

SPRING 2010

Music Department News

California State University, Dominguez Hills

Dr. Sally Etcheto: Lyle E. Gibson Dominguez Hills Distinguished Teacher Award Winner

The high-fives are still echoing around LaCorte Hall in celebration of Sally's distinction. But the award transcends the confines of music classes and offices, spotlighting the campus, and the entire community which it serves. "Dr. Sally", as she is also known by her dedicated students, has spent an entire career of music direction, singing, teaching, and assisting students and colleagues in creating a legacy of distinction. The accolades of her fellow teachers only begin to illustrate her dedication and accomplishments at Dominguez Hills.

"A true mentor to her students," Dr. Etcheto "has exhibited an extraordinary tenacity of purpose . . . and is a true leader." She "combines her pedagogical skill with an interest in the well being and progress of her students that goes well beyond what is required of a faculty member," and she is "a rare individual who combines mastery knowledge of her subject matter, vocal music, with an innate ability to understand how students best acquire knowledge."

CSUDH Professor emeritus Dr. Frances Steiner has known Sally for over thirty years and states unequivocally that she exceeds all of the criteria set for the award. "She has complete mastery of the subject material; she organizes and communicates this knowledge clearly, and takes a very active interest in the progress of her students."



Dr. Sally Etcheto receives the Lyle E. Gibson Dominguez Hills Distinguished Teacher Award from CSUDH President Dr. Mildred Garcia and Faculty Senate President Dr. Munashe Furusa

Congratulations to Dr. Etcheto, a high school valedictorian from Pratt, Kansas where she began assisting the school's choral director, an outstanding Doctorate of Musical Arts graduate in voice from the University of Southern California, and now a distinguished teacher. The CSUDH community thanks you.



Mu Phi Epsilon District Conference: October 31, 2009 at California State University Fullerton

The opportunity to join a music honor society is a privilege extended to those who demonstrate dedication, love, and pride in the ideas and beliefs of Mu Phi Epsilon. I had the honor of being invited into this fraternity, which supports my idea of music as being a bond of love, friendship, and harmony. In music terminology, harmony is the pleasant combination of different notes played at the same time. It is also people living in harmony with each other; living together peacefully rather than fighting or at war.

The pledge ceremony was a beautiful celebration emphasizing love for music and the bond that we share. Introduced to the silver Alumni members, I found they too shared the same concepts that I had developed. We waited an entire day to be pledged into the fraternity. Finally, the time came to make our lifetime pledge. Pledged into the fraternity, I became more inspired impact others through music.

The main idea expressed in our fraternity's belief is: "The advancement of music in the community, in the nation, and in the world, through the promotion of musicianship, scholarship, and music education, with an emphasis on service through music." It matters less whether you are a musician or not. Music has the power

to lift our spirits when we are sad, make us cheerful when we are worried, and reassure us when we are distressed. As Confucius said, "Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without."

- Lourdes Aguilar

Members from the PSW District II chapters joined to celebrate the unity of our International Honor Fraternity, Mu Phi Epsilon, the Gamma Sigma Chapter from CSUDH participated in the conference. The first fraternity conference



Enjoying a great meal with our new Mu Phi members: Adan Alonso, Amanda Chaves, Josue Aguilar

I attended was for my initiation as a new member, three years ago at CSUDH. It was a large celebration with music, lectures, performances and the initiation. It was very revealing to me as a new freshmen student pursuing a B.A. in Music Education. It was also my first exposure to professional musicians and performers who were also teachers working in my future career field of Music Education.

As an active member of Gamma Sigma Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, I am very honored to be joined by even brighter, higher achieving Music majors and minors. My experience at the Mu Phi conference was broader and enlightening. I was more aware of the different genres of music performed and the vocabulary used throughout the event. I was pleased to see high quality performances by two of our own students from Gamma Sigma Chapter, alto saxophonist Josue Aguilar and Shaun Whited on Guitar. The performances by the Fullerton chapter were excellent. I enjoyed the exquisite performance by the Fullerton chapter bassoon player; the lower register instrument played with astonishing technique intrigued me. I enjoyed the serious yet amusing presentation by guest speaker, Dr.

