We're back!

After a two-year absence, there is a lot to catch up on. From college hockey’s busiest (and best) Pep Band to the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra, we have the scoop. Watch for special news about recordings and other collector’s items.

Staff and Officers for 1997–98

Student Directors:
Bill Binder (alto sax) and Bryan Helminiak (trombone)

KSO/Wind Symphony Manager:
Ryan Habermehl (oboe)

Concussion Coordinator:
Ryan Johnson

Newsletter Editor:
Jodi Cianek (piano)

DaWGs

President: Karen Rebek (Flhorn)
Vice-President: Eric Brace (BA!)
Secretary: Christine Gustafson (flute)
Treasurer: Matt Zander (trombone)

From the President —Karen Rebek

I’m sure that you all remember the days of Chem 101, all-night study sessions, and those impossible final exams . . . when the most exciting thing of the week was the upcoming home hockey series and getting in free to play with the Pep Band. Well, if this is the case, I guess that things haven’t really changed all that much since then.

My name is Karen Rebek, and I’m currently the president of the DaWGs, the social organization for the Huskies Pep Band. I have been in the band for the past two years as a member of the F’n Horns. I just wanted to take a minute to tell you what we’ve been up to in the past year.

During Winter Carnival, we attempted a month-long statue for the first time in quite a few years. Although we didn’t place, we sure had fun trying to build our very own rendition of the Grand Canyon. Our broomball team also won the first game they played in their series—a feat in and of itself—with the help of some adoring fans. Some of our members also decided to put together a skit that made it all the way to the Stage Review finals. The skit was complete with stripes and a little bit of Pep Band humor. Even though we didn’t win anything, we had a good time as always.

Since we often are very segregated during band, the club also thought that it would be nice for sections to mingle. So, this past winter, we decided to get together in the MUB. We really had a good turnout, and it was nice to meet some people from other sections. The gathering went so well that we decided to have another after Spring Fling with our leftover Sloppy DaWGs as refreshments.

This coming year, we plan to hold a cookout to meet some of the rookies. We also hope, if our hockey team does well enough, that we’ll have the chance to go on a road trip or two, which is always a great way to make some new friends and great memories.

Well, that’s all from here. Please come and visit us sometime. You can’t miss us . . . we’re the rowdy ones in the funny-looking stripes.

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From the Podium

Some time has gone by since our last newsletter, a circumstance for which I claim sole responsibility. This missive has been a primary summer project through my years at Tech . . . until recently. My last two summers have been eaten up with graduate work.

Rewarding as the courses, the research, and the writing were, I am happy to announce that my degree is complete as of May 2, 1997. (For the record, the degree is a Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Iowa.) Running concurrently with my feverish effort to finish the dissertation, my application for promotion and tenure at MTU was working its way toward the Board of Control throughout the year. My reappointment was approved at their meeting on May 23, along with another fine arts faculty member, Mary Ann Beckwith. Our KSO concertmaster of one year, Eric Lawson, also completed the requirements for his DMA in Violin Performance this year.

All of these academic achievements are not listed to impress you so much as to illustrate the serious commitment to education and to the arts among the fine arts faculty. You may have participated in Pep Band, Symphonic Band, KSO, Wind Symphony, or the Jazz Studies Program in order to recreate, blow off steam, make friends, have some fun, or get into the hockey games. No matter how short-term your goals may have been, did you realize some long-term gains from your experience? What knowledge gained or lessons learned still serve you today?

Lawson Joins the KSO

The Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra welcomed Eric Lawson as its new concertmaster this season. Dr. Lawson, a native of Lansing, Michigan, recently completed a Doctor of Musical Arts in Violin Performance at the University of Minnesota, where he studied with Sally O'Reilly. He also holds degrees from Michigan State University and Louisiana State. Lawson comes to the KSO with a wealth of experience. He has played with the Lansing Symphony, the Midland Symphony, and the Baton Rouge Symphony in a variety of positions, including concertmaster. As a student, Lawson served as concertmaster of the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra.

Of his experience so far, Lawson says, "I never cease to be pleasantly surprised by the capabilities of the orchestra . . . . The KSO's sound will really come alive when we get into the new Performing Arts Center."

Lawson spends most of his time teaching students of all ages in the Copper Country Suzuki Association program. He joins Anne Kearney-Looman, violist, in her second year on the staff of the CCSA.

