SPRING ACTIVITIES
During the spring semester, MSSVA students will participate in several performances: the String Festival, March 17; annual radio concert for the National Music Week, date to be arranged; student recitals, May 8; and a Play-In concert, May 15. Please mark those dates on your calendars.

100-DAY CLUB
The following students practiced at least 100 days during the fall semester and they became 100-Day Club members: Varoon Bashyakala, Chelsea Coombes, Chris Farmer, Quintin Farmer, Melissa Hoffmeister, Kaiti Hoover, Alan Liu, Lydia O'Donnell, Seth Putnam, Shruti Sharma, Tyler Simmons, Kylee Tripoli, Kyle Turner & Jennifer Weist. Congratulations to those students!

GRADUATION RECITALS
The following students completed a Suzuki violin book and gave a graduation recital from that book during the fall semester. They are: Samuel Emery, Book I; Shruti Sharma, Book I; Lydia O'Donnell, Book II; Seth Putnam, Book II; Rachel Prihoda, Book III; and Amy Shilane, Book III. Congratulations to those students!

DOLANC AND HIGGINSON
Suzannah Dolanc and Jenny Higginson auditioned for and were selected to the All-State Orchestra. The orchestra performed Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 on Saturday, Jan. 30, at Tan-Tar-A. Congratulations to Suzannah and Jenny! CHELSEA COOMBES Chelsea Coombes held her Book I Graduation Recital over the Christmas Holidays. The audience included her family members and relatives who visited for Christmas. Her recital was well received.

SHRUTI SHARMA
Shruti Sharma successfully performed her Suzuki Book I Graduation Recital on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at East Morland School. About 45 students of both 4th grade classes, their teachers, music teachers, PE teachers and the principal attended the recital. Her piano accompanist was Mrs. Oster. Snacks and drinks were served after the recital.

ALL-DISTRICT HONOR BAND
Some MSSVA students play other instruments in addition to the violin. The following students were selected to the All-District Honor Band: Rebecca Browning, 8th grade, trombone; Carrie Clark, 7th grade, clarinet; and Amy Shilane, 8th grade, clarinet. Congratulations to Rebecca, Carrie and Amy!

SOUTHERN TRIO
Southern Trio, a faculty ensemble at MSSC, will perform on Sunday, March 7, at Webster Auditorium. The program includes piano trio works of Beethoven, Turina, and Jardon. The
performance of Jardon's Angel Fire Suite will the world premiere. Southern Trio members are Gloria Jardon, piano; Bill Elliott, cello; and Kexi Liu, violin.

FOR SALE
1/8 and 1/4 violins, in good condition. Call Dr. Liu at 624-8795.

1/4 violin for sale, in good condition. Call 782-6056

3/4 violin for sale, $245. Very good strings and bow, only one previous player. Call Mrs. Christianson at (417) 466-3400.

A happily used 1/4 violin with case, excellent condition. $115. Call Merre Putnam, (417) 325-5444.

1/2 violin, excellent condition, $125. Call Jeanne O'Donnell, (417) 782-1349.

CALENDAR
March 7, Sunday, 3 p.m.: Southern Trio Concert, Webster Auditorium.

March 13, Saturday, 1 p.m.: String Festival, Phinney Hall and Room 208.

March 22-26: Spring Break.

May, 8, Saturday, 1, 2 & 3 p.m.: Student Recitals, Webster Auditorium.

May, 15, Saturday, 1 p.m.: Play-In Concert.

*** Kexi Liu, editor

Suzuki Violin Academy Allegro Suzuki Newsletter
Vol. 12, No. 2, October 2002

ERIC DYSART Eric Dysart entered the fiddle contest at the Tulsa State Fair on Sep. 28 and won the 3rd prize. On Oct 1, he was featured in a two-hour performance at Treasure Lake Resort in Branson. On Oct 7, Eric opened a show in Coffeyville, Kansas, for Fiddle player Jana Jae and her band. He played "Fisher's Hornpipe" and "Gray Eagle" Later in the show, he played "Lover's Waltz" and Jana harmonized with him on the fiddle.

SHAUNA DYSART Shauna Dysart performed her Suzuki Book 1 Graduation Recital on Sep. 16 at her home. In addition to 8 pieces of Book 1, she also played the Oklahoma State Song, a fiddle piece, and a piano piece. Her brother, Eric, also performed a few pieces. Family members attended her recital. Congratulations to Shauna!
**JAKE HOUSTON** Jake Houston performed his Suzuki Book 1 Graduation Recital on Sep. 11 for his 2nd grade class at Webster Primary School in Webb City. He played 10 pieces for those in attendance including Mrs. McFarland’s and Mrs. Wales' classes. There were over 70 people present. The kids and teachers thought it was great to get to hear Jake play the violin and were very impressed. Congratulations to Jake!

**SUZUKI WEB PAGE** The Suzuki web page has a new address. Now the address is: www.mssc.edu/music/suzuki

**REFLECTIONS AND STORIES** [From the editors: The Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music has been gone from Joplin for 2 weeks now, but the sound of their wonderful performance is still ringing in our ears. Students and host families have written fond stories about their experiences with the orchestra. We have printed these stories in this issue of Allegro so that they can be shared with our readers.]

Scott, Leslie, Mitchell, and Kathryn Eutsler - host family: The Shanghai Orchestra's visit to Joplin proved to be an exciting, educational opportunity for all. Our family was honored to welcome four young ladies of the orchestra into our home. Shao Ting, aged 16, was a very talented pianist. She began studying piano at the age of four with her mother. Liu Shuangshuang, aged 16, quickly won our favor with her sweet disposition and her violin playing. Xie Tao, aged 15, lives by herself in an apartment in Shanghai. Wow, she was impressive! Tao not only played all 21 strings on the zheng beautifully, but she also managed to carry the gigantic instrument everywhere! Fang Qi is 17 years old and played percussion. She was truly a beauty both inside and out. It was a joy watching Fang Qi patiently give Mitchell drum lessons, as the two of them quickly overcame the language barrier. We were truly honored to host such lovely young women. There were not enough hours in the day to do all we wanted. Midnight seemed to be our new bedtime, as evenings were filled with playing instruments, air-hockey, shooting pool, and sharing a variety of other games. Mitchell and Kathryn were so busy trying to soak up every detail about these beautiful girls. We were sincerely in awe of them. If you were privileged to attend the concert on Tuesday night, you know the delightful musical talent of this group. They were impressive artists! All instruments were lovely, but we especially enjoyed the erhu, the Chinese flute, and the zheng. We were so proud of Dr. Liu's performance of the Liang and Zhu Violin Concerto, as well! The concert was spectacular. Bravo! The time to say good-bye came too quickly. We hope to see our friends once again when we travel to Shanghai in 2004. It is our prayer that our children will represent the U.S.A. as beautifully as the members of the Shanghai Youth Conservatory Orchestra represented China! We would like to extend our appreciation to all who made this event possible!

Dennis and Veena Heger - host family: Our visit with the Chinese students was an enjoyable time. The cultural exchange was interesting. Our visitors were surprised to see a family with ten children. Our children were very interested in the Chinese language. They listened very intently when the girls spoke to each other. We had one girl who loved American and Italian food. We made pizza and fettuccini for her. The other only ate Asian or Chinese food. For her I made ginger shrimp. She said it tasted very Chinese. Each brought us gifts from China that we will keep as a remembrance of their visit with us. The concert was an event that our children still talk about. The music was very moving. It brought new motivation to my children,
who are musically involved. We were thankful for the opportunity to have this experience for our family.

Tom, Lisa, Bella and Kessa Greding - host family: We hosted two girls, He Fangyue, a violinist, and Cao Jia, a cellist. The two girls loved our two girls. They were always doing their hair or playing with them. He Fangyue was preparing for the Tchaikovsky competition so she practiced a lot. What a treat to listen to her! The last night they were here they performed an impromptu concert for us. He Fangyue played a piece, which she will play in the competition and it was just amazing. The Chinese girls loved to watch Disney movies, so we had fun watching a few movies together. It was a good experience for our family and really fun for our girls.

Isaac Murphy - Suzuki student: The Shanghai Youth Symphony Orchestra performance was phenomenal. One of the things that impressed me most was their ability to perform in perfect unity; the entire group played as one. There were no scattered notes. Another thing that I absolutely loved about the orchestra was their repertoire. It was refreshing to hear the Chinese music. The Chinese instruments were extraordinary! My favorites were the Zheng and the Erhu. I immensely enjoyed the violin solo that Dr. Liu played. It was a magnificent piece of music. Reading the story of "The Two Butterflies" in the program before the music was played, really made listening to the music very interesting. I could tell that there was a conversation going on, between the two "lovers", by focusing on the solo violin and the principal cellist. We were very fortunate to have the Chinese Orchestra come to our city!

