



AMBASSADOR

Aber Suzuki Center

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
College of Fine Arts and Communication
inspire, create, achieve

May 2007

From the Director's Desk

By Dee Martz

Take a very careful look at the calendar for next year. After much discussion and in response to requests from quite a number of families the Aber Suzuki Center schedule now has the September, January and March solo recitals scheduled on the same day as Saturday Marathons. The May recitals have been on Saturday for quite a number of years and will remain on Saturday. The October, November, December, February and April recitals have been scheduled on Sunday as always. Shortly after the March recital you will be given the opportunity to tell us just how you feel about the "experimental" recital schedule. After considering your input and their own assessment of the experiment the 2008-09 schedule will be determined by the faculty.



My Stevens Point Experience

By Emily Watson

When I was little, I would stare blankly at the suspicious items (usually vegetable) on my dinner plate, utterly repulsed and sure that I would gag and spit whatever-that-stuff-is out immediately after it reached my mouth. My parents always insisted that I try just one bite. In most cases I would make a face, cringe, and protest with vigor (I want more macaroni and cheese!) before trying this strange food. Sometimes, it was truly an unpleasant experience, but often, whatever alien substance my parents had concocted that evening was actually kind of good, and I would eat two or three bites, sometimes even more.

My thanks to the students and parents in Professor Pat's studio for your willingness to try new ways of learning that may have been different from your teacher's. Having a

different teacher all of a sudden is kind of like having a big plate of new and strange food for several weeks. It's really hard to adapt to the new teacher if you've been working all your life with one teacher whom you enjoy and understand. Some of you have worked with Professor Pat for over 10 years! So the least I can say is, thank you for not making a face and running away screaming.

The most challenging part of this experience was the drive. I certainly had a few mumbly grumbly Sunday mornings. Driving my car an extra six hours a week is not my thing. I don't even want to think about my contribution to global warming! The only good thing about the drive to Stevens Point every weekend was listening to music in my car, and having a good environment in which to practice speaking French. No matter how hard the drive though, through snow or rain or sleet, and no matter how grumpy I was when I arrived in Point, I always found myself feeling better when it came time to teach.

One of the most wonderful things for a substitute teacher is teaching students and parents who have good habits of practicing and listening, and enthusiasm for making music. Your playing, and your approach to learning, is a strong foundation a new teacher can easily build on, thanks to Professor Pat; and thanks to you, for listening carefully to her teaching. It has made my job more fun! Thank you also for being flexible with your schedules, and being helpful to me by asking questions and asking for clarification when it was needed.

My favorite thing about teaching here was getting to know the students. You are not just good violinists. You are sensitive and kind. You are smart, and some of you have some great ideas about practicing that I didn't have! You are funny, and have made me laugh again and again. You have been helpful to your parents, helping them understand the new things you are learning. You are persistent workers. Please don't think this is a small achievement, or an easy accomplishment to maintain.

Every time you meet someone new, you are causing your world and their world to change. Please know that as I have taught each one of you, you have changed my life by helping me to become a better teacher. Thank you!



Thoughts on Teaching at UWSP: A Homecoming

By Jennifer Burton

It has been a HUGE homecoming for me this year. When Pat D'Ercole asked me to help teach her students while she was on her leave of absence, it came at a perfect time for me. I was in the process of relocating to Stevens Point after being in Dallas for 13 interesting years. This move allowed me to return to my family roots, Suzuki roots and to raise the overall quality of my life.

Many of you know that Stevens Point had been my home for 17 years. I was hired on the ASTEC faculty after getting my Masters Degree with Margery Aber in 1977. I worked with Miss Aber, Ann Marie Novak, Kyoko Fuller, Pat D'Ercole, Lawrence Leviton, Dee Martz and Mary Hofer prior to moving to the "Big D." And I reconnected with them every year at the American Suzuki Institute.

You could say that I never really left my Central Wisconsin home. In my heart, there just is no other place quite like this. The slower pace, the cleaner air, the change of seasons, the short commute and the people-friendly faces on the street are important to me. Don't get me wrong, Dallas offered a lot of the excitement of the big city; it offered the Dallas Symphony, museums, the State Fair, the Cotton Bowl, playing world-class gigs, freeways and, most interesting, rich diverse cultures. Over the long term, however, these features pale in comparison to Central Wisconsin. There is just no place like Home.

It has been a SUPER bonus to work in the new Aber Suzuki Center. I can remember dreaming about the new space that the University would give us "some day down the road." The Suzuki program stood in line behind other worthy programs at UW-SP. When I left ASTEC in 1993, it was still in the future. It is a treasure to see Margery Aber's, Paul Landefeld's and Dee Martz's dreams come true. I had the pleasure of working under each one of these directors at UW-SP and I know the hours of negotiation that went into creating this wonderful space. I can remember sitting at faculty meetings and making lists of what we'd like in our new home. It has all come to pass. This space embodies

the vision of many faculty staff members, some who are no longer living and others who live in different cities.

It feels so comfortable in this new space. It's not just the walls and floors and the careful sound-proofing; the magic comes with the smiling faces that come into the studio. It's the photographs of Margery Aber, Dr. Suzuki and seeing my Stevens Point Suzuki colleagues on a regular basis that fills my heart with joy. This program has deep roots and has carved its place in the Suzuki world.

The Aber Suzuki Center (ASC) has become a premier Suzuki center. I have done many workshops across America in the past 30 years and this program ranks with the best. You have attracted a world-class faculty and your students play at a high level. You all have raised the bar for excellence in the Suzuki world. It is an honor to be associated with such a great learning community. Thank you, ASC, for jump-starting my return home.