These questions are much on our minds as we approach next year's accreditation process. We have been conducting surveys, asking for essays, and giving special assignments in our fine arts courses in order to find out what our students are learning about the arts and their place in our culture.

We don't yet know what answers will emerge as we continue to refine our assessment process in the months and years to come. As artists, we know already that the fine arts are an important counterbalance to the influence of our market economy. For all of their many virtues, market economies encourage us over time toward the lowest common denominator, the thing that will sell to the most people for the least amount of money. As a check against that influence, the fine arts keep us dreaming about and seeking beauty and perfection, just as science holds our intellectual lives to a high standard. Are we teaching in a way that allows the arts to positively affect our students' lives?

At Michigan Tech, we want to assure that students' experiences in our classes, ensembles, and productions bear fruit for them, no matter what their professions will be. I ask you to consider your arts experiences, either here or elsewhere. What have they given you? How have they changed your outlook on life? When you have an answer, please share it with me. Use the mail or e-mail addresses listed below to send me your response.

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PAC Update

News about MTU's Performing Arts Center

Excitement is at an all time high in the Department of Fine Arts because we are less than one year away from groundbreaking for Michigan Tech's Performing Arts Center. Slated for May 1998, when the Board of Control is on campus for Commencement, the long-awaited event seems unstoppable. Plans call for the facility to open in the year 2000.

The price tag of $20 million for the new building, with nearly $19.5 million of that total in hand, is relatively inexpensive in today's market. For example, the new Dow Environmental Sciences and Engineering Building will come in at around $44 million.

The building will be situated next to the Walker Arts and Humanities Center (formerly Sherman Gymnasium) and will house most of the fine arts department. The centerpiece of the facility will be its 1,100-seat concert hall. This state-of-the-art facility will allow the University to produce and host events that are impossible to stage in the area's current venues, such as large symphony orchestra concerts, Broadway touring shows, and mass band, orchestra and choir events. An acoustically transparent curtain will allow the hall size to be reduced to 600 seats on demand but still retain the full resonance of the hall to performers and listeners.

The new building will provide rehearsal space for instrumental and choral groups, rehearsal rooms for small ensembles, office/studio space for fine arts faculty currently located in the SDC, practice rooms, storage space, a recording booth, and a computer-assisted learning facility for the fine arts. The latter will feature computer workstations with MIDI controllers. Plans are underway that would allow students to work not only in music, but also in the areas of animation and multi-media design.

Walker Theatre, the black-box theatre currently housed in the Walker Arts and Humanities Center, will remain one of the department's primary venues for theatre productions and recitals. It provides an intimacy and a clean acoustic environment that can't be duplicated in a large proscenium hall like the PAC. The two visual arts studios and the theatre shop will also remain in Walker.

Though most of the funding has been secured, it's not too late to be part of this project. The Chairs Campaign, headed by Board of Control Chair Jim Mitchell, is ongoing. Seats sell for $10,000 each, payable over a five-year period. Any size gift is welcome. To find out more about contributing to the PAC, please contact Lisa Dietlin, Senior Advancement Director, College of Sciences and Arts, Michigan Technological University, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931-1295; office: 208 Walker Arts and Humanities Center; telephone: 906/487-3487; e-mail: lmdietlin@mtu.edu.
Ensemble News

Wind Symphony Drops Some Big Names

Our ensembles had a lively year with a special emphasis on quality performance in 1996–97. The Wind Symphony began its season with a potpourri of music from the classics to fusion. Its first performance in November was given in a new venue for the ensemble, the Finnish-American Heritage Center at Suomi College in Hancock. A highlight of the program was a concerto played by Dr. Donald Grant, clarinetist and chair of the music department at Northern Michigan University. Grant held a clarinet clinic earlier in the week for musicians from MTU and the local public schools. The ensemble teamed up with the ECHOES from Heaven Gospel Choir in December for a special holiday program and with the improvisational theatre group, The Troupe, in April for a program of music and antics, inspired by the 1940s band led by Spike Jones. Jazz Studies Director Michael Irish created some of the arrangements for that program.

Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra

1996-97 Season
Jeffrey Bell-Hanson, Music Director

KSO Features Stunning Soloists

Guest artists also headlined the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra’s season. In December, violinist Brian Lewis of New York joined the KSO for a performance of Violin Concerto no. 1 in G Minor by Max Bruch. Lewis, son of Alice Joy Lewis, one of America’s foremost proponents of the Suzuki method, also worked with local Suzuki students in a master class and helped prepare a select few to perform part of a Vivaldi concerto with the orchestra to open its program.