Toby Murphy - Suzuki student: My personal thoughts on the Shanghai Orchestra were that they were extraordinary! When they started to play I found it utterly amazing to see an assembly of people who were so young be in such unity. This was simply astounding! I love listening to Chinese music. Their unified playing made the music even more beautiful to listen to. Personally owning a CD with some music played by an erhu, particularly helped me to enjoy the Chinese portions of the program. Even though I was not familiar with the Zheng, or the bamboo flute, I found each and every one of the foreign instruments to be most pleasurable. The Chinese violin concerto was magnificent! I must commend Dr. Liu for doing such an impressive and beautiful job. After the concert, I had my first encounter using an interpreter while trying to converse with the erhuist. It was a fun experience to talk with her. Overall I believe that the orchestra was wonderful. It seemed that each musician played his part willingly and with all his heart. They were privileged to come and tour in America, and we were certainly privileged to have them come to Joplin!

Dana, Billy, Taybor & Taryn Parker - host family: While we have many, many stories to tell about our time with the three students from China, I will omit those about laundry, showers, shoes at the door, ice-makers, ramen noodles, shopping, Grand Fortuna restaurant, fork food vs. finger food, phone calls, email, internet chats, Gone With the Wind, and more. I will concentrate on what we consider to be the funniest story of all. Hopefully, I can write this so that it will be as funny as it would be if I was telling it verbally. The first night our students were with us, we asked them what they would like for breakfast the next morning. Jiulin said she wanted fruit. Beiliang, or Phoebe as she liked to be called, asked for bread and milk and coffee. Jiafeng, otherwise known as Jeff, got this big grin on his face and very seriously exclaimed "Chicken!"
Well, considering the fact that I spent hours at the store the previous day trying to figure out what to buy for these kids, it was with no small amount of distress that I realized I was not prepared! I grabbed my purse, told my husband I would be right back, and raced to the store. There, I purchased several of every type of fruit the store offered, breaded chicken breast filets, spicy chicken breast filets, and juice in many flavors. The next morning, Tuesday, I got up early, fixed coffee and began frying chicken. When the kids got up, they sat at the table where we had juice, coffee, milk, bread, butter, cereal and pop-tarts. Jiolin began eating her fruit, Phoebe ate her bread and I brought in a plate of fried and spicy chicken to Jeff. Feeling extremely ignorant, I listened as they chattered between themselves and burst into guffaws of laughter. Jeff ate his chicken and asked for more. My son, Taybor wanted fried chicken for breakfast, too. Then, Phoebe very politely asked if she could please have a piece of chicken. Later that same day, my husband, Billy, was telling his co-workers about our breakfast experience, and a girl he works with yelled, "You dummy! He didn't want chicken. He wanted eggs!" Moving on to Wednesday morning. Keep in mind that breakfast at our house normally consists of milk, coffee, and maybe a pop-tart or a cookie as we race out the door. Kind of like that commercial you see on TV. We woke up early and fixed a huge breakfast of sausage, bacon, biscuits, gravy and LOTS of eggs. Jiolin ate fruit and nibbled on a biscuit. Jeff ate sausage and more sausage. Phoebe tasted small bites of everything. My children ate the eggs. That evening, feeling confident that Jiolin would be content with fruit, and Phoebe would at least try anything, I once again asked Jeff what he would like for breakfast on Thursday. He exclaimed, "Chicken!" Thursday morning. I fried up the rest of the chicken. Taybor & Taryn were ecstatic. "Why don't you cook like this for us?" We heated up the leftover biscuits and gravy and served breakfast. Billy explained to them how to open up the biscuit and drench it with gravy. Phoebe seemed to like it. Jiolin put down her fruit to wrestle a piece of chicken from Jeff. Billy told her to try it with some gravy. She tentatively put a drop of gravy on a bite of chicken and somewhat reluctantly put it in her mouth. Suddenly, she reached over, grabbed the ladle and dumped about a cup of gravy on her chicken. Our fruit eater ended up eating two chicken breasts, four biscuits with gravy, an apple and a plum!

Epilogue: While chatting with Phoebe the other day on the Internet, she asked me what I was going to have for breakfast that morning. Apparently, our breakfasts were something that definitely made an impression on our young friends from Shanghai.

John, Merre, and Seth Putnam - host family: We loved our students! They were so polite and personable. One morning I was making an omelet for breakfast, and Zhang mentioned that her family makes "egg pancakes." I asked her if she would show me how to do it. We tried some sign language, and she finally ran to get her electronic Chinese-English dictionary to translate "wheat flour," "deep fry," and "mix." Zhang, Yu, Chen, and Cheng tried to help me understand what Zhang needed, but I thought she wanted to mix the flour and water in with the omelet, and deep-fry the whole thing. Actually, she used a different pan (in which I had poured enough oil to deep-fry) to cook a large pancake. When it was done, she cracked an egg on top of it, then flipped the whole thing over. Of course, it came out rather oily; she and the others peered at it dubiously, but we all ate it anyway. John, Seth, and I thought it was delicious, but, we could see that the students didn't like it too well. As it turned out, the deep-frying was supposed to be for an accompanying doughnut; the "egg pancakes" were supposed to be made with WHITE flour, not whole wheat, and cooked in just a tiny bit of oil!! Zhang made the recipe again the next morning with the correct ingredients once I finally understood what she needed!! We all had a good laugh, and the students loved the 2nd day pancakes! They gave us very thoughtful Chinese
gift items, and we enjoyed each one of the students very much. Thank you, Dr. Liu, for taking so much effort to bring them here. They certainly enriched our lives!

PERFORMERS NEEDED The Christmas season will soon be here! The Eutsler's home will be featured in the Holiday Home Tours. The Eutslers are seeking group and solo performances for entertainment while the guests tour the home. The dates of the tour are Friday, November 22, Saturday, November 23, and Sunday, November 24. If you are interested in contributing your talent, please contact Leslie (eutsler4@joplin.com) or Tami Murphy (673-1664) as soon as possible!

CALENDAR

Nov. 26-29: Thanksgiving break.

Dec. 7: 1:30 & 3 p.m., Fall semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSC

Dec. 14: 2 p.m., Play-In concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSC

Dec. 13: Last day of fall semester

Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
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ERIC DYSART Eric Dysart performed his Suzuki Book 4 Graduation Recital on November 9, 2002 at the Community Center in Jay, Okla. He performed for the community, friends, and relatives. Isaac and Toby Murphy joined in the performance, playing The Concerto in A Minor, 1st Movement with him. They also played Chorus from "Judas Maccabaeus" (the trio version) joined by Eric's sister Shauna Dysart. Eric played solos of three Book 4 pieces along with a number of fiddle pieces. Eight-year old Emalea Dell sang several songs and Eric played backup for her on two. Eric's uncle, Lawrence Dysart accompanied him on the piano. Congratulations to Eric for a job well done.

Eric was invited to and played his violin/fiddle at the "Delaware County Historical Society" annual Thanksgiving Dinner Saturday, November 16, in Jay, Oklahoma. He played Concerto in A Minor, third Movement and several fiddle tunes.

ASHLEY MILLER Ashley Miller performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Joplin. She played nine pieces from Book 1. Family members, relatives, and friends attended her recital. Congratulations to Ashley!
STUDENT RECITALS The fall semester Suzuki student recitals are scheduled for 1:30 and 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7. The sign-up sheets are posted on the door of Dr. Liu’s office. Students who plan to perform in the recitals should sign up as soon as possible.

PLAY-IN CONCERT The Suzuki Play-In concert is scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, December 14, at Webster Auditorium. Area violin students are invited to join MSSVA students to perform. Students should practice the following program: **Book 4:** Concerto in A Minor, 1st movement by Vivaldi
Concerto No. 5, 1st movement by Seitz

**Book 3:** Bourree by J. S. Bach
Humoresque by Dvorak

**Book 2:** Gavotte by Lully
Bourree by Handel

**Book 1:** Happy Farmer by Schumann
Long, Long Ago by Bayly
Song of the Wind (Folk song)
Lightly Row (Folk Song)
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
Variation A and Theme by Suzuki

CALENDAR 2002
Nov. 26-29: Thanksgiving break
Dec. 7: Saturday, 1:30 & 3:00 p.m.: Fall semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSC
Dec. 13: Friday: Last day of fall semester
Dec. 14: Saturday, 2:00 p.m.: Play-In concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSC

CALENDAR 2003
Jan. 13: Monday: First day of Spring Semester
Mar. 8: Saturday: String Festival
Mar. 17-21: Spring break
Apr. 13: Sunday, 2:00 p.m.: Suzuki Radio Concert for the National Music Week
May 9, Friday: Last day of Spring Semester
May 10: Saturday, 1:30 & 3:00 p.m.: Suzuki Student Recitals

A LETTER TO DR. LIU FROM TAMi MURPHY I was wondering if you had ever thought about having a section each time in the newsletter written by a parent (parents could take turns). This section could be a paragraph of encouragement to other parents. Perhaps they could share an experience that they struggled with and then found triumph in. Or maybe they could share about attending an area concert that inspired their child to want to do better. There could be many encouraging things written here and it would be fun for all involved to hear from other parents. This is just an idea that I have thought about. It would probably require some probing from the parents but maybe once it got started more parents would be excited to share.

*** Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

**ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER**
**VOL. 12, NO. 4**
WELCOME NEW STUDENTS
The following students have joined the Suzuki Violin Academy recently: Paul Cho, 9, son of Mr. & Mrs. Si Yean & Soo Mee Cho of Neosho; Neil Cufack, 3, son of Liz Cufack of Joplin; Alex Kleindl, 12, son of Dr. & Mrs. Brad & Jane Kleindl of Joplin. Welcome aboard all new students!

STRING FESTIVAL
The annual String Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Mar. 8. The registration forms are due Feb. 14. Please turn in the forms to the teachers as soon as you can.

100-DAY CLUB
At the Suzuki Violin Academy Play-In concert on Saturday, December 14, 2002, the 100-Day Club awards were presented to the following students who practiced on the violin at least 100 days in the fall semester: Timothy Damaso, Lindsey Daniels, Shauna Dysart, Kathryn Eutsler, Mitchell Eutsler, Kolleen Gladden, Bella Greding, Jake Houston, Nathan Humphrey, Jacob Ingle, Sarah Ingle, Isaac Murphy, Mariah Murphy, Micaela Murphy, Danielle Myers, and Jennifer Weist. Eric Dysart did not miss any single day and was awarded a Perfect 100-Day Club Certificate. Congratulations to all 100-Day Club members!

GRADUATION AWARDS
At the Play-In concert, awards were also given to the students who completed a Suzuki violin book and performed the graduation recital. The following students were awarded Graduation Certificates: Book 1 Graduation: Brenden Barlow, Shauna Dysart, Bella Greding, Jake Houston, Ashley Miller and Eli Welch. Book 2 Graduation: Kathryn Eutsler, Mitchell Eutsler and Kellen Taylor. Book 3 Graduation: Kathryn Eutsler, Mitchell Eutsler and Nathan Humphrey. Book 4 Graduation: Eric Dysart. Congratulations to all above students!

ERIC DYSART
Eric Dysart opened the "Raising America" show in Branson on November 30 at both the 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows at the Majestic Theatre. He played "Fishers Hornpipe", "Faded Love" and "Blackberry Blossom". The whole show is put on by the "American Kids" of which Eric is a member. Eric auditioned for and was cast in the American Kids-Silver Dollar City Show 2003, "Places We Call Home". He will be appearing at Silver Dollar City from June 1 through Aug. 17 in four shows on Saturdays and fours shows on Sundays. He is very excited. He will be playing his violin, as well as singing and dancing with the rest of the cast.

KATHRYN EUTSLER
After a tap dance performance, Kathryn Eutsler performed two violin solos at a holiday program for Joplin School of Ballet on Tuesday, December 3, 2002. Kathryn played two pieces from Suzuki Violin Book 3: Humoresque by Dvorak and Bourree by J. S. Bach. The program was completed with all the performers singing Jingle Bells.

MITCHELL & KATHRYN EUTSLER Mitchell and Kathryn Eutsler performed their joint Suzuki Violin Book 3 Graduation Recital on Friday, November 22, at their home. Mitchell and Kathryn each played four pieces from Book 3 as well as two duets and several selections from their Suzuki piano repertoire. Many people enjoyed the recital as they toured the Eutsler's home
for the Second Annual Holiday Homes Tour. The Eutsler children were requested to play through their recital several times on Friday and again on Saturday. Congratulations to Mitchell and Kathryn!

BELLA GRE Ding
Bella Greding performed her Suzuki Book 1 Graduation Recital at her home on Sunday, December 8, 2002. Bella did an excellent job. Congratulations to Bella!

NATHAN HUMPHREY
Nathan Humphrey performed his Suzuki Violin Book 3 Graduation Recital before a small but enthusiastic audience as a part of the Holiday Home Tour on Friday, November 22, 2002. Tascille King did an outstanding job as the accompanist. A special thank you to Mr. And Mrs. Scott Eutsler for allowing Nathan to play in their home and to Mrs. King for accompanying. Congratulations to Nathan!

JAKE HOUTON
Jake Houston performed a Christmas program at the Anchor Fellowship Church in Nevada on Sunday, December 15, 2002. In addition to selections from Suzuki Violin Books 1 and 2, he also played Silent Night.

MIC AELA MURPHY
Playing beautifully before an audience of 23 friends and family members, Micaela Murphy performed her very first graduation recital on Saturday, January 18, 2003. Eight pieces were chosen from the Suzuki Violin Book 1 for her program and she was accompanied by her mother, Tami Murphy. After the recital was completed, all guests were invited to stay for a reception. Micaela did a wonderful job! Congratulations Micaela!

KELLEN TAYLOR
Kellen Taylor performed his Suzuki Book 2 Graduation Recital on Wednesday, December 11, 2002. He played 8 pieces from Book 2. Maria Bakirane accompanied him on the piano. Congratulations to Kellen on a job well done!

PARENT FORUM
Hi! My name is Christy Paxton, and I am the mother of Matthew, age 7. We are in our second year of lessons, but we consider ourselves Suzuki veterans, as I am a former student and graduate of MSSVA. We enjoy being part of this program, and I have enjoyed watching many of the students progress through the years. I also teach the Suzuki method to violin students in my home. The Suzuki program is truly amazing, and having viewed it as a student, a teacher, and now a mother of a student, I have been able to see so many benefits to myself and my family. I was asked to share some tips on practice, which I know can be frustrating at times. Unfortunately, there's no magic pill that you can give your child to make them love practice. With patience, ultimately these students will discover a love of music and of the violin as they refine their skill. If I could share two thoughts with all of the parents, they would be these: 1) Be committed for the long haul. Good practice days and bad practice days will come and go, but your commitment will show your child the importance of sticking to a difficult task. The rewards are not far off. 2) Enjoy the process. As anxious as we seem to get through Book 1, then Book 2,
and on and on, every step holds the chance to make enjoyable memories. I'm sure many of you do just that, by attending your child's lessons, recitals, and showing your love and support. That's what your children will thank you for...I know, because I thank my own mom for her dedication and commitment to helping my sisters and me to develop our talents. Good luck parents and students, and keep up the good work!

CALENDAR
Mar. 8, Saturday: String Festival
Mar. 31, Monday, 7:30 p.m.: Jon Gayman recital.
Apr. 13, Sunday, 2 p.m.: Suzuki Radio Concert for National Music Week
May 9, Friday: Last day of Spring Semester
May 10, Saturday, 1:30 & 3 p.m.: Suzuki Student Recitals

*** Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 12, NO. 5

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER VOL. 12, NO. 5 March 2003

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS
The following students joined MSSVA recently: Spencer Dawson, 3, son of Jonathan and Andrea Dawson of Carl Junction; Jake Mullen, 12, son of Dennis and Clara Ervin of Webb City. Welcome aboard, new students!

RADIO CONCERT
The MSSVA annual radio concert will be on Sunday, April 13, at Webster Auditorium. The concert will be recorded and broadcast by KXMS 88.7FM during the first full week in May, which is the National Music Week.

STRING FESTIVAL
The 12th annual String Festival was held Saturday, March 8, at the Music Department, MSSC. One hundred thirteen students performed at the festival. For the first time, area piano students joined string students to perform. There were four judges at the festival. They were Michelle Daniels, George Williams, Debra Miles, and Marilyn Abercrombie. Jonathan Gayman and Tascille King were festival accompanists. Congratulations to all students who performed at the festival!

ABOUT THE JUDGES
Michelle Daniels (in Room 222) currently lives in Springfield and teaches at Exeter public schools. She has played violin and cello for 30 years. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance and Master of Music in Violin Performance from Southeast Missouri State University. She received Suzuki teacher training through Book 5. She was the president of Cape
Area Suzuki Association in Cape Girardeau for 3 years and taught there for 7 years. George Williams (in Room 108) studied violin at Drury College with Paul Carlson and Walter Halen, both former concertmasters of the Springfield Symphony. He is both the librarian and a violinist of the Springfield Symphony. He also plays with the Fort Smith Symphony. Miss America 1968, Debra Barnes Miles (in Room 208 in the morning), is an accomplished pianist with 22 years of training. She has been teaching piano since she was 12 years old, and is currently an instructor at MSSC. She has served as accompanist for recitals and judge for various piano competitions. She received her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Pittsburg State University. She lives in Carthage. She is the mother of two daughters and proud grandmother of 5 grandchildren.

Marilyn Abercrombie (in Room 208 in the afternoon) is the current president of Joplin Piano Teachers Association. She is also a member of the National Piano Guild, Federation of Music Clubs and MMTA. She teaches applied piano and group piano at Crowder College and has served as a judge at numerous festivals and competitions. She is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in piano pedagogy at University of Oklahoma.

**SOLOISTS RECOMMENDED**

Upon the request of the director of Suzuki Violin Academy, Michelle Daniels, who judged MSSVA students at the String Festival, recommended the following students to perform solos at MSSVA Radio Concert: Eric Dysart, Kathryn Eutsler, Kolleen Gladden, Joshua Horton, Jake Houston, Nathan Humphrey, Sarah Ingle, Laurel Lown, Isaac Murphy, Mariah Murphy, Aaron Neher, Kellen Taylor and Eli Welch. Congratulations to the soloists!

