

All eyes on

Dan Peterson

A good band is one that communicates emotional content to the listener.



The Missouri Bandmaster's Association inducted the University's Band Director Dan Peterson into the Hall of Fame in June 2008.

Director inducted into Hall of Fame

BY PAUL BISCHOFF
Staff Reporter

The Missouri Bandmaster's Association Hall of Fame inducted a member of the Truman staff into its ranks.

"I've been here in Missouri for 30 years, so this is [the next] big honor I've had," Band Director Dan Peterson said. "I couldn't be more pleased with it. It's a statement that you've achieved at the highest level."

Peterson received the honor of being elected into the Hall of Fame in June 2008. The current members in the Hall of Fame issue the award, which has existed for nearly 40 years and applies to grade school and college bandmasters who have contributed to the field of music education and performance.

"That's a pretty significant achievement, I think — that people think you fit in that category," Peterson said. "They looked at Truman and myself because of the 19 people who have graduated here ... that are now directors of band at colleges or jazz band directors at colleges who were my students."

Being elected into the MBA Hall of Fame isn't the only major recognition on Peterson's résumé. He also was inducted into the Iowa Jazz Educators Hall of Fame. Before coming to Truman, he taught at four different high schools of varying sizes in both Iowa and Missouri.

"I think if you're going to stick with music and climb the ladder to become a college professor ... you really have to have a passion for not only music, but the area you're working in, which in my case is bands," he said.

Peterson said he realized he had a passion for music when he started playing the drums in fifth grade. He became a set drummer and was greatly inspired by his high school band director.

"That's really where I got the hook in my mouth and couldn't get it out," he said. "There's always a key person who sends anybody on their trail of life, so to speak. Don Jackson was that guy for me. My only goal when I went to college

was to graduate and have a band as good as I had in my high school."

At home, Peterson said he enjoys listening to old jazz albums but also spends a large amount of time listening to what is current in concert band. Peterson said he thinks Donald Grantham and John McKay are the contemporary "gurus" as composers. He also listed early 1900s composer Gustav Holst as a revered favorite.

"A good band is one that communicates emotional content to the listener and makes the listener feel whatever emotion that that band is trying to portray," he said. "That's true of an orchestra or choir or any rock group. You want to get the audience involved in what you're doing."

Peterson is the band director of Truman's top concert band, Wind Symphony One, as well as the marching and basketball bands. He also teaches graduate conducting and undergraduate music education.

Peterson recalled the most precious moments of his career with the Truman band.

"The performances that the Truman band has been chosen to give on national conventions," he said. "I wouldn't isolate one of those — we've been on six of them — and I think each one is an achievement and a very special place for me."

Peterson will lead the band to the Missouri Music Educators Conference in January. He said he hopes to gain some recognition for Truman through the performances. Peterson also said he is excited to follow the careers of his graduating students, especially those in the teaching field. The music teachers who graduate from Truman can send graduating high school students back for recruitment.

"I'd like to thank every student who has played in our bands," Peterson said. "I would particularly like to thank all the people who come to work here every day and teach flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion because it's really their expertise that I get to stand in front of and put together and make music happen."

Students' passions sometimes differ from chosen majors

BY CHRIS BONING
Staff Reporter

A passion is more than just something people happen to do well — it's something they carry with them forever.

Junior Katy Ward, a Spanish and biology major, said she enjoys creating colorful, abstract paintings.

"They're not of anything in particular," she said. "It's kind of the type of thing where you look at it [and] everybody sees different things in it. It's a lot of shapes and stuff. Some people see eyes, and some people see trees and some people see mountains. It's different for everybody."

When viewing her paintings, many people have pointed out aspects of biology, such as the veins of leaves or parts of cells in them, although that was unintentional, Ward said.

"When I paint it's a lot of design — it just kind of flows out," she said. "I don't really have a plan for it beforehand. I just kind of wait and see what happens with it."

Ward said she first began drawing as a child, an activity that evolved into abstract drawing and then turned into abstract painting her senior year of high school.

"It's a relaxation kind of thing," she said. "It helps me get away, and it's just kind of something else. It's different, and I like doing it."