In February Jeffery Zook, piccolo player for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, performed a Michigan premiere with the KSO of Lowell Liebermann’s Concerto for Piccolo and Orchestra. The 1996 work, first performed by Jan Gippo last year at the International Flute Society’s convention in New York, is witty, lyrical, and immediately appealing to listeners. Mr. Zook took up the flute as well while he was in the Copper Country, wowing children from four public schools with his rendition of “Alex in Wonderland,” a piece for flute, piano, and narrator. MTU faculty members Inetta Harris and Jeffrey Bell-Hanson also took part in those performances.

Finally, the KSO’s season ended with a memorial performance of A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms. Conducted by Department Chair and Choral Director Milton Olsson, the piece was presented in memory of the late Dr. G. Cleaves Byers, professor emeritus in MTU’s mathematics department and a long-time patron of arts activities in the area. The performance was recorded for production of a new compact disc, to be available this fall.

Pep Band Grows and Expands Its Instrumentation

With no tournaments on the road and continuing restrictions on travel, the Huskies Pep Band stuck close to home this year. They concentrated instead on recording tracks for a new CD, due out during 1997–98. (See “CDs for Everyone!”)

A major addition this year was the debut of the MTU Bass Drum Line. (They’re still struggling with that name. Alumna and former DaWGs president Julie Chapman reminded the drummers via e-mail that there are no “lines” in the Huskies Pep Band. Of course, she’s right, so... “Bunch o’ Bass Drums?”)

The Drum Line became possible when Student Concussion Coordinator Ryan Johnson found a set of tuned bass drums for sale on the Web. A few weeks later, the dedicated bass drummers began putting in extra time and polishing up their act. They aren’t heard at every game, but football games, certain special events, and some regular hockey games will feature their performances. Look for their performance on the new Pep Band CD due out next year.

The band stays wild, crazy, and committed through downturns in MTU’s hockey fortunes and increasing restrictions on band activity in the WCHA. Director Bell-Hanson cites increases in the number of Bandmembers during recent seasons as evidence of the group’s continued viability. Membership hit the mid-120s this year. Bell-Hanson hopes to push the number higher during the coming year. “We [still] don’t offer scholarships; members get no individual recognition; and admission to games isn’t really an issue at this point. The only explanation is their continued sense of commitment to the MTU community and to the athletic teams,” says Bell-Hanson.
News Briefs

Luehrs Receives Award

Joan Luehrs, long-time Hancock resident, musician par excellence, and teacher and mentor to many fine flutists and pianists, received the Fine Arts Award at the May 10 performance of Brahms Requiem. The Fine Arts Award is given by MTU’s fine arts department only rarely to members of the University and local community who have contributed significantly to the arts at Michigan Tech. The list of winners is short, but distinguished. It includes Isabel Hagen, Audrey Flair, Don Keranen, and Rosemary Remington.

Joan, spouse of Professor Dean Luehrs of the chemistry department, participated in the creation of the KSO and has served as principal flutist for much of its history. She has also consistently produced fine musicians in her flute and piano studio and been active as a church musician. Joan and Dean are both retiring to Sun City, Arizona, where Joan already has several playing, teaching, and church positions.

They plan to summer in the Copper Country, but we will miss her a great deal during the concert season.

Jazz Studios Turns 30

The Jazz Studies Program at Michigan Tech turned thirty during the 1996–97 year, celebrating with an alumni band and bash on May 2 and 3. The May 2 concert was also a memorial tribute to Eddie Russ.

Many past members of the Jazz Lab Band, EYAWTKAJBWATA Band (and its successor, the R&D Band), and combos were on hand to usher in the next thirty years of jazz at MTU in performances with jazz greats like Bob Kase and Steve Zenz. Naturally the program’s originator, Don Keranen, was here and jammin’.

Current Jazz Studies Director, Mike Irish, was here as a student almost at the beginning of the program. He began his studies at MTU in 1970, finishing his forestry degree in 1974, before heading down the road to “another university” to earn a degree in music. All agree that the program is in good hands and has a bright future.