**CALENDAR**

- **Apr. 13**, Sunday, 2 p.m.: Suzuki Radio Concert for National Music Week

- **May 9**, Friday: Last day of Spring Semester

- **May 10**, Saturday, 1:30 & 3 p.m.: Suzuki Student Recitals

**PARENT FORUM: DANI'S VIOLIN ODDYSEY**

"Humpty Dumpty Stop Stop", "Run Puppy, Run Puppy", "No Name, Oh No Name", "Michael Michael Motorcycle", "Two Bow". The best thing about finishing OUR (notice the word "our") first semester of violin was leaving "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" behind. I thought we would never finish this first song of the first Suzuki Violin book! Dani was 5½ when we began. It was the spring semester of last year. My formal music experience was limited to several years of organ lessons as a late grade schooler, too late really as all I could think about by then was baseball and basketball. I begged my parents to let me quit the organ lessons, and alas they finally relented. Needless to say, not much if any of it stuck. Nonetheless, over the years I have discerned that the mechanics of any activity are best learned at an early age. Although these mechanisms may be learned later in life, they never seem to become quite as innate. Neuromotor pathways are formed at an early age and when learned early they become ingrained and are second nature. Jon Gayman is our private tutor (he is fantastic). Even though our private lesson was only 30 minutes, at first it was a struggle to keep Dani focused for that length of time. Nonetheless we persisted. At home the Suzuki Violin Volume 1 CD was our best ally. We would
play it on the Boom Box in the living room where we practiced and then Dani would attempt to recreate the rhythm on her violin. Finally by late last spring we could play all five versions of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" along with the CD. Practice early on was limited to 10-15 minutes just prior to bedtime, admittedly not the best time for learning, but with my schedule that's what worked out best. The most important concept I had learned by the semester's end was to at practice a little bit every day. Trying to do longer sessions 2 or 3 days apart as we had done early on, just didn't work as well. Our first recital was last May. Dani played "Humpty Dumpty Stop Stop" version (Variation A). I was more nervous than Dani! Dani’s shoulder rest fell off while climbing up to the stage, but with a little help from Dr. Liu that was fixed and it was on to playing the song. Dani did well while I held my breath! Afterwards we were off to "Toys R Us" for the reward. Jon Gayman had told us throughout our first semester that once we got through "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" our progress would be much faster. While hard to believe at the time we found this to be true. As our second semester progressed, we settled into a rhythm for memorizing and mastering each song. Our goal (rather my goal) was to have a new song ready for each of the biweekly solo sessions during the group lessons. The first week between solos was used to memorize the song, one small part at a time, usually a half to full measure per practice session. Once it was memorized we tried to play the song with the Boom Box. The second week prior to the solo group class was spent playing the song repetitively over and over again with the C.D. Now we paid closer attention to the correct bowing, fingering, volume, rhythm, etc. Practice sessions by now had progressed to two times a day on weekends and twice a day several times a week. On the days I took Dani to Kindergarten we prioritized our first practice of the day just prior to leaving the house for school. Progressing in this fashion we managed to play "Andantino", song eleven in Book 1, for Dani's second recital song last December. Once again our second recital song, "Andantino" started off shaky, but with Dr. Liu's quick help all went well! Dani was the next to last to play of the approximately 30 recitalists. This was long enough for her to manage to get her 1/10 size violin markedly out of tune. She began the song twice, each time "Andantino" sounded nothing like "Andantino" should have. Daddy was mortified with no clue as to the problem. Dr. Liu, however, was quick to the rescue and with a little mid-recital tune up of Dani’s violin the third time was a charm. Daddy and Mommy were proud and we were off to "Toys R Us" again for her reward. As we start our second year of Suzuki Violin lessons, Danielle has become proud of her playing and is willing to do a solo on demand for family get-togethers and even for the lady at Earl's convenience store where we stop for ice cream on the way home following each group lesson. "Toys R Us" trips have now been extended to each biweekly solo for a new song played. Luckily she is still into Crayons and Coloring Books so the expense is affordable! We are about ready for a 1/8 size violin, but the first 1/10 size violin will always be a treasure. Interestingly enough, Dani now thinks of herself as Dani, the violin player, not just Dani. Daddy has really grown to enjoy our time together during practice sessions. With a little hard work we might even finish Book 1 by the end of this semester, an unthinkable happening one year ago! by Duane Myers (Dani's Dad) *** Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO-SUZUKI NEWSLETTER

VOL. 12, NO. 7

May 12, 2003
AWARDS

An Awards Ceremony was held in between the two Suzuki Student Recitals on Saturday, May 10. Seventeen students were awarded the 100-Day Club Certificate at the Awards Ceremony. Students who practiced at least 100 days during the spring semester received the 100-Day Club award. Among them, four students, who did not miss any single day practicing, received the Perfect 100-Day Club Certificate. They were Eric Dysart, Kathryn Eutsler, Kolleen Gladden, and Laurel Lown. Other 100-Day Club members were Brenden Barlow, Paul Cho, Mitchell Eutsler, Molly Farren, Jake Houston, Jacob Ingle, Sarah Ingle, Jake Mullen, Mariah Murphy, Micaela Murphy, Danielle Myers, Brittney Street, and Jennifer Weist. Congratulations to all 100-Day Club members!

Four students, who completed a Suzuki book and performed a graduation recital in the spring semester, received the Graduation Certificate. They were Mariah Murphy, Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Certificate; Micaela Murphy, Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Certificate; Isaac Murphy, Suzuki Violin Book 6 Graduation Certificate; and Toby Murphy, Suzuki Violin Book 6 Graduation Certificate. Congratulations to Mariah, Micaela, Isaac, and Toby!

Students, who participated in the String Festival in March, received a certificate for their performance. Congratulations to these students!

ROBERTA SLUDER

Robert Sluder has decided to retire from the Suzuki Violin Academy after the spring semester. Roberta joined the Suzuki Violin Academy in August 2000 when she retired from the Joplin Public School. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Missouri Southern State College and a Master's degree from Pittsburg State University. Best wishes to Roberta!

BRITTNEY STREET

Brittney Street performed at the Newton County Carnival on Saturday, March 30. Everyone at her performance enjoyed it. Congratulations to Brittney!

MELISSA HOFFMEISTER

Melissa Hoffmeister participated in the state music festival in Columbia on May 3. She received an I rating, the highest rating, for her excellent performance of a movement of Handel's sonata. Congratulations to Melissa!
ISAAC, TOBY, & MARIAH MURPHY

Thirty-one guests were present at the Murphy children’s book graduation recitals, which were held Saturday afternoon on April 26. Isaac and Toby both gave their book 6 recital. They were marvelously accompanied by their Grandmother and supporter, Mrs. Tascille King (pianist for the group 2 class). Together they played the entire book six! Isaac played 5 pieces and Toby played 6. They both played beautifully and were well received by the audience.

Mariah, age 5, completed her book 1 recital playing 8 pieces from the book. She seemed to really enjoy having the opportunity to perform for everyone and all there seemed to enjoy it! After the recital, all were invited to stay and mingle at a reception. It was truly a wonderful day! Congratulations Isaac, Toby & Mariah!!!!

NEW PRODUCT INFORMATION:

Suzuki MIDI Disk & CD-Piano accompaniment to Suzuki Violin School

For non-piano playing Suzuki violin parents there is a new tool to help your child improve and to help you practice with them. The solution to this problem is the Suzuki MIDI files! Linda Perry, Professor of Music and Director of the Keyboard Faculty at Southern Illinois University, has recorded the piano accompaniment to the first six Suzuki violin volumes. These are available from Sharmusic.com and distributed by Warner Bros. Publications. These MIDI files will allow your home computer to play the piano accompaniment using a software program called Home Concert 2000 SE, by Timewarp Technologies, Ltd.

Using this software, the accompaniment tempo can be increased or slowed simply with the click of the mouse, just as a metronome click can be added once again by a click of the mouse. The music notation is also displayed on the screen and if so wanted a virtual piano keyboard can be viewed at the bottom of the screen under the notation. The value of viewing the music notation is that you don’t have to start the accompaniment at the beginning each time. You can count the number of bars to the portion of the song you would like to practice, click on that bar and voila the accompaniment begins there.

Each volume ordered (about $16) comes with a CD containing the software program, MIDI files, and audio files (first four volumes by David Nadien with fifth and sixth volumes by Koji Toyoda), as well as a floppy disc containing only the MIDI files. If you put the CD-ROM in your CD player, it will play the audio files as a normal CD. Your Windows Media Player will play the audio files so you can switch back and forth between piano accompaniment and listening to the recordings at will, an approach I have found quite useful. Windows Media Player can also be used to play isolated audio portions of a song by keeping track of the time (seconds) at which the part you want to review begins and using the floating toolbar to begin at that point.

Don’t be daunted by the computer aspect of this approach. The software and MIDI files are for the most part quite simple to use and with this new tool you can become an even more interactive component of your child’s Suzuki experience. Good Luck!

By Duane Myers (Dani’s Dad)
NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE SUMMER!

(Written by Tami Murphy, mother of 4 Suzuki violin students, Isaac, age 16; Toby, age 12; Micaela, age 6; and Mariah, age 5.)

