Campus Briefs

Music prof named president of International Horn Society

BY CHARLENNE LATTEA
COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS

WVU Music Professor Virginia Thompson was elected president of the International Horn Society (IHS) during its 32nd annual symposium at the China International Youth Exchange Center in Beijing.

Her two-year term will end at the conclusion of the 34th annual symposium scheduled for August 2002 in Lahti, Finland.

The International Horn Society is an organization of more than 3,500 members from 63 countries dedicated to the performance, teaching, composition, research and the preservation and promotion of the horn as a musical instrument.

The society's current advisory council includes members from Austria, China, England, France, Germany and Russia, as well as the United States, where the Society was founded.

Of the nine previous IHS presidents, the most famous is London recording artist Barry Tuckwell, who served as the first president of the Society and again as president in the early 1990s.

Dr. Thompson, a life member of the IHS, has been very active in the society during the past decade. She has written a number of articles for the Society's journal and served as the IHS news editor from 1993 to 1998.

She has presented the WVU Horn Choir at both regional and international conferences, and in 1995 hosted a large regional conference at WVU.

Thompson has performed on IHS symposium programs in Texas, Oregon, New York, Canada and China. She was elected to the society's advisory council in 1995 and was elected secretary/treasurer in 1998.

She chaired the Scholarship Committee from 1998 to 2000 and serves on the journal's editing staff.

WVU to help select and evaluate state's tobacco control programs

BY BILL CASE
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health has chosen a WVU group to help determine how the state's tobacco settlement money can be spent most effectively to reduce tobacco use.

West Virginia will spend nearly $6 million each year from the multi-billion-dollar 1998 tobacco settlement to fund local and statewide efforts to reduce the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products. WVU's Prevention Research Center and Office of Drug Abuse Intervention Studies have formed an Evaluation Oversight and Coordinating Unit to provide independent reviews of proposals submitted to the state for the use of these funds.

"The state needs to know that this money is being used wisely," said Kimberly Horn, EdD, Community Medicine, who directs the WVU evaluation project. "Every activity funded by the state will be evaluated to determine if the programs meet their goals, to establish what approaches work best for tobacco prevention and reduction, and to understand how to make program improvements."

WVU's Prevention Research Center and Office of Drug Abuse Intervention Studies developed the "Not On Tobacco" curriculum for adolescents, which has been adopted nationwide by the American Lung Association for use in schools.

West Virginia is the second state to establish an independent unit to play a major role in evaluating projects funded with tobacco settlement monies.

Florida recently contracted with the University of Miami for similar services.

WVU will work closely with two West Virginia Bureau for Public Health units: the Tobacco Prevention Program, and the Health Statistics Center, which has overall responsibility for tobacco prevention evaluation in West Virginia.

"One of the goals of the partnership is to develop application procedures, establish funding criteria and guidelines, review applications, and provide funding recommendations to the Bureau."

Once programs have been funded, the group will evaluate all the programs, provide them with technical assistance, and train other professionals in the state in how to evaluate and deliver programs.

The WVU units are part of the School of Medicine. Other WVU faculty who will participate are Geri Dino, PhD, Bob Anderson, MA, Rob Pack, PhD, Cathy Coyne, PhD, and Catherine Massey, PhD, all of the Department of Community Medicine.

Alumni Association makes $250,000 pledge to WVU Libraries

BY JOSHUA JEFFERSON
WVU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

During this year of growth and renovation on the campus of WVU, the WVU Alumni Association has made a $250,000 pledge to support the University Libraries. The pledge will support the Alumni Association's commitment to the new $35 million Downtown Library Complex, scheduled for completion in September 2002.

As a result of the gift, the entrance to the library will be named The Alumni Lobby, permanently connecting the Alumni Association to the WVU Libraries. The pledge was made to the WVU Foundation in conjunction with the capital campaign that will be officially launched in November.

"We believe all members of the Association will be supportive of this new venture of service to the University," said Stephen Douglas, chief executive officer of the Alumni Association. "The commitment the Alumni Association is making for students who someday will be WVU alumni is vital. It is also important to note that funds supporting such a worthy project will be generated from new revenue streams and no membership dollars will be used."

Approved by the WVU Alumni Association board of directors, the pledge is a symbolic gift of appreciation for the membership growth and success the Alumni Association has experienced throughout its decorated history. The year 2000 has marked many milestones, including the Association's 10,000th life member since the program began.

As the largest and oldest organization at WVU, the Alumni Association's goal is to uphold the great traditions of the University and maintain the good will that WVU alumni feel for each other and toward their alma mater.

Children's Hospital opens new birth area, birth pioneer to lecture

BY BILL CASE
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

West Virginia's most advanced facility for childbirth is now more comfortable for mothers and families.

The new Maternal and Infant Care Center at WVU Children's Hospital is now open, providing care for mothers and babies in large, comfortably equipped rooms that have plenty of space for fathers, siblings and others who want to visit before, during and after a baby's birth.

The same rooms that healthy mothers and babies use for uncomplicated births can be instantly converted to fully-equipped hospital birth rooms. Behind the art and furnishings are fetal monitoring equipment, oxygen, exam lights and other diagnostic and treatment equipment that the medical and nursing staff can use to assist in the birth process.

"The mother and baby will have the same nurses from admission to discharge," says Andrea Ferretti, RN, director of WVU Children's Hospital.

For the past 18 months, staff from the formerly separate labor and delivery, obstetrics and newborn nursery areas have trained together to provide mothers with an uninterrupted stay in the same room. "In most cases, the baby will never leave the mother's room," Ferretti said.

The new rooms are equipped with a contoured sink so that first-time mothers can learn to bathe their new infant before leaving the hospital. The $2.5 million project is about half complete; mothers have been admitted to the eight new rooms and workers will soon begin renovating another area to build five more new rooms.

As part of the celebration of the new center, WVU's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology will sponsor a free public lecture Oct. 13 by John Kennell, MD, professor of pediatrics, Case Western Reserve School of Medicine.

Dr. Kennell will speak at 7 p.m. in the Health Sciences Center Auditorium.

His talk, Labor Support by the Doula: What's Good for the Mother is Good for the Baby, will be the WVU School of Medicine's Eighth Annual Antonio Palladino Memorial Lecture.

Nearly 50 years ago, Kennell challenged established medical practice and began to encourage parents of premature infants to see, touch, hold and feed their small infants.