“Wurlie” Revived

The Mighty Wurlitzer, the collection of J. C. Whitney car horns that provides sound effects for the Pep Band, has been less than mighty during the past season. Every few years wiring or connections come loose, things begin to short out, and batteries go south. The machine was particularly bad this season, when help came from an unexpected quarter.

The Wind Symphony’s tribute to Spike Jones (see the “Ensemble News,” page 3) required the sounds of sirens, an “a-oo-ga” horn, a truck horn, and many other sound effects. With a little investment of time and labor by WSO member and graduate student Brian Whitman (horn), some volunteer help from Tom Rodeheffer of biological sciences, plus some new parts from the J. C. Whitney Catalog, the old beast is in better voice than ever. Expect to hear a lot from it when you come to the next hockey game.

CDs for Everyone!

The Huskies Pep Band, college hockey’s most famous band, will soon be on CD! In fact, this CD will be only one of several CDs being made by MTU fine arts ensembles. The KSO and Festival Chorus blazed the trail when they joined groups from Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie for a recording of Handel’s Messiah produced by WNMU-TV. The Jazz Lab Band and Jazz Tech soon followed with their recording, Tech Jazz. Two more: The KSO and Festival Chorus (performing A German Requiem by Brahms) and the ECHOES from Heaven Gospel Choir, are already in production. Yet another CD is still in the planning stages that will feature all of MTU’s ensembles playing holiday music.

The Pep Band recording comes in part as a response to many requests each year for recordings of the band or the fight song, “Fight Tech Fight.” The band had two sessions with local recording engineer Dennis McKaig during the last year. The first was a “studio” session during which sections of the band were spread throughout room 135 Fisher Hall. The second was a live performance in the Varsity Gym during the annual home basketball games with NMU. Director Bell-Hanson remarks, “We got some great crowd noise and excitement during the Northern games and some great energy.”

Bell-Hanson plans to finish up the recording this fall with one more studio session, then send the master tapes off for production during the winter.

Look for a chance to order the CDs in Michigan Tech Alumnus magazine. They will also be available on campus or through the Department of Fine Arts by calling 906/487-2067. Proceeds from the sale of the recordings will help buy equipment and fund travel and operations of the Pep Band.
Huskies Pep Band Goes High Tech

"There is no Virtual MTU Pep Band."

MTU President and Honorary Bandmember Curt Tompkins made this comment recently in talking about the limitations of cybercampsuses. While he is essentially correct, the Pep Band is branching out into new areas of electronic communication and programming.

The Pep Band has been using an e-mail list for communication among the Bandmembers for a couple of years. Last year that list began to mushroom into several, each set up for a separate section of the band. Bandmembers use the lists for important discussions about band programming, to keep up on the news about volunteer events or road trips, and to find subs for games. There is even a list for band alums: old-dawgs-l@mtu.edu. You can subscribe by sending a message to majordomo@mtu.edu with a blank subject line. In the body of the message, write "subscribe old-dawgs-l@mtu.edu."

If you haven’t explored MTU’s Web page in a while, check out the DaWGS page at http://www.gp.mtu.edu/dawgs/

Though it started as a page just for the DaWGs organization (a student organization for Pep Band), it became the official Pep Band page when the originator of the first Pep Band Web page, former DaWGs president Bill LaPalm, left campus. The current page was designed by Student Director Bill Binder. Bill is a computer science major with a career interest in computer animation and special effects. His DaWGs page has gained international attention.

Computerized Programming

A brand-new thrust for the band this year will be the introduction into the sports venues of a computerized programming board, purchased by the athletic department. The board will allow point-and-click control over all kinds of environmental elements at games, enabling the incorporation of prerecorded announcements, sound effects, and even cutlines from movie soundtracks. When the band is on break, the board will even provide canned music.

Director Jeff Bell-Hanson hopes that this system will finally allow for the production of events with radio-station efficiency, eliminating awkward moments of dead air when communication and scheduling breaks down between the announcer, the sports information director, and the band.

The system was purchased without the consultation of the band director. “When I was first made aware of this system, I was asked to sign on to something about which I knew very little,” comments Bell-Hanson. “Given the controversy that the use of canned music is causing in collegiate sports venues around the country, I was initially concerned that this could become a source of conflict between the band and the athletic department. During discussions with the athletic department, I made known my opposition to the use of prerecorded music when the band is present. Given our history of cooperation and the strength of the band tradition at Michigan Tech, I have come to view this new element as an opportunity.”