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Featured *Students*

Aldo Martinez Wins Annual Concerto Competition

This year Aldo Martinez, a junior music education major, became the first saxophonist to win the Carson/Dominguez Hills Symphony's annual concerto competition. He performed Darius Milhaud's *Scaramouche* for Alto Saxophone on Thursday, February 11 at three children's concerts at the Carson Center for over 1,000 LAUSD elementary school students. On Saturday, February 13 Aldo again played *Scaramouche* on the Carson Dominguez Hills Symphony's Subscription concert at the CSUDH University theater. There he joined his applied music professor, Dr. Richard Kravchak, on the program. Dr. Kravchak was the oboe soloist in the American Premiere of the Carlo Passler Concerto for Oboe and Clarinet.



Aldo is a 2006 graduate of Canoga Park High School, where he was instrumental in helping his school to win two LAUSD all-city band and drill team championships.

CSUDH Music Composition major Adán Alonso

Award winning McNair Scholar Adán Alonso appeared at the College Music Society's Pacific Southwest Chapter conference held at CSUDH in March, presenting research on one of the most important Latin Jazz musicians of the 20th century. His paper, "Cachao's Elegua: Yoruban/Lucumi Performance Practice in the Music of Israel Lopez Cachao," examined unique aspects of the Cuban-born bass player and his musical and cultural connection to African-derived religious practice. The paper was extremely well received by society members attending from five regional states. An accomplished double major in Chicana/o Studies, Adán also plays bass with the CSUDH Jazz Ensemble.



Featured *Alums*

Recent Graduates Perform in Celebration of the New Century Endowed Music Scholarship

Thursday, November 12th, 2009 at the Marvin Laser Recital Hall was an evening marking a new phase in the growth of the CSUDH Music Department. Recent department alumni came together in a program of international music to celebrate the recently founded New Century Endowed Music Scholarship benefiting future CSUDH students studying music composition, guitar, and jazz performance. Two graduates from Dr. Scott Morris's guitar program opened the program, each offering tight, well-performed sets of guitar solos. Matt Butler (2009) focused on three works by famed Paraguayan composer Augustin Barrios Mangore, while Hugo Aguayo (2008) offered an eclectic set of flamenco, J.S. Bach, and Pat Metheny's touching Message to a Friend, which the young guitarist, now a UCLA graduate student, dedicated to the late Dr. Rod Butler.



Marvin Laser Recital Hall audience members enjoy a Jun Kurasako performance of Maurice Ravel's *Jeux d'eau*



Featured performers pose on stage following the concert held in the Marvin Laser Recital Hall. L-R: Matt Butler; Paul Ellis; Alan Ellis; Hugo Aguayo; Jun Kurasako; James Vermilya; Stephanie James

Next on the program was an entertaining array of jazz and popular tunes led by vocalist, saxophonist, and guitarist James Vermilya (2009) and Paul Ellis on guitar (2007, and now a graduate student at CSU Long Beach), the latter bringing along brother and vibraphonist Alan Ellis and Stephanie James on flute. Keechar joined the stage, adding flute to *Sitting in Limbo* by Jamaican star Jimmy Cliff. Vermilya later added harmonica to Ellis's wonderful arrangement of Brazilian composer Egberto Gismonti's Salvador. The evening ended with pianist Jun Kurasako's (2003) crowd pleasing, tour d'force performance of French composer Maurice Ravel's challenging solo *Jeux d'eau*. Kurasako is currently studying privately with CSUDH's own Dr. Stephen Moore.