As summer approaches and everyone gets busy with summer activities, it can be easy to get out of the habit of having your children practice or perhaps it can be even more tempting to have them drop their lessons and barely practice at all for the entire summer. While sometimes a break is needed and welcome by all, I would strongly like to encourage parents not to break from practicing or lessons for too terribly long.

Most children need something to motivate them to keep working, especially in the beginning years. Going to meet with the teacher each week and attending the group lessons can certainly be that catalyst. It might surprise you how easily a beginning student (book 1 & 2) can forget what they have learned if they don’t keep playing over the summer. This can be particularly frustrating to the child when the school year starts up again and they find they have to go back and relearn many things that they didn’t realize they had forgotten.

Dr. Suzuki believed all children have the potential for developing a talent. He believed that surrounding the child with beautiful music and a loving atmosphere, along with giving them the tools to produce their talent could guarantee success for every child. I believe this too! I have seen some children who seemed highly unlikely, play astoundingly beautifully after several years of diligence and encouragement from their parents and teacher.

Hopefully everyone involved will take this to heart and keep those violins playing over the summer! If you stick with it, in a few years you may be surprised at how much progress your child has made!

FROM THE EDITORS

This is the last issue of Allegro for the spring semester. The next issue will in early September. Have a nice summer!

CALENDAR

May 12, Monday: Summer sessions begin.

August 25, Monday: First day of Fall Semester.

September 1, Monday: Labor Day, no class.
November 22, Saturday: 1:30 & 3 p.m., Student Recitals.

November 25-28: Thanksgiving break.

December 13, Saturday: 1:30 p.m., Play In Concert.

December 19, Friday: Last day of Fall Semester.

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 13, NO. 1

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER VOL. 13, NO. 1, September, 2003

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS The following students joined Suzuki Violin Academy recently: Kristina, daughter of Aaron & Carrie Davolt of Columbus, Kan.; Andrew Duffield, son of Duffield of Joplin; Hannah Flack, daughter of Michael & Nancy Flack of Joplin. Welcome aboard new students!

GOLD CUPS: Three students received their Gold Cups this summer for their excellent performances at String Festivals in the past three years or six years. They are Kathryn Eutsler, 1st Gold Cup (3 years); Mitchell Eutsler, 1st Gold Cup (3 years); and Molly Farren, 2nd Gold Cup (6 years). Congratulations to those students!

SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE: (This article was written by the father of Nathan Humphrey. Nathan is ten years old.) Doing the job of parenting and providing leaves little time for relaxation and fun. Certainly, incorporating a week of violin camp and vacation time seems incompatible. At least I would have thought so before our family spent an incredible week in the Colorado Rockies and found enriching experiences at the 2003 Smoass Suzuki Institute. From our first sighting of the Mountains, to get acquainted time at the Conference, to hiking over the Continental Divide, our week was filled with beautiful scenery and life-changing classes with our son, Nathan, and his new Suzuki friends and teachers. The Conference featured a wide variety of activities from orchestra and private lessons to theory and fiddling. No doubt, Nathan came away a better violinist and a more determined student. For me, a non-musical dad, the week increased my appreciation for those who have committed themselves to teaching music to our children. The obvious love for music and extraordinary communication skills became evident to me as I accompanied Nathan to many of his classes. As hard as this may seem to any of you who like me, cannot clap and sing at the same time, my favorite class turned out to be "Musicianship" taught by Bucky Hempen. Bucky managed to find a way to teach the unteachable (me) several good and abiding musical principles. His class involved not only the students but each parent as we participated in sometimes "wacky" activities that always led to some important musical foundation. If you are musical and have never had the opportunity to
attend Suzuki camp or if you are like me, musically illiterate and have been afraid to attend, next summer, take the chance, you will be pleased and refreshed. From one parent to another, Bob Humphrey

**MICALEA MURPHY & MATTHEW PAXTON:** Micaela Murphy & Matthew Paxton are making plans to give their Book 2 recital jointly this Friday evening, September 12 at the POEM center at Good News Productions located directly north of Ozark Christian College on north Main Street. They would like to invite any Suzuki families that are interested in coming. Please contact either Tami Murphy (673-1664) or Christy Paxton (781-7661) for details.

**ERIC DYSART** Eric Dysart spent his summer in Branson performing in a show, "Places We Call Home", at Silver Dollar City. He performed 96 shows, which lasted 30 minutes, from May 31 thru August 17. There was a 9-member cast of "American Kids". Eric sang, danced, played his fiddle and guitar. He enjoyed the summer and would like to join a show in Branson.

**SHAUNA DYSART** Shauna Dysart performed her Suzuki Violin Book 2 Recital on Tuesday, July 22 at her grandparents's home. She played 6 pieces from Book 2. Shauna spent most of her summer at Silver Dollar city listening to her brother Eric's performances, riding rides and seeing various shows in Branson.

**JOSHUA HORTON-DUNN** Joshua Horton-Dunn performed his Suzuki Violin Book 1 Recital on Sunday, August 24, at his grandparents Bob & Rosemarie Dieckkhoff's home. His grandmother Rosemarie accompanied him on the piano. Family members and relatives attended his recital. After the concert, the family enjoyed homemade ice cream. Congratulations to Joshua!

**SARAH KESSLER** Sarah Kessler performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Wednesday, May 21, 2003 at Kelsey Norman Elementary School in Joplin. She played 8 pieces from Book 1. Roberta Sluder-Worley accompanied her on the piano. Among the audience were the 3rd graders, school staff as well as family members. Congratulations to Sarah!

**DANIELLE MYERS** Danielle Myers performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on June 21 at her home in Carthage. A reception was held after the recital. Congratulations to Danielle!

**ACADEMY'S WEB SITE** Suzuki Violin Academy's web site has a new address since MSSC is MSSU now. The new address is www.mssu.edu/music/suzuki. The new email address is liu-k@mssu.edu. **THEORY CLASSES OFFERED:** Christy Paxton, mother of MSSVA student Matthew Paxton, is offering beginning and intermediate theory classes to violin students twice a month. These classes are designed to make learning to read notes and understanding music theory fun! She still has a few openings left. Christy is a graduate from the Missouri Southern Violin Academy herself and also the concertmistress and principle violinist of the Ozark Festival Orchestra in Monet, Missouri. You won't want to miss this opportunity! Please contact Christy Paxton at 781-7661 for details.

**CALENDAR**
- **Nov. 22**, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.: Fall semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, **MSSU**
- **Nov. 25-28**: Thanksgiving break.
- **Dec. 13**, Saturday: Play-In concert, Webster Auditorium, **MSSU**
- **Dec. 19**, Friday: Last day of fall semester.
FALL SEMESTER RECITALS
The fall semester recitals are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22. This date is three weeks earlier than in the past. Students are encouraged to start preparing for the recital now. The sign-up sheet will be posted in early November.

ERIC DYSART
Eric has been busy after his 96 shows in Branson in summer, getting back in school and performing at festivals and contests. On August 23, Eric won the second place in a youth talent show at the Frisco Festival in Rogers, Arkansas. He sang and played "Still Feeling Fine". On August 28, he won the first place in a fiddle contest at the Will Rogers rodeo in Vinita, Okla. (Jr. Division, 15 and under). On August 30, he won the third place in the Jana Jae fiddle contest in Grove, Okla. (Open Division- all ages). In that same evening, he won the first place in the twin fiddle contest at Jana Jae's fiddle workshop (all ages).

Eric also spent two weeks (Sept. 12 thru Sept 22) in Winfield, Kansas playing his fiddle at the Walnut Grove Blue Grass Festival. On September 27, he played at the Tulsa State Fair and won the first place in the Junior Division, winning $100.00 and the title "Oklahoma State Junior Fiddle Champion". On October 4, he played and sang at the Oklahoma Opry in Oklahoma City, and on October 11, he played his fiddle in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, with a group called "Second Saturday Music"

JAKE HOUSTON
Jake Houston performed his Suzuki Violin Book 2 Graduation Recital on Sunday, September 14, at the Anchor Fellowship Church picnic. The picnic was at Marmaduke Park at Nevada, Missouri. His performance was enjoyed by over 50 friends and family members. Congratulations to Jake!

MICAELA MURPHY
Micaela Murphy performed a joint Suzuki Violin Book 2 Graduation Recital with Matthew Paxton on Friday, September 13. The two young violinists performed beautifully in front of a very supportive audience of about 30 friends and family members. A reception was held after the recital concluded. Congratulations to Micaela!

ISAAC TOBIAH MURPHY
Dreaming about something to do with their music that would be both constructive and profitable lead Isaac and Tobiah Murphy to fulfill their dream of establishing a string quartet. They began
their quest looking for a cellist and a viola player about 1 1/2 years ago and found another family in the area that had a brother (cellist) and a sister (3rd violinist) team who were also very passionate about playing their instruments. Landon Hannah Jones, Webb City, had also been interested in playing in a string quartet and were thrilled with the idea of putting their musical talent to work! Under the direction of the Murphy's grandmother, Tascille King, the quartet began practicing together weekly on classical quartet music for about one year. After practicing together for a year, they felt they were ready to set out to advertise to play for weddings. They have now played for several weddings and a few other events and have been very well received! The most common comment they hear is the question of "How old are these kids?! When the people they play for discover they are a group consisting of two 17 yr. olds, a 15 yr. old and a 13 yr. old they are absolutely amazed!