Bell-Hanson hopes to turn the imagination of the band loose with this new tool. “With all the creativity among our Bandmembers, I expect the band to continue to drive the programming at MTU athletic events, as we always have. I prefer to think of this new tool as a high-tech Wurlitzer.” (Not to worry, the old Wurlitzer will still be wailing away at the hockey games too.)

MTU Drum Line ROCKS Houghton

Being Serious Can Be Fun!
by Ryan Johnson, Concussion Coordinator

The Pep Band drum line/concussion section made big strides over the past year. With the combination of new equipment, one of the strongest freshman classes in recent years, and a lot of extra practice time, the drum-line members proved that they can be just as serious as they are rowdy.

Jeff Bell-Hanson and Ryan Johnson worked through the fall term to bring a new dimension to the drummers’ sound: pitched bass drums. The five used, black bass drums (with carriers) came to MTU from Union High School in Tennessee, and the band got them for next to nothing (thanks James Powell!). Special thanks for playing in the line to Ray Jasicki, Ian Springer, Geoff Sanders, Michael Shafer, and Matt “gosh-my-back-is” Hurt. Matt played bottom bass (30-inch diameter), the largest of the five, and
Drum Line  Continued from page 6

affectionately named it Big Bertha! All the guys put in many hours every week rehearsing as a section. I can't leave out "Drew" Legg who did a great job filling in empty spots from time to time.

The newly formed bass line made several appearances at hockey and basketball games during the winter months and added a little extra boost to the Pep Band, helping to fill the void left by the broken Mighty Wurlitzer. (Never fear, brave alumni, the Wurlitzer has undergone a $1.2-million face lift/swift-kick-in-the — and will be up and running in top form next fall . . . until it breaks again.) The bass line also made a big contribution to the upcoming Pep Band CD (see related article). Not only did the basses play on all of the tracks for the disc, but they recorded their own bonus track, called "Funky Five." (Sorry folks, but this track will not be released on the LP vinyl or 8-track versions of the Pep Band recordings.) Listen for the magical-mystery-musical ending to their solo feature.

The drummers are hoping to find money through fund-raisers next year for the purchase of new/used snare drums. (Check out the "Show Your Stripes" offer below and help out the drum line as well as the rest of the band.) Remember . . . Ask not what your Pep Band can do for you, but what you can do for the Pep Band.

In other news, freshman snare drummer Kris "Shaggy" Grant will continue drumming this summer with the Coachmen Drum and Bugle Corps from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Kris plans to use the Coachmen as a stepping stone to his ultimate goal, the Cadets of Bergen Co. I thought Mitch "the Biscuit" Nelson was the only guy crazy enough to go that far east to do corps?! Look for the Coachmen this summer and yell extra loud for Kris (he's the tall snare drummer).

Huskies Mini-Band Camp—Second Season

The Huskies Pep Band has little in common with its marching counterparts at other institutions. Though that is a source of some pride for the Bandmembers, good ideas are worth stealing no matter where they originate. For the last two seasons, the Huskies Pep Band has been running a pre-season band camp before the fall term, as do most college marching bands.

The Huskies band camp differs in some respects: it is shorter, lasting only a weekend rather than a week; it includes no physical drills nor marching! While U of M and Wisconsin band members are learning field drills, the Huskies concentrate on musical rehearsal and social events, with the help of Mu Beta Psi and the DaWGs Pep Band organization.

"It's really as much about getting people acquainted with each other as it is about rehearsal," remarks Director Jeff Bell-Hanson. "While we do try to accomplish something in musical terms, leading to a performance during the weekend, we are also concerned about getting rookies oriented; checking out music, instruments, and stripes; and building a sense of comradery among all of the Bandmembers. Organizationally it saves us time during the first week of classes." It also gives everyone a chance to dust off the horns and the chops before the year really starts. In fact, Bell-Hanson encourages freshmen interested in any band, not just the Pep Band, to attend the mini-camp. After experiencing the first rehearsal, some change their minds and stay. Others may use the camp to prepare for auditions in the other ensembles.

The catalyst for starting the camp was a change in the University calendar in 1996. The fall term started from the week of Labor Day to the week after. Bell-Hanson assumed that a greater percentage of the returnees would be in town at the end of the week before classes than would be the case if it were the holiday weekend. "If and when the start date shifts back, I hope that this camp will be well enough established that people will come back early for it anyway," says Bell-Hanson.