Guitarist Paul Ellis and saxophonist James Vermilya perform a jazz standard

Dr. Richard Kravchak Organizes Memorial Concert, Presides over Conference, Performs in Mexico (all in one week)

CSUDH Music Department chair Dr. Richard Kravchak spent part of his busy spring organizing two important campus events scheduled only two days apart: the Third Rod Butler Memorial Scholarship Concert on Thursday, March 18th, and the Pacific Southwest Chapter regional conference of the College Music Society held that Saturday. The concert was a rousing, well-attended success, attracting a diverse campus crowd to the University Theater and featuring faculty, students, and guests of the music department performing an eclectic program in tribute to the late Dr. Rod Butler. As president of the CMS chapter, Dr. Kravchak presided over a successful day of scholarly papers, panels, and a special concert of CMS composers. Professor Kravchak performed oboe and English horn on two demanding works featured on the evening's concert program of new works, Daniel Kessner's Dances, which he performed with CSUDH guitarist Dr. Scott Morris, and Northwest Sketches by Greg Steinke. The day kicked off with CSUDH music major Adán Alonso reading his well-received paper on a Latin Jazz legend, "Cachao's Elegua: Yoruban/Lucumi Performance Practice in the Music of Israel Lopez Cachao." Professor Kravchak and Dr. Scott Morris then traveled to Mexico later that week with a full, festival program of music for guitar and double reeds.



Dr. Sally Says



The 2009-2010 academic year that is now drawing to a close has been filled with many challenges as well as rewards. Being awarded the Lyle E. Gibson Distinguished Teacher Award for 2010 was one of the most humbling and gratifying experiences of my professional career and it has really made me stop and think about exactly what it means to be a "distinguished teacher". It would be too presumptuous to claim that I hold answers to this question. However, in my thirty-eighth year of observation and teaching at Dominguez Hills, I do feel qualified to make some comments about what it takes to be a "distinguished student"!

Becoming a distinguished learner is a difficult, challenging skill that demands development. But, in my opinion, the task can be broken down into just a few rather basic aspects. If any student, regardless of their prior academic experience or current GPA can manage to improve in these areas then their success in becoming a distinguished student is assured!

ATTENDANCE: Attend every class you possibly can. Arrive on time, well rested, and as amply fed as possible. Good health is one of the most precious assets for successful learning. Have all homework assignments completed to the best of your ability and do not be afraid to ask questions until needed clarification is obtained. Having accessible "tools of the trade"—pen, pencil, eraser, notebook & staff paper,

recording device, metronome, pitch pipe, music, etc. is vital to successful use of valuable time in the classroom.

ATTENTION: Pay attention, stay quiet and focused. Practice respect for yourself, your fellow students, your professors, staff and administrators. Realize that everyone's goal at CSUDH is your academic success!

ADVICE: Ask for and accept advice. Be willing to seriously consider the advice of others whose experience is broader than your own in particular areas of knowledge and experience. Be willing to learn from your own mistakes as well as the mistakes of others. Such willingness can bring marvelous shortcuts to success.

ATTITUDE: Consciously work to develop and maintain a positive attitude both inside and outside the classroom. Work on improving your communication skills, both verbal and written. Learn as much as you can about interpersonal relationship skills, differing personality types, and learning styles. Put all of this knowledge to work every day as you pursue your academic goals. Cultivate intellectual curiosity and develop a passion for learning from everyone and every experience. Be wary of the allure of "escapism". It can appear wearing many different disguises. Learn to recognize your own personal use of rationalization—"rational lies" that can at least temporarily sabotage your progress. Never let any "short-term" frustrations keep you from realizing your "long-term" academic goals. And when all else fails—go to sleep—things will seem brighter in the morning!

Every distinguished student I have had the pleasure of teaching has excelled in the areas of attendance, attention, advice, and attitude. Being a life-long learner myself, I can personally recommend each and every aspect of this approach to those who wish to improve their academic results. My best wishes to everyone as we complete a successful academic year!

CSUDH's Dr. Scott Morris Builds the Future by Directing the 2009 Dominguez Hills Guitar Festival and Competition

"Since hosting the Guitar Foundation of America Convention at CSUDH in 2007 it has been my goal to create an annual guitar festival here in Los Angeles . . . I am looking forward to growing the festival in future years." So begins Dr. Morris's letter from the



director in welcoming audiences and participants to his wonderful creation: three days of recitals, master classes, lectures, and a world class competition all delivered by virtuosi, scholars, and leading students of the guitar.