The quartet has learned so much about working together as a group. The experience is proving to be invaluable! They are continuing to practice together and to play for several upcoming weddings and events. The name of their quartet is "Arabesque String Quartet". If anyone wishes to contact their quartet to play for a special event they can be reached at 673-1664.

CAMP IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES!
[This article was written by Leslie Eustler, mother of two MSSVA students, Kathryn, age 7 and Mitchell, age 10.]

This time of year is filled with so much activity. It is soothing to recollect the memories of studying music in the beautiful, tranquil Rocky Mountains. Hearing the songs of many young musicians resonating throughout the cool mountain air proves to be quite inspiring and peaceful. The sights and sounds of our recent Suzuki camp in Aspen, Colorado remain vivid.

Just as the sun would begin to peek over the mountains, Mitchell, Kathryn and I would enjoy our breakfast on the deck each morning. The cool mornings, not much different than those we are currently experiencing, were exhilarating. By 7:40 a.m., our adventures would begin. Kathryn would hike up the mountain for her first class, as Mitchell would trek across the ski slope. At first, I was not sure how the week would unfold, as Mitchell and Kathryn had two weeks of classes- none of which were together. But, amazingly, the children were perfectly placed in each and every class. The days we were filled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with intense classes shared with children of similar age and playing abilities. I managed to jump in and out of the classes, constantly impressed with the magnitude of learning taking place. Each evening was filled with special concerts and recitals which continued to awe and inspire us.

Kathryn celebrated her seventh birthday while we were in the mountains. To celebrate, we took a whitewater rafting adventure on the Colorado River. The trip was awesome! We finished the day with cake and pizza by the pool, surrounded by some of our new friends.

Choosing our favorite part of Suzuki camp would be impossible. The children and I find joy in every aspect of the camps. The teachers are phenomenal. Kathryn and Mitchell both thoroughly enjoyed their private lessons, as well as listening to the lessons of their peers. Experiencing orchestra for the first time was also a great joy to both of the children. New challenges of learning new instruments were greatly appreciated, as well. Kathryn played the bass all week,
and Mitchell passionately took off playing the viola. The two weeks of camp had Mitchell and Kathryn reaching for the stars—yearning for more music in their lives. Camp so divinely inspires the children to continue their daily study of music.

My husband and I look upon the Suzuki camp experience as a reward. The children meet other children who love music. We meet other parents who share our concerns and values. Spending two weeks playing music, laughing, and working with other children, parents, and teachers is inspiring. Many wonderful memories are made. Many lifetime lessons are learned. The amount of attention, discipline, and responsibility instilled in the children amazes us. The investment of the time and money for Suzuki camp is truly priceless in our eyes. Not only is camp rewarding for the children, but for parents, as well.

The days, from dawn until dusk, were totally focused upon music. The only trouble facing us at camp was finding time to practice all the wonderful things we learned! After the evening recitals, the children were inspired to put in their time practicing. With two children practicing both the violin and piano, any window of time was incorporated into practice time. Each evening concluded with a gentle rain, followed by a rainbow in the mountains. Such a beautiful ending to such beautiful days. With the wind gently whistling through our window, Mitchell, Kathryn, and I had no trouble sleeping each night......with the Seitz concertos playing in our heads!

**CALENDAR**

**Nov. 22, Saturday,** 1:30 p.m. 3 p.m.: Fall semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSU
**Nov. 25-28:** Thanksgiving break.
**Dec. 13, Saturday:** Play-In concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSU
**Dec. 19, Friday:** Last day of fall semester.

**2004**

**Jan. 12, Monday:** First day of spring semester.
**March 6, Saturday:** String Festival, Music Department, MSSU.
**April 3, Saturday:** Annual Radio concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.
**May 7, Friday:** Last day of spring semester.
**May 8, Saturday:** Spring semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.

*** Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

**ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER**

**VOL. 13, NO. 3**
FALL SEMESTER RECITALS
Suzuki Violin Academy students will perform two recitals on Saturday, Nov. 22, at Webster Auditorium on MSSU campus. The first recital starts at 1:30 p.m. and the second recital starts at 3 p.m. Students participating in recitals should arrive at the auditorium 30 minutes before the start time of their respective recitals.

PLAY- IN CONCERT
The fall semester Play-In concert is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Saturday, December 13, at Webster Auditorium on MSSU campus. Area violin students are welcome to join Suzuki Violin Academy students in the performance. The following is the play-in program:
Double Violin Concerto in D Minor, 1st movement - Vivaldi (not Bach)
Concerto No. 5, 1st movement - Seitz
Gavotte - Martini Theme from "Witches' Dance" - Paganini
Hunters' Chorus - Weber
Happy Farmer - Schumann
Allegro - Suzuki
Song of the Wind - Folk Song
Lightly Row - Folk Song
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star Variation A and Theme
All students are encouraged to practice the pieces they will perform.

PAUL CHO
Paul Cho performed his Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Saturday, November 8, at his Neosho home. More than 20 people attended his recital, including family members, relatives, and friends. Ann Cope was his piano accompanist. A reception followed his recital. Paul performed beautifully and the audience enjoyed his performance. Congratulations to Paul!

RADIO CONCERT
The annual radio concert was scheduled for April 3, 2004. Because of a scheduling conflict of the auditorium, the date needs to be changed. A new date is to be arranged.

PRACTICAL PRACTICING POINTERS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS (1)[Quotations from the article Barbara Schneiderman, published in American Suzuki Journal]

- For students (aren't we all!), productive and fulfilling practice session might be described as the "engine" of musical development, while listening provides the "fuel" that sustains it. Essential to our Suzuki philosophy is the nurturing guidance of children's daily music study by their parents in the role of "home teacher." How parents manage the home sessions and thus, how we teachers educate and help them, is at the very heart of our system.
What an opportunity we have to establish happy musical associations for life in the hearts and minds of children, to teach effective work habits, to guide them to feel a sense of accomplishment with the results of each practice time. We need to be sensitive to their emotional selves, respect their feelings, and nourish the potential artist in each child while we work to improve their skills.

... we need to recognize that practicing is a vast and rich topic indeed - that there are deep principles involved in studying and understanding music that relate to various musical, technical and personal issues ... These include such matters as efficient learning systems, awareness of structure and the particular stage of work on a piece, memorizing, the role of theory, harmonic and contrapuntal relationships, interpretation, nuance and inflection, refinement of tone quality. Also relevant are people's varied learning styles, the vital issue of self-esteem, the importance of centering before study or performance which begins with our earliest work in rest position - "body peaceful, thoughts peaceful." Our initial goals with children can provide a fine foundation for later understanding of the most profound aspects of music. (To be continued in next issue of Allegro.)

CALENDAR 2003/2004

Nov. 22: Saturday, 1:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.: Fall semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSU
Nov. 25-28: Thanksgiving break
Dec. 13: Saturday, 1:30 p.m.: Play-In concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.
Dec. 19: Friday: Last day of fall semester. 2004
Jan. 12: Monday: First day of spring semester.
March 6: Saturday: String Festival, Music Department, MSSU.
TBA: Annual Radio concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.
May 7: Friday: Last day of spring semester.
May 8: Saturday: Spring semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.

*** Editors: Kexi Liu Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 13, NO. 5

February 16, 2004

STRING FESTIVAL
The 13th annual String Festival is scheduled for March 6. This year's festival is expanded. Not only local string students but also piano and vocal students will participate in the festival. There will be more than
160 students performing on March 6 at the Music Department, MSSU. Missouri Southern Suzuki Violin Academy will be the host of the festival.

**FESTIVAL PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT FEE**

In the past, Missouri Southern Suzuki Violin Academy provided piano accompanists for its students at the String Festival. Because of the budget cut, Suzuki Violin Academy will not be able to do so this year. Therefore, each MSSVA student, who participate in the festival and wish to have Academy accompanist, need to pay $3 when register at the festival. Students who wish to use their own accompanist need to notify Dr. Kexi Liu immediately.

**TOBY MURPHY**

On January 10th, Toby Murphy auditioned and was selected as one of two winners of the annual Concerto Competition for Young Artists, held by the Ozark Festival Orchestra in Monett, Missouri. As a result of winning, Toby will be the featured soloist performing with the orchestra. He will be performing the "Violin Concerto in E Minor" by Felix Mendelssohn. The Concert will be held at the Monett City Hall, at 7:30 pm. on Saturday evening March 27th. Everyone is invited to come to the performance! Please contact Dr. Liu at 625-9681 or Tami Murphy at 673-1664 for directions. CONGRATULATIONS TOBY!!!!