"Band Parties" at MTU

Jeff Bell-Hanson, director of band and orchestra, will be holding some informal reading band sessions for students and community members this year. The idea is to provide a relaxed, no-pressure opportunity to play in a band. "Many students and others in our community really miss playing in a band, but feel that they can't handle the commitment to a regular, performing ensemble," said Bell-Hanson. These get-togethers will offer them a chance to have some fun and unwind by playing music without the pressure of an impending performance or a weekly rehearsal schedule.

The conductor hopes that these events will attract a broad range of people, from talented high school students and their teachers to otherwise-harried students at Michigan Tech. "We have no town band here," says Bell-Hanson. "Perhaps it's because we're all too busy to have one. These occasional musical parties may fill that void." On the other hand, Bell-Hanson is approaching this idea with an open mind. "If there is a good response, perhaps in the future this group will become the basis for a regular community town-and-gown band." In the meantime, the plan is just to have some fun.

If you are in the Houghton area and want more information about these opportunities, call Bell-Hanson at 906/487-2825.
Alumni News

We've piled up quite a bit, and it's found here in no particular order.

Carl (tri-toms) and Elizabeth (baritone) Davis sent word of a new addition to their family on July 20, 1996. Her name is Morgan Elizabeth Davis; “Very beautiful,” says Elizabeth. Jessica, whose birth we reported a while back, is now four and sings beautifully.

Brian Coburn (baritone), former DaWGs president, was with Gourdie/Fraser & Associates in Traverse City last we heard. He sent along his favorite memory from his Pep Band days: “I will never forget seeing Romano turn around and shake his head at us with a huge grin on his face. That tops all my experiences at Tech as being the coolest!”

Brian Wright (Fhorn/SD) and Jen Leiterman Wright (picc/PB Manager) got married last summer! Brian heard that someone was attempting to play a recording of the Macarena at MacInnes Arena during hockey games. He said, “The band should riot.” Never fear, Brian, they did.

At last report, you could reach PB and Mu Beta Psi alum Jennie Jopple (cymbals), at this address: WeRJoppies@aol.com. The big news is that she and Neil Bright (snare/tris) became engaged.

Gayle Kirby (clarinet) bought her own piece of America! She is now the proud owner of a home in Troy, Mich. She is also a project engineer at General Motors Truck Division in Pontiac. Congrats, Gayle.

Concussion alum Alice Gerhardt (bells/other mallet percussion) has actually been in graduate school at Tech for the last couple of years. But, all good things must come to an end, and Alice finished up her degree this year.

New Fine Arts Staff

Kelly Thomas joined MTU in fall 1995 as box office coordinator for University Cultural Enrichment and the Department of Fine Arts. Kelly came to MTU from the Schubert Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut.

Paul Aneshansel, technical director for fine arts since fall 1996, brings a wealth of experience in Chicago-area theatres, convention centers, and stadiums. In addition to being a state-of-the-art technical director to all our fine arts events, Paul is helping to refine the final details of the new Performing Arts Center, which will be built starting summer 1998.

Bell-Hanson Flees Country . . . Again!

Intrepid B&O Director Jeffrey Bell-Hanson traveled again this March to the Czech Republic. (See an account of his last trip in a past newsletter.) As before, the destination was the small spa town of Marianske Lazne, better known as Marienbad, site of the annual Marienbad Workshop for Conductors, coordinated by Symphonic Workshops, a Canadian firm.

While there Bell-Hanson met with twelve other conductors from around the globe, each of whom spent time each day on the podium before the West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra, a professional orchestra based in Marienbad. They all received coaching from Maestro Victor Feldbrill of Canada and Maestro Rostislav Halička, chief conductor of the WBSO, formerly chief conductor of the prestigious Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic. At the end of the eleven-day workshop, Bell-Hanson and the other participants shared the conducting duties in two public performances.

“Last time I visited Marienbad, I stumbled onto a major research project on the shelves of a little music/jewelry shop,” says Bell-Hanson of his first visit. He refers to the symphonies of Jiří Antonín Benda (1722–95), which became the focus of Bell-Hanson’s doctoral research. “It was only natural for me to return to the country of Benda’s origin, if for no other reason than to look for more scores.”