Presented in the CSUDH University Theater and the Marvin Laser Recital Hall (LCHA103) September 4-6, the 2009 Dominguez Hills Guitar Festival and Competition attracted audiences from throughout the Western United States and beyond. Guitar legends William Kanengiser, Tom Kerstens, and Scott Tennant gave standing ovation performances as featured recitalists. CSUDH students studying guitar with Dr. Morris gained invaluable feedback during master classes given by Kanengiser and Tennant. The competition drew excited audiences, with the winner taking home the Rod Butler prize (named after the late CSUDH music professor) including cash, a new guitar, and a concert booking at the 2010 Dominguez Hills Guitar Festival. Lectures on diverse guitar topics were given by Carlos Rafael Rivera, Peter Yates, and CSUDH's own assistant professor of music Jonathon Grasse.

Faculty **Accomplishments**



Dr. Jonathon Grasse shared his August, 2009 ethnomusicological fieldwork from Brazil with his fall '09 Music in World Cultures students (Music 301). His video documentation and subsequent paper "Championing devotional music in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais: African-Brazilian congado in an urban festival" was presented twice in March, 2010, to the Society for Ethnomusicology Southern California chapter at Claremont College and the College Music Society Pacific Southwest chapter meeting here at CSUDH. His compositions were performed in Mexico, at CSUN, CSUDH, UCLA, and Pomona College including the premiere of his trio Five Scenes from the

Life of Edward deVere featuring CSUDH's own Richard Kravchak. Jonathon's improvisation sextet Surrealestate recorded two CDs worth of material at CSUDH's Marvin Laser Recital Hall in July '09, with the new releases to be appearing on Acoustic Levitation sometime in 2010. CSUDH alumnus Andrew Leist was hired as recording and mixing engineer.

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Alexander Zellerman, who shared with us the poetic significance of the violet, the color purple, and why they were selected for the fraternity.

I achieved the ultimate satisfaction at this conference when I was selected to officiate at the initiation ceremony of pledges including those for Gamma Sigma Chapter. At that moment of initiation, I felt very proud to be standing next to the new members. Throughout the whole ceremony I watched them become members who will be receiving unlimited opportunities for the rest of their lives. I will truly be looking forward for the next conference hosted by Mu Phi Epsilon.

New Initiates:

Adan Alonso
Amanda Chavez
Paula Morales
Lourdes Aguilar
Anthony Almendrez

—*Christian Rosales*



Christian Rosales, Wendy Reyes



Dr. Stephen Moore's early 2010 list of activities stretches from the CSUDH campus, to Olympia, Washington, to Las Vegas. Dr. Moore spreads his art whether through solo piano recitals, lectures on Dalcroze Eurhythmics, student recruitment appearances, or by directing the CSUDH Jazz Ensemble in fund raising performances.

- 1/9 CSUDH Jazz Ensemble Scholarship Concert, Redlands, CA. \$621 raised for Jazz Ensemble and scholarships.
- 1/16 Piano Recital, Olympia, WA, sponsored by the Washington State Music Teacher's Association
- 1/17 Lecture Demonstration on Eurhythmics at St. Martin's University, Sponsored by the Dalcroze Society of America/Dalcroze Northwest
- 1/17 -1/20 Recruiting with MTNA teachers in Olympia, WA
- 1/20 Piano Recital/Demonstration at St. Martin's University
- 1/23 CSUDH Jazz Ensemble performs for Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Supervisor, hosting his annual community summit fair at CSU Dominguez Hills. Raised \$250 Jazz Ensemble and Scholarships.
- 1/24 Lecture/Recital on "Russian Piano Music" at the University of Redlands, sponsored by Redlands Music teacher's Association
- 2/14 CSUDH Jazz Ensemble performs for Hearts for Haiti, City of Carson Convention Center.
- 4/14 Guest Lecturer: University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Applications of Eurhythmics to Musicianship, Conducting and Choreography.

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