Cello Position Search Update

The Suzuki Cello Teacher Search Committee consists of Chair Dave Becker, Tom Yang and Dee Martz. I am pleased to report that the number of applicants is higher than anticipated and the pool includes some highly qualified teachers. The Cello Search Committee is in the middle of screening applicants and checking references. Once that is completed a small number of candidates will be invited to campus for in depth interviews. Aber Suzuki Center families will have the opportunity to observe the performance and teaching portions of the interview and participate in a question and answer session. Everyone who attends the interview will be given an opportunity to provide feedback to the committee. At this time it appears that the interviews will be scheduled in early to mid June. The schedule will be posted and cello families will receive a mailing with this information.



2007-2008 Piano Marathons

When you review the 2007-2008 calendar on the last page of this Ambassador, please note that the Piano Marathons will now be held at the same time as all other instruments: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Jonathan Karbowski Senior Recital

Jonathan Karbowski, is giving his senior violin recital at 7:00 pm on Saturday May 19th at Michelsen Hall. He will be assisted by David Becker and Sarah Tranel, Piano, and Ben Karbowski, violin.

He is a son of Ken and Lynn Karbowski and a student of Kyoko Fuller.



Voila Viola

By Dee Martz

Congratulations Violists! Your performance at the Festival Concert was very well done. I was especially impressed with the overall quality viola tone and the depth of musicianship you displayed. Thank you for representing viola to the Aber Suzuki Center families so well.

Farewell to our graduating seniors **Sally DeBauche, Chris Droske, Quinn O'Reilly and Adam Outaishat**. You will be missed—especially in the CSCO---but your enthusiasm for viola has already influenced others to go purple.



Calling All Violinists!

By Pat D'Ercole

Please put July 13th on your calendar. Prof. Pat is gathering a group of violinists to play at the Parade of Gardens on July 13th, from 4:30-5:30 in Plover. A sign up sheet, rehearsal time and place and a review list will be posted on Prof. Pat's bulletin board by July 1. Please plan to come and have fun.



2007-2008 Suzuki Parking Permits

The Parking Services department of UWSP has gone to a computerized purchasing system for all campus parking permits. What this means to you is that permits for the three Suzuki-dedicated spots in Parking Lot R will be purchased

online using the Parking Services website and will no longer be distributed by the Suzuki Office.

Details and instructions will be included in the Fall 2007 enrollment materials you can expect to receive the first week of August.



Student News

Craig Felt, Tom Felt, Alan Kiepert and Suzuki mom **Cindy Kiepert** performed in the St. Paul's United Methodist Church Orchestra for the celebration of St. Paul's 150th Anniversary.

Alan Kiepert, Mac DeBot, Jonathan Cochrane, Petrea Schedgick, Maria Marchel, Craig Felt, Jonathan Cochrane, Petrea Schedgick and Maria Marchel performed at the state Solo & Ensemble Festival on May 5th.

Maria Marchel performed in the orchestra for the Greater Wisconsin Chorale on the weekend of May 6-8.

Petrea Schedgick performed in the orchestra for Beauty and the Beast in Wisconsin Rapids on May 5-7.

The following pianists participated in the 2007 WMTA District Auditions on March 17: **Morgann Glazer, Kala Jensen, Joanna Kamps, Taylor Langemeier, Courtney Lila, Julia Nummelin.**



Faculty News

Dee Martz attended the April meeting of the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Association of the Americas at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. This was the last full board meeting of her six year tenure which included two terms as Board Secretary.

Ms. Burton and Emily Watson taught at a Suzuki retreat sponsored by the Suzuki Association of Wisconsin in Madison on January 20. They met with the planning committee for the 2008 retreat in Milwaukee on February 17. Ms. Burton will serve as Co-Chair for the 2008 retreat with Lauren Oldenburg, a Suzuki piano teacher from Green Bay.

Jennifer Burton served as a clinician at a Suzuki workshop at Viterbo College in LaCrosse on March 10, and was a clinician at a workshop in Western Springs, IL, on April 20-21. Ms. Burton played in the St. Paul's United Methodist Church Orchestra for its 150th Anniversary on May 6.



May Graduates

Sarah Bauer, Cello Book 4
Hannah Buehler, Viola Book 5
Teddy Schenkman, Violin Book 5
Sam Schenkman, Violin Book 8

Ryan Harmon, Cello Twinkle
Sarah Harmon, Violin Book 3
Tuvshin Anderson, Violin Twinkle
Alex Oberthaler, Violin Book 3
Dinesh Traynor, Violin Book 2
Luisa Marion, Violin Book 1
Supriya Keefe, Piano Twinkle
Abigail Rosenthal, Piano Twinkle
Talie Zinda, Piano Twinkle
Rachael Bouwer, Piano Twinkle
Amy Sutheimer, Piano Twinkle
Sabrina Tang, Piano Twinkle
Brandon Wanta, Piano Twinkle
Keith Kunze, Piano Book 1
Soren Anderson, Piano Book 3

2007-2008 MARATHON & RECITAL CALENDAR

Solo Recitals

September 22, October 21, November 4
December 9, January 26, February 17, March 29, April 13

Marathons

September 22, October 20, November 3, December 8,
January 26, February 16, March 29, April 12 (piano only), April 26 (except piano)

Piano Halloween Recital

October 27

Chamber Music Weekend

January 18-19

String & Voice Festival Concert

April 27

Solo & Ensemble Concert

May 10

CSCO Concert

May 10

Piano Festival Concert

May 11

Solo Recitals are held in Michelsen Hall, 2:00 and 3:30 pm
Marathons are held from 9:00 – 12:00

Have a safe and happy summer!

The next issue of the Ambassador will be published October, 2007