

AMBASSADOR

Aber Suzuki Center

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point
College of Fine Arts and Communication

*Changing lives by providing the best in performance,
creativity, and expression*

October 2005

What's Inside



At the dedication of the Noel Fine Arts Center the program ended with the Noel's and others opening a big package with a "What's Inside" tag on it. A really huge "What's Inside" tag hangs from the stair case in the Atrium. The "What's Inside" tag is prominent on the center pages of the College of

Fine Arts and Communication newsletter, *Encore*, along with a listing of all the Signature Events for the first season in the Noel Fine Arts Center. Each copy of the *Ambassador* has a "What's Inside" sticker placed on the first page. Some of you have received a tuition reminder in a special "What's Inside" envelop. Yes, there is a plan to draw attention to the idea that "What's Inside" the Noel Fine Arts Center is more than the building itself, although we do get a lot of pleasure from giving tours. I hope that you will all take time to experience more of "What's Inside" the NFAC.



From the Director's Desk

By Dee Martz

October 1, 2005 was indeed an exciting and very special day in the Suzuki program at UWSP. The first hint that something really special was in the works was when the "Save this Date" post card and then the alumni survey were mailed just before and after the move from the Suzuki House. Then the beautiful invitations and striking posters appeared. Thank you to Christine Kancler for putting together such classy and elegant print materials for our big celebration.

When October first finally arrived the activities began, as many Saturdays do, with a Suzuki Marathon, but for this "Celebrating our Heritage" Marathon alumni were issued special invitations. Following the normal plan the Violin Marathon began at 9:00 A.M. in Michelsen Hall. They were joined by returning UWSP graduates from the long term teacher training program who each taught a bit during the Marathon.

Simultaneously, the viola, cello, piano and voice marathons and the Central State Chamber Orchestra rehearsal were happening in various locations around the Fine Arts Center. At 10:00 we all gathered in Michelsen Hall for a very special Mini Concert. Suzuki alums David Cecil, Jamie Davis, Jenna Kase and Andy Meyer performed and between the selections Elise Bittrick and Dan Tierney each spoke about how the Suzuki experiences influence their lives. The performers wowed us with their continued musical development and the speakers touched us with the comments that they made straight from the heart. Thanks to Kyoko Fuller and Patricia D'Ercole for planning the mini concert.

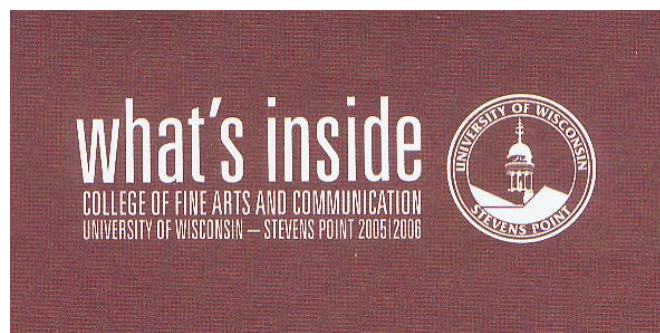
Then there was COOKIE BREAK! We owe a big thank you to the Suzuki voice parents for making this very special by decorating tables, making dozens and dozens of cookies and mixing a very tasty punch. During the cookie break, the courtyard was filled with hundreds of people sharing stories, exchanging email addresses and showing off baby pictures. Yes, many of the alumni are growing their own Suzuki kids!

After cookie break the Marathons concluded with more music and lots of laughter. The alumni marathon was so much fun that we are already talking about when to schedule the next one.

We continued to *Celebrate Our Heritage* with a 5:30 p.m. social hour that was followed by a program to honor the contributions of Margery V. Aber and to officially change our name to the Aber Suzuki Center. Just as happens during the Music of the Masters event, the American Suzuki Foundation Board of Directors took charge of planning the food and decorations and the Suzuki faculty planned the presentation. Thanks to Gretchen Anderson, Nancy Chin, Pam Corcoran and Tomi Dittburner who decorated the entrances, the Suzuki Center, the courtyard and the Michelsen Hall stage with flowers, banners, signage and special touches that tied everything together beautifully. Thanks to Lani Tierney and Diane Beversdorf for putting together the wonderful display of Aber photos and memorabilia. Thanks to Tim Zander and his team for working with the University Catering service to select a delicious assortment of hors d'oeuvres and finger foods. Thank you to those already mention and to Bill Jenkins, Mary Dahm and Brian Formella for

their ticket sales and other behind the scenes work. Also thank you to Ann Marie Novak and Kyoko Fuller for planning the courtyard music. Young pianists, cellists and singers provided wonderful background music with very impressive poise and concentration.

