to C of O in August 2007



**From left: Dr. Carol Christopher, Ms. Lynda Jesse, and Dr. John Mizell. Jesse has been Dom's Voice Teacher since 2007. Both Dr. Christopher and Dr. John Mizell have been mentors to him.**

Dom is a Business Administration/ Management major from Springfield Missouri. He has been involved in music since the sixth grade. He sang in a gospel choir for nine years, was in the Chamber Choir and Concert Choir all four years of high school, Chorale all four years of college, and in Chapel Choir for a semester. In high school he was in the musicals *The Music Man*, *Fame*, and *The Wiz*. He will also be in the spring production of *Kiss Me Kate*.

Some of Dom's musical achievements include: Missouri State University Outstanding Vocalist 2006, recipient of MSU Vocalist Scholarship 2006 and 2007, receiving ones every year for solos at state, and making All-District Honor Choir every year of high school. Since coming to college, Dom won his division of Springfield NATS in 2009, placed second at NATS in 2010, and advanced to semi-finals at State NATS in 2010. He has also been asked to sing the National Anthem for the NAIA Championship game for 3 years. Dom went with the Chorale to Austria in 2007, to Washington DC, Philadelphia, and New York City with the Chapel Choir in 2010, and will be going to Italy with the Chorale this spring.

After graduation, Dom will be moving to Orange County, California to work as a banker for J. P. Morgan Chase. He will be singing at Saddleback Church and auditioning for local opera companies.

## 2010-11 Senior Highlights

### Caleb Lawson



**Favorite Color:** Blue

**Favorite Food:** Tacos

**Favorite Artist:** Rachmaninoff

**Favorite Song:** Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto

**Instrument:** Piano/Organ



Caleb Lawson is a Senior Music Major from Hopewell, Illinois where he graduated from Midland High School. He has been the Chapel Choir accompanist for several semesters and has also performed with the Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, and Concert Band. He also has musical experience where he was a part of *Frankenstein*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Seussical* as a pit member.

Caleb is the proud recipient of the Music Alumni Scholarship and also the worthy President of the C of O student chapter of MTNA (Music Teacher's National Association). A student with a history of astounding academic achievement, Caleb has maintained a 4.0 college GPA which has placed him on the prestigious "President's List" and "Who's Who of American College Students".

One of Caleb's most memorable experience's would be the opportunity that he had to accompany the Chapel Choir on a trip to New York and Washington D.C. His future plans are to study Piano Pedagogy at Missouri State University and eventually teach piano at a college and work as a church musician.



# Danielle Ryan

## Where Are They Now?

*Music Alumni Association*

Danielle Ryan graduated from College of the Ozarks in 2002 with a degree in General Music. As a student, she was involved in the handbell choir, chorale, and concert band. Since then, she has been working for Wyndham and Spinnaker resorts as an Activities Manager/Supervisor for the past nine years. In her spare time, she is accompanist for local schools including Spokane and Hollister High Schools. She also accompanied C of O students for the State NATS competition. She has been involved with Tri-Lakes Community Theatre since graduation as an accompanist and/or director.

Danielle feels privileged to have been involved in every College of the Ozarks musical production since 1998 with the exception of one. She even played bassoon for the college's production of *Into the Woods*. For the last three years she has enjoyed sharing musical director duties with Gregg Busch, and looks forward to being involved in musicals in the future.



## Workers Bond

Every semester the Music Department office workers enjoy a retreat at Professor Dr. Bruce Gerlach's resort, Tall Pines, in Blue Eye. Usually, students get together for an evening barbecue, but since there were so many new people in the office this semester, office boss Dom Bennett thought it important to have an overnight retreat to better get to know each other. Shortly after arriving, Bennett and Sadie Huff cooked dinner for the rest of the workers. After everyone had eaten, the jam session started. Grant Allen, Andy Petry, and Lyndi Samson played the guitar as everyone else sang. The session covered everything from Leonard Cohen to Little Big Town to Barlowgirl. As everyone knows, playing games is one of the best ways to break the ice.

Dr. Gerlach came and made kettle corn for the students to snack on and played Taboo with the group. *The Pianist* was the movie of choice to wind down the exciting evening. The next morning Bennett got up early and made a delicious breakfast. The retreat was a huge success and many workers said they could not wait for next semester's retreat! The music workers grew closer together and were blessed beyond measure to be able to spend that time in the midst of God's creation.



# Keeter Center Performers

*Friday, February 11— Anna Zachary and Ashley Pack,  
Piano/Vocals*

*Saturday, February 12— Grant Allen, Piano/Vocals*

*Sunday, February 13, Lyndi Samson, Piano/Vocals*

*Thursday, February 17— Daniel Cummings and Sadie  
Huff, Piano/Vocals*

*Friday, February 18— Caleb Lawson and Dominique  
Bennett, Piano/Vocals*

*Saturday, February 19— Grant Allen, Piano/Vocals*

*Sunday, February 20— Anna Zachary and Ashley  
Pack, Piano/Vocals*

## Dobyns

**Thursday:**  
6:00-8:00pm  
**Friday/Saturday:**  
5:30-8:00pm  
**Sunday:**  
10:30-1:30pm

*Thursday, February 24— Daniel Cummings and  
Sadie Huff, Piano/Vocals*

*Friday, February 25— Grant Allen, Piano/Vocals*

*Saturday, February 26— Caleb Lawson  
and Dominique Bennett, Piano/Vocals*

*Sunday, February 27— Elizabeth Clark,  
Piano/Vocals*

*Thursday, March 3— Elizabeth Clark, Piano/Vocals*

*Friday, March 4— Anna Zachary and Ashley Pack,  
Piano/Vocals*

*Saturday, March 5— Daniel Cummings and Sadie  
Huff, Piano/Vocals*

We invite you to join us at the Keeter Center at any opportunity you have! We welcome and encourage your comments, complaints, suggestions, and of course, compliments. Please fill out a comment card or email the Keeter Center or the Music Department and we will accommodate your needs as best we can!

# Upcoming Events

*February 13— Springfield Symphony Orchestra—  
Keeter Center, Royal Oak Forum, 2:15 pm*

*February 23— Music Department Student Recital  
Newman Recital Hall, 4:00 p.m.*

*March 4-8— Spring Musical  
Jones Auditorium, 7:30/2:30 p.m.*

*March 9— Music Department Student Recital  
Newman Recital Hall, 4:00 p.m.*



The Music Department Newsletter *Take Note* is now being distributed only electronically.

### Contact Us!

Feel free to call or e-mail us with your questions or comments regarding our department or the college.

[music@cofo.edu](mailto:music@cofo.edu)

Student Work Office: (417) 690-2244