Ward added that people often tell her they think her painting skills are neat, although the question of practicality usually also comes up.

"The first question is always, 'What are you going to do with that?'" she said. "I know for biology and Spanish, I want to do wildlife research, and a lot of that will probably be in South America and Central America, so that's where that would tie in. But with art, it's totally in its own [world]."

Painting has made her appreciate biology more, Ward said.

"When you're outdoors [in] the beauty of your surroundings you see things differently," she said. "You don't just see the cell, you see ... a different aspect of it. When you're a painter, you appreciate the color and the shapes more."

Ward added that she sometimes feels conflicted for having chosen biology over art but that in the end she knows she made the right decision.

"I can do painting regardless of whether or not I study it, but to get the career I want I have to do biology," she said.

"A more well-rounded person" Junior Cecilia Muruato, a French and art history major, said she has been designing and making dresses since her senior year of high school when her love of fashion and her unusual height — she's 5-foot-11 — influenced her decision to get creative.

"It's hard for me to find anything that fits me proportionally because if it's long enough to the point where I feel comfortable it's always too big," she said. "I'd always have my mom sew it in, but then I was like, 'Well, I could always do it.'"

Muruato added that much of her

inspiration comes from fashion magazines.

"I love color, and I love texture," she said. "If I see something and I like it, I'll try to reproduce it. I like things [that] are ... sophisticated and fun and feminine."

She said she's not interested in making clothing for other people only because she would get bored easily and tailoring dress sizes for other people is difficult.

"The thing is I'm a little selfish, and ... there are only certain things that I like, and I don't really like to make [things] for other people because I lose interest," Muruato said. "Unless I'm really interested in it or it's something very important, I don't really [create] for others."

Muruato said she decided to study art history because it combines two of her favorite subjects and she chose to major in French because she fell in love with the language after learning it in high school. Dressmaking and fashion usually combine all of those subjects: art, history and French culture, she added.

"When you're wearing fashionable things or things that you like, it's a creative process in its own way and it's definitely a way of expressing yourself," Muruato said. "It's my own way of being artistic."

She added that although she might not always have time for sewing during the school year, she considers sewing and dressmaking a long-term hobby, which is something everyone should have.

"I think everyone, if they have a hobby, not only does it make life more relaxing, it ... [introduces] you to new people," Muruato said. "It's definitely something you can talk to others about. It just makes your life a lot richer to have hobbies outside of what you're focusing on. I think it makes you a more well-rounded person."



Junior Katy Ward works on one of her paintings, a piece she started during the summer, in her apartment Sunday.

Transferable skills

Dave Kincaid, assistant director of the Career Center, said students who major in one thing but are passionate about something else occasionally come into the center looking for advice. He said he stresses to these students that their major doesn't always determine what they do later in life.

"In the case of a student who wants to enter a different kind of field, we try to see what they're bringing to that field through their current major, especially transferable skills [such as] communication skills [and] critical thinking skills," Kincaid said.

He added that he also encourages students to add a minor or a double major if it's available at the University and if it will fit into their coursework. If people are genuinely passionate about a field unrelated to their major, they should try to get some hands-on experience in that area, Kincaid said.

"I think it's very important especially for those students to get some kind of practical experience in that area, whether that be volunteer experience, whether it be extended shadowing, whether it be a graduate school degree if necessary or an internship experience," he said.

WWW.TRUMANRENTALS.COM

Providing affordable student housing for more than 22 years.

Boardwalk • Waterworks • Park Place • States Avenue • St. James Place • New York Avenue

Four Horizons Realty
703 N. Marion St.
Kirksville, MO 63501

660-665-RENT
www.4horizonsrealty.com

Thinking of an internship?

Come listen to Alumni share their internship and work experiences!

All majors welcome!



Ask questions about D.C. internships. Get information on the Truman in Washington Program, application processes, and 2009 deadlines.

Friday, October 3
4 p.m. in BH 303

Sponsored by: The Truman in Washington Program
For more information contact Diane Johnson at djohnson@truman.edu