The celebration continued in Michelsen Hall where nearly 250 people listened intently to



the story of Margery V. Aber and the absolute sea change she set in motion with her work in Suzuki Talent Education. We owe many thanks to Patricia D'Ercole for her tireless research and to Lawrence Leviton for his technical assistance. Violinists Paige Kearl and Lorre Lynn Trytten, both Aber alums, were assisted by Ann Marie Novak, Tom Yang and David Becker as they performed pieces selected from Miss Aber's life. The program was punctuated with words from distinguished string educator Marvin Rabin, renowned Suzuki teacher trainer Patricia D'Ercole, CEO of the Suzuki Association of the Americas Pamela Brasch, immediate past President of the International Suzuki Association Gilda Barston and Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication Jeff Morin. For many the highlight of the evening was a group of Suzuki Center violinists playing a special rendition of O Come Little Children. Miss Aber's sister Jean did the unveiling and the whole crowd joined together to close the evening with "Hip, Hip, Hooray!"

It was a terrific celebration and a great start for the Aber Suzuki Center.



Rededicating Ourselves to the Suzuki Way

By Pat D'Ercole

Ed. note: I am writing this article while in the midst of planning for the Aber Suzuki Center Dedication and eagerly anticipating the return of many of our alumni families. Preparation has involved combing through pictures and files of Miss Aber's archives and remembering and realizing anew the great dedication she had for seeing that the seed of the Suzuki philosophy was planted here and in many other parts of the globe. This prompted some reflection and examination of my own purposes and motivations for being a Suzuki teacher, much of which was influenced by her. As we begin a new academic year in our newly dedicated "home", the Aber Suzuki Center, maybe this reflection will inspire you as well to examine your own motives and rededicate yourselves to Dr. Suzuki's goal—for the happiness of all children.

Our world is hungry today in many ways. We only need to turn on the news reports to hear of the many situations that appear to be hopeless. And we feel so helpless. I suppose it is much like Dr. Suzuki felt after WWII. What can one person do? And even more, what can one *music* teacher do?

Jeff Cox, a chairperson of the SAA once said, "Art is the secular religion that has the capacity to facilitate pluralism." I pondered that phrase for a long time and gradually understood it to mean that music doesn't have a jargon for goodness or morality or unity as politics or history or even religion does. Music is an experience that speaks directly to the heart without being mediated by words that have different connotations and implications for each person. A musician is trained to listen to themselves and to the others who make music with them. We certainly need that skill in our world today. Perhaps that is why Dr. Suzuki believed, "If a child hears good music from the day of his birth and learns to play it himself, he develops sensitivity, discipline and endurance. He gets a beautiful heart." Perhaps it's *learning to listen* that's critical to developing a beautiful heart.

In a book called *Rhythms of Learning*, by Chris Brewer and Don Campbell, it is written that we spend 55% of our day listening. Of the remaining time 23% is spent speaking, 13% is spent reading, and 9% is spent writing. What are the core subjects we teach in school? We teach reading, writing and public speaking. I have yet to hear about a course in elementary school called "Listening," and yet that's what we do most

of the day. Perhaps that is why, at least in our country, we, as a society can be so divided; everyone is talking and no one is listening to the other.

A year ago, I had the pleasure of being invited to eight weddings of former Suzuki students. I couldn't attend all of them, but of those I did attend, it was really very rewarding to see what wonderful young adults these students had become. Some are professional musicians, some music teachers, some physicians, some are in the business world, some are volunteering, but they all seem to have found their personhood. I learned the etymology of the word "person." It comes from the Latin word "personare." "Per" means "through" and "sonare" means, "to sound." *Personare*-- "to sound through." The author of this particular book, (the title of which I can't remember) went on to say that a fully human "personare" is like a flute. A flute has to be open in order to receive breath. It has to have emptiness so that air can pass through it. And it is responsive - a capacity necessary to create, to take the breath and transform into sound. What was rewarding in attending those weddings and visiting with those former Suzuki students was that each of them, I thought, has become a noble human *personare*.

Back in the 1980's there was a peace movement called *Beyond War*. In their literature, they said that if 5 percent of the population believes an idea, it's embedded. If 20% of the population believes an idea, it's unstoppable. So what idea do I hope is unstoppable? The unstoppable momentum of thousands of Suzuki students who have developed a keen ability to listen sensitively, who have found how to let life flow through their personhood like the music that flows through their instrument, taking the air, the breath of life and creating something beautiful. This is what gives me hope; the unstoppable momentum of thousands of Suzuki students eventually becoming Suzuki parents who in turn become Suzuki grandparents and great-grandparents. And these Suzuki students, now adults, taking their place in our world as presidents of countries and corporations and schools and universities and as doctors and police men and women and social workers and parents. ... And they come back to their music to feed their soul.

