Cirque de Variété is a student-run variety show that is put on annually by the theatre department. However, this year they have teamed up with the music department to give an even greater show. The audience got to see everything from dance routines to Broadway medleys. Songs from well known shows such as: *Fiddler on the Roof, Guys and Dolls*, and *Les Misérables* were performed by the Chorale, accompanied by Margaret Ericson. Vocal solos and duets were also featured within the course of the show. The medleys were conducted by student conductors, Diane Chapman and Gessica Renyer, and staged by the Directing II Class, Zach Umfleet, Amber Revak, and Kyle Bradley.

Concert Band provided opportunities for student conductors Sarah Westerfield and Amber Holtcamp as they presented musical numbers from the motion picture entitled *Gladiator* and the hit Broadway musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*. All of the dance numbers in the show were choreographed by students in the Theatre Department, with the exception of a solo dance number performed by Lezlie Young, daughter of professors Mark and Lisa Young. The Lighting Design class designed the special effects and lights for each number. When asked about the event, Junior Kyle Bradley stated, “It has been a welcomed challenge and a great learning experience. Everyone has put in a lot of time and effort to make it a great show!”
**Ashley Pack**

Ashley Pack is a senior Vocal Education Major who has been very involved with the music department. She has been the music office manager for the past year, and has served as section leader with the chapel choir and chorale. During her time in chapel choir, Ashley has had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC, Philadelphia, NYC. As a member of chorale, Ashley performed at the MMEA conference and was a member of the tour to Italy. Other activities and honors include her participation in the 2011 Missouri All-Collegiate Honor Choir and performed major roles in CofO musicals. Ashley received the Muriel and Carl E Bolte Scholarship, the Wayne Konga Scholarship, and the Music Alumni Scholarship. She says that her most memorable musical experience would have to be singing in a church at Ground Zero. Ashley has also had the opportunity to sing in Chorale with the Springfield Symphony, i.e. Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, and most recently, the Brahms Requiem. When she graduates, she intends to get her Master’s Degree, but first she wants to travel and per-

**Favorite Food: Italian!**
**Hometown: Sherwood, Arkansas**
**Major: Vocal Music Ed.**
**Vocal Part: Soprano**

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**Ringing in the Spring**

Thursday, May 3rd, there will be handbell concert in the Royal Oaks Forum at the Keeter Center at 7 pm. This handbell concert will include not only the CofO Handbell Choir, but also the Westminster Ringers from the First Presbyterian Church and the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Handbell Choir. The College of the Ozarks Handbell Choir has been under the direction of Marilyn Droke since 1985. The choir has traveled extensively throughout Missouri and neighboring states. They have also traveled abroad to perform. The Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Handbell Choir is a relatively new handbell choir, founded in 2006. This choir is also under the direction of Marilyn Droke. The individual handbell choirs will be doing their own pieces, but there will also be a number of pieces using the combined choirs.
Faculty Focus

Dr. Lana Ness

Dr. Lana Ness serves as an Adjunct Faculty in the Vocal Music Department. She is also the mother of two, the grandmother of 16, and an ordained minister. Out of all the wonderful musical experiences she has been blessed with, she says “I can’t really highlight the one that really stands out… My work with the Dallas Opera, my recording studio experiences, and my commercial music experience have all been priceless.” She holds a Masters Degree in Music; a Masters Degree in Theology and a Doctorate in Sacred Music. Dr. Ness also served as an elementary and secondary music educator in multiple school districts in Texas.

Dr. Ness enjoys working with people, and loves to see them become all that the Lord would like them to be. She believes in diligence and stewardship as a lifestyle.

For over 35 years, College of the Ozarks has held their very own music festival. The festival has “served thousands of music students and directors by providing a unique musical and educational experience.” Most music festivals are competitions, but not the festival hosted here. The College of the Ozarks Music Festival is instead an educational experience where students receive instant feedback on their performances by experienced and knowledgeable judges such as: Dr. Bruce Gerlach, Dr. Lana Ness, Greg Busch, and Bob Smither. These judges do not only give feedback, they also give a hands on clinic with the ensembles, teaching them even further. The festival took place on Thursday, April 19 until Saturday, April 21 with more than 25 schools participating.
Keeter Center Performers
Dobyns Dining Hall

Thursday, May 3— Amber McDowell
Friday, May 4— Hannah Mahan
Saturday, May 5— Noah Fry
Sunday, May 6— Anna Zachary

Thursday, May 10— Noah Fry
Friday, May 11— Elizabeth Clark
Saturday, May 12— Elizabeth Clark
Sunday, May 13— Amber McDowell

Hannah Mahan

Upcoming Events

May 1-2— Cirque de Variete, 8 pm, Jones
May 3— Handbell Concert, Royal Oak Forum, 7pm

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.

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