He came home with more than scores. Bell-Hanson not only won the recommendation of the workshops master teacher to be invited back for a full concert with the orchestra, but he has a standing invitation from a colleague at the University of Ostrava to lecture there on Benda’s music.
Alumni News  Continued from page 8

Matt “Dutch” Blackburn (trumpet) sent a new address last December. He’s now living in Comstock Park, Mich.

Paulette Noble (flute) has a lovely baby girl named Kaelen. Paulette, still living in the area, brought Kaelen around a few times. She’s a charmer!

Brad Boyce (tuba) is attending graduate school at Berkeley. After a semester without a tuba, he went home and bought one, then auditioned and made it into the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra. He wrote that they were working on Elgar’s Enigma Variations and Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring. Keep up the great work, Brad.

Kevin Christenson (flute) got in touch this year looking for information on some flute dealers. Seems he’s in the market for a new axe. BTW, he’s a PhD student at the Univ. of Mich.

Jeff Paulson (trombone/SD) is still working on that Master of Divinity at Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC, and serving multiple churches as a student pastor. He visits Houghton each summer with his family.

Mike Defever (bass clarinet) was still in Colorado finishing up a graduate degree as of May this year. He sends along these comments about his other activities. “These days, I rock climb, teach karate, and gave up my car in favor of a motorcycle back in 1995. It never crossed my mind to do all these exciting, ‘dangerous’ things back a few years ago, but I’m having a blast.”

Kevin Britton (trombone) graduated this spring and is working for Applied Manufacturing Technology in Rochester Hills. Congrats!

Jon Fielbrantd (trombone/librarian) started his new position as a Chemistry and Math teacher at Sterling Heights High School this fall. Great news!

Ellen McEnhill (bells/other mallet percussion) and Jason Vanity (bells) tied the knot this summer. Congrats, guys!

Robyn Fritzler (clarinet) and Adam Poot (percussion/recording engineer) joined together in holy matrimony on June 14 this summer. They have already returned to Houghton where Robyn will be pursuing a graduate degree. Adam will finish his degree during the coming year.

Sheryl Sorby (trombone) and Birgit (Kuschnerus) Sorgenfrei (flute) now serve as charter members on MTU’s Council of Alumnae. Sheryl teaches in the electrical engineering department at MTU, and Birgit is an electrical engineer in Dearborn Heights.

Looking for current contact information on Jamin Scott (clarinet/bass clarinet/KSO and Wind Symphony manager).


Camille Brown Kempke (viola) is working as a psychiatrist with the Copper Country Mental Health Outpatient Department in Houghton, Mich.

Christine Manninen (clarinet) is a communications specialist/editor with the Great Lakes Commission and lives in Livonia, Mich.

Suzanne Stelmaszek-Jokela (clarinet) is a senior materials engineer at Harley-Davidson in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Julie Chapman (concussion) is working at Caterpillar Inc. in Moseville, Ill.

Marcia Pettit (flute/piccolo) is a project engineer with Johnson Controls Automotive Systems in Plymouth, Mich.

Jeffrey Laitila (trumpet) is a solid-waste program manager with the U.S. Air Force Compliance/Pollution Prevention Division at Edwards AFB, Calif.

Caren Freel Meyers (A.sax) is a chemistry graduate student at the Univ. of Rochester.

Seth Newlin (trumpet) is a design engineer with Oshkosh Corp. in Oshkosh, Wisc.

Kirk Folk (T.sax) is an electrical engineer with the U.S. Air Force Maintenance Engineering Division in Ogden, Utah.

Brian Beauchamp (violin) is an analysis support engineer with General Motors management in Troy, Mich.

Abigail Coppock (viola, voice) is a graduate student at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H.

Continued on page 10
What's New . . .

Improvements and equipment made possible by gifts:

2 F-horns, a Bach and a Jupiter (new)
1 Jupiter bari-sax (new)
5 pitched bass drums, black finish
1 Jupiter baritone horn (new)
2 Gemeinhardt piccolos—piccolilli? (new)
1 Vito B-flat clarinet (new)—for use as a loaner
1 set of quad-toms (new)
1 office computer (new)—allowing a network connection and more work to be done in-house
1 Musser vibraphone (new)—donated by President Tompkins
Individual lockers for the rehearsal room (moved from the art studio in Walker)

Thank you for your continued generosity. Your gifts enhance our program through the purchase of new equipment or supplies and the creation of opportunities for current Bandmembers.