Why? Because some of those lessons that a music student must learn are both symbolic of lessons needed in life and at the same time the actual rehearsal for them. Here are just a few examples:

- a work ethic that teaches one to do his/her best
- perseverance in the face of difficulty
- that no problem is too big if it is taken apart and accomplished in smaller steps
- that bringing a creation into being, whether it is art or a solution to a problem, is much easier if you're a team player
- one has to learn when it's appropriate to be the leader and when it's appropriate to be the follower
- rarely is there only one way to do or play or think about something.
- one must always be open to change
- one has to learn how to listen

If we believe along with Dr. Suzuki, Pablo Casals and others that music can save the world, then our students have a unique and distinct gift to contribute to our future. Whether or not they pursue music as professional performers or teachers is immaterial. Their experience of communicating, listening and singing, through their own voices or the "voices" of their instruments, has prepared them to bring more understanding, more tolerance, and more compassion to a world increasingly in need of love and peace. It has prepared them for leadership and followership in whatever community they find themselves; for creating music with others and the roles we play in that endeavor, is just an archetype of the process of creating life with those with whom we play in the larger symphony of our existence. Entrusting the world to our

students and to the communities of Suzuki students all over the globe, gives me hope for the future of our world.



SAW Hosts First Winter Workshop

By Pat D'Ercole

We've been making a lot of history in our Suzuki program lately and we're about to be a part of some more. The Suzuki Association of Wisconsin is hosting its first Suzuki weekend workshop for strings and piano Jan. 27-29 at the Inn on the Park Hotel in Madison. This will be like a mini-institute. The weekend will include group lessons taught by teachers from the state and the guest clinician will be Nancy Lokken from Minnesota. There will be a piano recital at the Top of the Inn overlooking downtown Madison and a string festival concert in the Capitol rotunda. In addition, there will be a pizza party, an ice cream social and free tickets to the Madison Children's Museum and time for swimming. There will also be a parent talk given by Nancy Lokken. Private lessons are optional at a cost of \$20. Registration is \$75 for the first child and \$65 for siblings, however if you register by Oct. 20, the cost is \$60 for the first child and \$60 for siblings. A block of rooms have been reserved for workshop participants at approximately \$90. Parents must make their own hotel arrangements. See your teacher for your brochure.

Any student of any instrument and level may attend, however students ages 11-14 who are interested in chamber music need to know that our Aber Suzuki Center Chamber Music Weekend is scheduled for the same dates. If you are eligible for that experience you will have to make a choice. Be sure to discuss this with your teacher to see which experience is the best for you.



Voila Viola

By Dee Martz

The October Marathon was so much fun. Four Viola Alums returned and we had a great time playing some of our favorite Suzuki viola tunes and golden oldies from previous Music of the Masters programs and ASTEC Festival Concerts. It was great to welcome back Monica Asuquo, Amber Yudchitz Garbe, Sarah Zahn and Molly Zahn. During Storytime at this marathon we learned what these alums are doing and just how the viola fits in right now. Here is some quick news of a few ASTEC viola alums. Please send more viola alum news at any time.

Monica Asuquo—at UWSP majoring in Music Education
Lyndi Benz-Dean—at Drake in Des Moines, Iowa majoring in Pharmacy
Paula Doebler Butler—at UWSP majoring in Music Education
Brad Hessler—at UW Madison majoring in Math
Celise Kalke—has a Ph.D in Dramaturgy—at professional theater in Atlanta
Emily McCollum—public school music teacher in Illinois(?)
Nick Munagian—at Northwestern—MM in viola performance
Marie Stenborg Pauls—at UW Madison —MM in viola performance
Stephanie Stokes—Portage County, WI Treasurer
Amber Yudchitz Garbe—teaching English as a Second Language in Stevens Point

Molly Zahn—at Notre Dame —working on Ph.D in Old Testament
Sarah Zahn—at UW Madison—majoring in Biology



Notes From the Endpin

By Lawrence Leviton

Cello Day 2005 is taking place on November 6th in the Noel Fine Arts Building. This year there are lots of special events planned. Here is an excerpt from the flyer that just went out:

Cello Day 2005 will be taking place from 12-6 on Sunday November 6th, 2005 in the new Noel Fine Arts Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. This year's Cello Day has an exciting two-tiered set of events. Open to cellists from grades seven to adult, this will be a day where you meet other cellists, learn more about cello technique, and participate in an exciting cello choir performance. In addition a panel of cello "experts" will share their knowledge about preparing solos for auditions and performance.