**ERIC DYSART**

Eric Dysart played his violin and sang at the Golden Corral in Branson for a church service on Feb.1. He played and sang also at the Calvary Baptist Church in Carthage, MO, on Feb. 11. Both times he played fiddle pieces and sang the Gospel tunes "Still Feeling Fine" and "This World Is Not My Home." He also played the third movement of Concerto in A Minor by Vivaldi on his violin.

**JENNIFER WEIST**

Jennifer Weist played the "Gavotte" by Martini at a performance her fourth grade class gave at College Heights Christian School on Thursday, Feb. 11. She also was the narrator for the play "The Wise King and the Wise Son." The audience consisted of the students of the Elementary Division of the school, parents and friends. Everyone enjoyed the performance very much.

**CONCERT OPPORTUNITY:**

The young American violinist Nicolas Kendall will be performing on February 25th at the Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts in Springfield, Missouri. Kendall won his first competition at the age of fifteen, and was awarded first prize in the 2002 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. Nicolas is the grandson of John Kendall, who was the first string teacher to introduce the Suzuki method.
in the U.S. Nicolas is a very enthusiastic player who loves playing for children in outreach performances. The concert will be held at 7:30 pm. For information on tickets call 1-888-4-SMS-TIX.

PARENT FORUM:

[From the editors: There are numerous Suzuki summer institutes in America. MSSVA students are encouraged to go to any of the institutes. Students who attended a Suzuki summer institute in the past all had a positive experience. The following is an article written by Duane Myers, a MSSVA Suzuki parent. For information about the summer institutes, contact Dr. Liu.]

CALENDAR

March 6: Saturday, String Festival, Music Department, MSSU
April 10: Saturday, Annual Radio concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSU
May 7: Friday, Last day of spring semester.
May 8: Saturday, Spring semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.

ABSOLUTELY OTTAWA! 2003

A typical day for Danielle at the Ottawa Suzuki Institute Mid-Southwest which took place the last week of June, 2003, was as follows:

8:30 AM Personal Practice
9:30 Music Reading
10:30 Violin Group Session
11:30 Recreation/Parent lectures
12:30 PM Lunch
1:30 Student Solo Recitals
2:30 Violin Private Lesson
3:30 Synergy!
4:30 Personal Practice
7:00 Miscellaneous Concert Performances

Ottawa, Kansas, located approximately 45 minutes southwest of Kansas City at the Intersection of I-35 and Highway 59 is approximately a two and one-half hour drive from Joplin, Missouri. Danielle and her daddy, Duane, participated in the Suzuki Summer Camp with a schedule as outlined above that was hosted by the Ottawa Suzuki String Institute.

It was a wonderful week that was held on the campus of Ottawa University, a small, quaint, university with wonderful architecture and numerous tall shade trees.
This was a full week of fun violin experiences and recreational playtime for children. Between two and three hundred children attend this summer camp every year - most of them with their parents in tow. Both group and personal instruction are provided within the daily schedule by outstanding Suzuki method teachers. The student solo recitals following lunch held in the Chapel Auditorium became Daddy's favorite hour of the day with performances by wonderful young violinists playing pieces of varying complexity. The evening concerts were entertaining as well and were certainly worth attending.

With early registration housing can be obtained on campus within the dormitories or at numerous local hotels along I-35 adjacent to Ottawa. Of course, what would summer camp be without swimming pools? Most all the hotels have swimming pools and for those who stayed on campus there was a nice public swimming facility not far from campus. Ottawa itself is a nice little town, easy to navigate with a number of historical and architecturally interesting buildings.

Danielle and I had a memorable, fun-filled week at this camp. Watching the older Suzuki students perform so well made a positive impression on Danielle. I would highly encourage the addition of this Suzuki experience for your children. Program fees were $365 and for an additional $235 all meals are included. Reservations and information can be obtained from Ottawa Suzuki Strings at (785) 242-0242.

The dates for this year's, 2004, "Absolutely Ottawa!" are Saturday, June 19th, through Thursday, June 24.
- Danielle's Daddy

*** Editors: Kexi Liu Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 13, NO. 6

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER VOL. 13, NO. 6
March 8, 2004

STRING FESTIVAL
The 13th annual String Festival was held on Saturday, March 06, at the Department of Music, MSSU. About 160 local string, piano, flute, and vocal students as well as Suzuki Violin Academy students participated in the performance. MSSVA students performed very well. Congratulations to all who performed last Saturday. The two string judges, on the request of the Academy's director, recommended several students to perform in the Academy's Radio Concert in April. Judge Norma Jean Seaton recommended Eric Dysart, Kathryn Eutsler, Melissa Hoffmeister, Alan Liu, Isaac Murphy, and Toby Murphy. Judge George Williams recommended Rose Compton and Nathan Humphrey. Congratulations to these students!
ABOUT THE JUDGES
The two string judges at the String Festival were Norma Jean Seaton and George Williams. Seaton, from Parsons, Kansas, is a Suzuki pioneer in America, who met Dr. Suzuki in 1966. She initiated Suzuki Techniques for public schools and built a high school orchestra program. In 1983, she was elected President of Suzuki Association of Americas. She served on the International Suzuki Board for 10 years, and taught many Suzuki workshops in America, England, Germany and Japan.
George Williams, from Springfield, studied violin at Drury College with Paul Carlson and Walter Halen, both former concertmasters of the Springfield Symphony. He is both the librarian and a violinist of the Springfield Symphony. He also plays with the Fort Smith Symphony.

GOLD CUPS
After their excellent performance at the String Festival, six MSSVA students will receive Gold Cups. Based on the rating of performance, a student earns "points" each year. The highest rating gives a student 5 points and the lowest one gives a student 1 point. For every 15 points earned, a Gold Cup is awarded. This year two MSSVA students will receive their first cups. They are Nathan Humphrey and Eli Welch. Jordan Flack, Kaitlin Hoover, and Toby Murphy will receive the second gold Cup. Isaac Murphy will receive his third Gold Cup.
Congratulations to the above students!

MADISON KELLENBERGER
Madison Kellenberger performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Sunday, Feb. 22. Her program included 10 pieces from Book 1. Congratulations to Madison!

SARAH KESSLER
Sarah Kessler played Bourree from Suzuki Violin Book Two as a solo piece in the Joplin Elementary and Middle School Music Festival on Saturday, Feb. 28, at Memorial Middle School. She also played with the All-City Elementary Orchestra at the festival.

GRADUATION RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES
Suzuki Association of Americas issues certificates for high school seniors graduating from a Suzuki school, program or studio. The certificates are also available to students graduating from the final Suzuki book for their instrument. Interested students should contact Dr. Liu.

PARENT FORUM:
Devotion, discipline and regularity - these were three key ideas that helped us as parents of our two Suzuki musicians. We learned that parents need to be strong and creative. Parents must be willing to give practice a really high priority, for instance, having the children come home early from a party so as to be fresh for practice the next morning. In the early years we practiced three times a day right after meals, even holidays and Christmas; later it was twice a day. We always tried to end while things were still upbeat. I made a chart, from Twinkle on, so review pieces became second nature. We kept track of every time the pieces were played, marking them with stickers, and after a certain number, there was a trip to a toy store to pick out a small reward. As a kindergarten teacher for many years, I know that making life regular for children makes them secure and builds trust. The parent has to feel secure first and create the framework and provide the willpower for their young children. When the children become adolescents, their impulse is to break through and try to expand, so practicing on their own becomes easier and more confident because they already have good habits. If parents establish that kind of life pattern, they win the battle 80% of the time. Regularity keeps arguing down - it's just what we do every day, like eating. Devotion pays off - the more effort put in when they are young, the more they get back later on. Create social opportunities for young musicians. For about five or six years, Nicolas and Yumi (editor’s note: Nicolas and Yumi are the author’s children, who play the violin and cello in the Dryden String Quartet) and some of their musical friends from group classes met monthly with their parents at each others’ homes. First they played games outside, then had dinner, played solos and ensembles in a little concert, then had dessert. At first we parents ran these get-togethers, and then the children took over the concert planning themselves. It’s also good to nurture a regular chamber music group for your young musicians. Nicolas and Yumi were in various chamber music groups with other young musicians from age 10 until they went to Curtis.

CALENDAR

March 15-19: Spring Break
April 10: Saturday, 2:00 PM, Annual Radio concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSU
May 7: Friday, Last day of spring semester.
May 8: Saturday, Spring semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.

FOR SALE

Full-size violin with case and bow, in good condition, $130. Call Dennis at (417) 781-4864.

*** Editors: Kexi Liu Tami Murphy
SPRING RECITALS

MSSVA students performed two recitals on Saturday, May 8. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the recitals for a job very well done! Between the two recitals there was an Award Ceremony. Students received awards for 100-Day Club, Suzuki Book Graduation, Superior Certificate for performances at the String Festival, and Gold Cups. Congratulations to all students who received awards!