What's Needed . . .

The following items are next on our priority list for replacement or purchase.

2 flutes (replacement): $600 ea.
3 sousaphones (replacement): $1,200–$3,000 ea.
1 bari sax (overhaul or replacement): $1,000–$2,000
2 double french horns (replacement): $1,500–$2,000 ea.
Drum heads and mallets: ~$500 annually
1 Chau gong (33-inch tamtam) w/stand: $600
1 marimba: $8,000
1 set (4) timpani w/ gauges (replacement): $15,000
Acoustic shells (replacement): $11,000
Additional music to the library: Pep Band: $120;
Wind Symphony/Concert Band: $80; KSO: $150

Send your tax-deductible gifts to
Michigan Tech Fund
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

Please earmark your gift for the MTU Band or the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra and specify what purchase or project you would like to support. Please send Jeff Bell-Hanson a note or e-mail message to let him know about your gift as well. Gifts to MTU's Capital Campaign can also be designated for fine arts!

Alumni News  Continued from page 9

Julie Ebersole (trombone/T.sax) is a geophysicist at Marathon Oil Co. Seismic Services in Houston, Tex.

Tina Poquette (T.sax) is a reliability engineer with General Motors Truck Group in Janesville, Wisc.

Elizabeth Titus (concussion) is an environmental engineer at ASARCO Technical Services Center in Salt Lake City, Utah

Matthew White (concussion) is a service engineer at Fanuc Robotics Paint Finishing Division in Auburn Hills, Mich.

We’ve announced a lot of nuptials in these newsletters, so birth announcements should be more and more frequent. Here is the e-mail message that I received this spring from Laura Janowski, a clarinetist in the WS, and her husband, Brian. They even included a Web address where you could see some pictures of Mom and daughter. Perhaps you can get a peek if you e-mail Brian at bpjanows@mtu.edu

Jeff,

Brian and I wanted to share with you our wonderful news! We are proud parents of a baby girl, born on May 5th. She was 8 pounds, 14.6 ounces, 21 inches long. Julia Lauran Janowski is sleeping, eating a lot, and growing by leaps and bounds. Brian and I are on cloud 9. She is as precious as can be. (I can even say that at 3:00 a.m. wake-up calls). See you in the fall. Have a good summer.

Laura, Brian, and Julia

Keep everyone informed of your whereabouts, work, honors, family, and fun for our next newsletter. We want to hear from you! Contact

Jeffrey Bell-Hanson
Department of Fine Arts
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

E-mail: jbhanson@mtu.edu
A wise man once said that the only sure things in life were death, taxes, and the Huskies Pep Band! But even we aren't immune to some changes, like replacing our old stripes with our new stripes. It happened; it's done, but you can still relive the old days with your own piece of Huskies Pep Band denim history.

Just order one of these handsomely framed swatches of denim from the old Pep Band stripes, bearing your name and dates of participation. No cheap imitations here! These patches are cut right from the old bib overalls. You can order gold and black, red and white, or the original multicolored stripes.

As an option, you may order a plaque with one of the wide bib pockets from the front of the stripes. It could be a great gift for the Bandmember in your life!

Best of all, your purchase will help pay for the new uniforms and support Pep Band activities like travel, GLI, purchase of music and equipment, or maintenance of instruments.

Order yours today by returning this handy order form with your check.

(Please print or type)

**Name:** (to appear on the plaque)

---

**Years of Pep Band Participation:** 19 ___ to 19 ___

**Check type of plaque**

___ with swatch ($60)  
___ with bib pocket ($75)

**Check color of swatch or pocket**

___ Gold and Black  
___ Red and White  
___ Multicolored

Name ____________________________

Address __________________________

City/state _________________________ ZIP _________

Telephone _________________________

E-mail (optional) __________________

Make checks payable to MTU and mail to

Jeff Bell-Hanson, Department of Fine Arts  
Michigan Technological University  
1400 Townsend Dr.  
Houghton, MI 49931-1295.
Inside, you'll find the latest news about . . .

- Alumni—joyful tidings!
- Favorite musical ensembles—from Sousa to Swing!
- MTU's Performing Arts Center—coming in 2000!
- CDs—Pep Band, KSO, ECHOES from Heaven, and others!

plus . . . Your chance to own a piece of striped history!

Get a colorful souvenir of the Huskies Pep Band—See page 11.