Secondly, we will be holding the first ever Wisconsin Cello Society Cello Competition with \$400.00 in prize money going to the winner of each category. The winner of the advanced student category will also participate in the final concert at the end of the day. There are two categories in the competition:

- **Category I Cellists ages 14-18 who have studied privately one year or less prior to this academic year.** This includes students in the age group who have only studied in school programs.
- **Category II Cellists ages 14-22 who have studied privately for more than one year.** This includes cellists considering music careers.

Please see me if you have questions about the day or the contest. It's going to be an exciting day and there's going to be a little bit of something for everybody!

Lastly, I want to give a special thanks to **Chris Peck, Peter O'Reilly, and Will Mitchell** for their performance at the Margery Aber dedication on October 1st. You gave up a good chunk of your day for the event and rehearsed tirelessly and then gave a wonderful performance! Thanks again guys.



Parent Orientation

Parent Orientation will be held on Sunday, October 16th at 7:00 pm in NFAC Room 221 for parents of families new to the Aber Suzuki Center. The orientation session will consist of faculty introductions followed by short talks on the Suzuki philosophy, parent roles and responsibilities, benefits beyond music, ASC offerings, and the history of Suzuki in Stevens Point. Parent Handbooks and associated materials will be distributed, and a Q&A session will follow the talks. The evening will wrap up with a chance to mingle with other new parents and the ASC faculty over coffee and cookies in NFAC 144.

Follow up sessions will be held at 7:30 pm as follows:

November 15 – “First, you gotta create da mood...”

December 13 – “Practicing: The Great Quest for Consistency without Boredom”

February 14 – “Note Reading 101: A Survival Manual for Parents”

April 11 – “The Art of Reviewing With a Purpose”



Faculty News

Lawrence Leviton performed with the Central Wisconsin Symphony in their October concerts.

Pat D'Ercole taught the introductory Suzuki course, *Every Child Can!* At the University of Utah in Logan Utah on September 10, 2005.

Dee Martz taught a course for teachers called “Developing the Intermediate Violist” at the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute in Salt Lake City Utah in June. She also taught viola students, including the Advanced Camp Viola performance group.

In May, **Dee Martz** attended the Suzuki Association of the Americas sponsored Leadership Retreat in Asilomar, California where she facilitated sessions for the Institute Directors.

Dee Martz hosted the fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Association of the Americas in Stevens Point from September 29-August 2.



Alumni News

Congratulations to **Joel Fuller**, violinist, who has been hired in the first violin section of the National Opera Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in New York City. Joel is the second Stevens Point native in the orchestra. Eric Lee, who studied with Margery Aber is the Associate Concertmaster. Joel is the son of Kyoko Fuller and studied with Pat D'Ercole.



Student News

Congratulations to **Roy Meyer** for being chosen to play with the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra as a winner of the Young Artists Concerto competition that was held on September 10th. He played Violin Concerto No. 2 in d minor, 3rd Movement and will perform with the CWSO on December 3 and 4.

Maria, Teresita and Christina Marchel performed at the 4-H Talent Show at the Rosholt Fair on Labor Day. They also competed in a fiddle contest at Laura Ingalls Day in Pepin, WI on September 10, 2005.

Will Peck and **Stacey Rolak** were selected to play in the Middle School Honors Orchestra at the Wisconsin Music Teachers Convention in Madison in October.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Cochran** whose cover design for the Suzuki Association of the Americas Institute Mini Journal contest won second place. Jonathan is two for two. Last year, his cover contest entry won third place. Needless to say he's planning to enter again with hopes of attaining first place and being published! Jonathan is a student in Pat D'Ercole's studio.



September 2005 Graduates

Will Mitchell, Cello Book 4
Chris Peck, Cello Book 5
Natalie Van Tiem, Cello Twinkles
Peter O'Reilly, Cello Book 7
Joey Cal, Violin Book 3
Lucas Chan, Violin Book 5
Quinn O'Reilly, Violin Book 7
Antony Van Tiem, Violin Book 2
John Banovetz, Viola Book 5
Eric Sands, Violin Book 4
Brian Turner, Violin Book 2
Gabriel Krueger, Violin Book 5



Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 16th, Solo Recitals, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, NFAC Room 221

Saturday, October 29th, Piano Halloween Recital, 11:00 am and 12:30 pm, NFAC 221

Saturday, November 12th, Marathon Saturday

Sunday, November 13th, Solo Recitals, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, NFAC Michelsen Hall

Saturday, December 10th, Marathon Saturday

Sunday, December 11th, Solo Recitals, 2:00 and 3:30 pm, NFAC Room 221

January 27-28, 2006, Chamber Music Weekend

Saturday, January 28th, Chamber Music Concert, 3:30 pm, NFAC Room 221