100-DAY CLUB

MSSVA students who practiced on the violin at least 100 days in the spring semester received the 100-Day Club Certificate. Students who did not miss one single day of practicing received the Super 100-Day Club Certificate. The Super 100-Day Club members are: Kira Bunch, Eric Dysart, Kathryn Eutsler, Kolleen Gladden, and Danielle Myers. Other 100-Day members are: Paul Cho, Rose Compton, Timothy Damaso, Mitchell Eutsler, Hannah Flack, Jordan Flack, Nathan Humphrey, Laurel Lown, Isaac Murphy, Mariah Murphy, Micaela Murphy, Sidney Poorbaugh, Allison Schiltz, Edith Sigler, and Glenn Sigler. Congratulations to the above students!

GRADUATION

There were eight MSSVA students, who finished one or two Suzuki Violin Books, performed nine graduation recitals in the spring semester. They received Graduation Certificate at the Award Ceremony. They are:

Book 1: Kolleen Gladden, Madison Kay Kellenberger, Taryn Parker, and Brittany Street;
Book 2: Danielle Joy Myers, Mariah Murphy;
Book 3: Danielle Joy Myers;
Book 4: Nathan Humphrey;
Book 7: Tobiah Murphy.
Congratulations to these eight students!

**SUPERIOR CERTIFICATE**

MSSVA students participated in the annual String Festival, which was part of the National Federation of Music Clubs' Junior Music Festival, in March. Twenty-eight students received a Superior rating for their excellent performances. They received the Superior Certificates from the National Federation at the Award Ceremony. They are: Kira Bunch, Paul Cho, Rose Compton, Cole Duffield, Andrew Duffield, Eric Dysart, Kathryn Eutsler, Mitchell, Eutsler, Molly Farren, Kolleen Gladden, Lydia Harris, Melissa Hoffmeister, Kaitlin Hoover, Jake Houston, Nathan Humphrey, Madison Kellenberger, Sarah Kessler, Alan Liu, Laurel Anne Lown, Isaac Murphy, Mariah Murphy, Micaela Murphy, Tobiah Murphy, Aaron Neher, Taryn Parker, Edith Sigler, Glenn Sigler, and Eli Welch. Congratulations to those students!

**GOLD CUP**

Students who participated in the String Festival earn points based on the ratings they receive. The maximum points a student can receive in a year is 5 points. Once a student accumulates at least 15 points the student qualifies to receive the 1st Gold Cup. A student with at least 30 points qualifies for the 2nd Gold Cup and with at least 45 points for the 3rd Gold Cup. The following eight students received Gold Cups at the Award Ceremony:

1st Cup: Nathan Humphrey, Micaela Murphy, Kellen Taylor, Eli Welch;
2nd Cup: Jordan Flack, Kaitlin Hoover, Tobiah Murphy;
3rd Cup (represents at least nine years of hard work and dedication): Isaac Murphy.

Congratulations to these eight students!

**DANIELLE MYERS**

Danielle Myers performed her Suzuki Violin Book 3 Graduation recital on Thursday, April 22nd. Her program was held for her first grade class at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Joplin and included the final four pieces of Book 3, concluding with the Bach's Bourree. Yellow treble clef sugar cookies were enjoyed by all at the conclusion of her performance. Danielle had also performed renditions of "Silent Night" and "Away in the Manger" for her class just prior to the Christmas break.

Danielle has also recently performed her book two graduations recital at her home. In attendance were family members, relatives and her miniature Dachshund, Hershey. Six pieces were performed concluding with the Boccherini’s Minuet. Also trying to attend was a neighborhood cardinal, but the window remained closed.
Congratulations Danielle!

NATHAN HUMPHREY, MARIAH MURPHY & TOBY MURPHY

Filling the house with music, Nathan Humphrey, Mariah, Murphy and Tobiah Murphy gave their book recitals jointly at the Murphy's house on Monday evening, May 3, 2004. Nathan, who is 11 years old, graduated from book 4 playing three concertos by Seitz. Mariah, who is 6 years old, played seven pieces from book 2. Mariah's program included her favorite piece, Theme from "Witches' Dance" by Paganini and concluded with the challenging piece "Minuet" by L. Boccherini. Toby, who is 13 years old, played 6 pieces from book 7. His program included all 3 movements of the Concerto No. 1 by J. S. Bach.

The entire recital lasted for a little more than an hour and was enjoyed by an audience of around 25 friends and family members. After the recital was over, everyone enjoyed a reception of cake and punch.

Congratulations to Nathan, Mariah, and Toby!

ANDREW DUFFIELD

Andrew Duffield performed for his kindergarten class at Stapleton Elementary School on April 22. He played several pieces from Suzuki Violin Book 1 and explain to his class the parts of the violin.

DR. LIU & DR. HUKILL

Dr. Kexi Liu and Dr. Cynthia Hukill, a piano professor at MSSU, will go to Taiwan from May 28 to June 9. They have been invited to perform and teach master classes at three national universities.

PARENT FORUM: PRACTICE TOOLS/TOYS

(Editors'note: This article is written by Danielle Myers' dad Duane Myers. Duane is a very determined and dedicated Suzuki parent, who is always on the look out for the rest of us to help find things to help make practicing easier!! We appreciate all your research, Duane!)

A quick note on two useful tools/toys for Suzuki parents. First, as advertised in a recent "American Suzuki Journal" is the PSD220-Superscope CD player with tempo control for music rehearsal. This portable CD player (three "D" batteries) lets you slow the temp of any audio CD dramatically (up to 33%) without affecting the music's original key. You can also select a portion of music, such as a difficult
passage, to continuously repeat (loop), as well as slow the tempo of the chosen loop. The PSD220 is available through Southwest Strings at (800)525-3430 or at www.swstrings.com. The cost is $329 plus $20 shipping.

The second tool is a chromatic tuner. These pocket-sized devices are invaluable for keeping your child’s violin in tune between group and private tutor sessions. We have all experienced frustration with the temperamental tuning nature of small violins, especially after they have been dropped, abused, and "fiddled" with (no pun intended) by young Suzuki violinists! Tuning is easy, simple, and quick with these amazing little devices. They are cheap, around $20, and are available through most online strings stores such as www.swstrings.com or www.sharmusic.com, etc. Of note, the "A" string tone of track 17, Suzuki Volume One CD audio is set/tuned to 440Hz.

Happy Practicing!

FROM THE EDITORS

This is the last issue of Allegro for the spring semester. The next issue will be in September 2004. Have a nice summer!

CALENDAR

May 10: Monday: Summer semester starts.
August 23: Monday: Fall semester starts.
September 6: Monday: Labor Day, no classes.
August 23: Monday, Fall semester starts.
November 23-26: Thanksgiving break.
December 17: Friday: Last day of fall semester.

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 14, NO. 1
WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

The following students joined Missouri Southern Suzuki Violin Academy either in summer or recently:
Christin Benner, daughter of Chris and Christie Benner, Neosho;
Karli Boyd, daughter of David and Shawn Boyd, Carthage;
Alexis Davolt, daughter of Aaron and Carrie Davolt, Columbus, Kansas;
Audrianna Harlen, daughter of Tom and Arva Harlen, Granby;
Tyler Harris, son of John and Kim Harris, Joplin; Megan Johnson and Nick Johnson, daughter and son of Chris and Cora Johnson, Joplin;
Paige Myers, daughter of Duane and Dena Myers, Carthage;
Mary Moore, daughter of Tom and Joy Moore, Joplin;

Welcome aboard all new students!

ROSE COMPTON

Rose Compton performed her Book 2 graduation recital on Sunday, May 30th, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. The recital was held at Shepherd Music & Dance in Diamond, MO and Rose was accompanied by Joan Jaccaud, owner & instructor. Rose played six songs from Book 2 for an audience of about 30 family members. She did a beautiful job and we celebrated afterwards with a family cookout, games, and even a horse back ride!
On May 27th, Rose performed Minuet by Boccherini at the Chase Dance Academy Spring Recital in Lamar. She was accompanied by Joan Jaccaud. On August 28th she played Gavotte by Martini, unaccompanied, at the Lamar Fair, again in conjunction with the Chase Dance Academy’s performance.

ERIC DYSART

Eric Dysart gave his Suzuki Violin Book 5 Graduation Recital on June 25 at the Treasure Lake Clubhouse in Branson. In addition to his Book 5 violin performance, he also played three piano pieces and 4 fiddle pieces. Several friends of his joined him in the performance and sang a dozen of songs. Congratulations to Eric!

JAKE HOUSTON
Jake Houston had his Suzuki Violin Book 3 Graduation Recital on July 4 at his grandparent's farm near Fulton, Kansas. Friends and family members attended his recital. He also performed violin and piano at his church. Congratulations to Jake!

SARAH KESSLER

Sarah Kessler performed her Suzuki Violin Book 2 Graduation Recital on September 22 at Kelsey Norman Elementary School. Students of both the fifth grade classes attended the recital. Mrs. Oster, music teacher at the school, accompanied her. Congratulations to Sarah!

AARON NEHER

Aaron Neher's Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital was held on August 8. He was happy to have his dad back from Iraq to support him. Friends and family members attended and enjoyed the selections from Book 1 and the Liberty Hoe-Down, which was an overall favorite. A week later, Aaron attended a fiddle contest in Pierce City. He played two hoe-downs and a waltz. Aaron placed third and received a cash prize and a ribbon. Congratulations to Aaron!

DR. LIU & DR. HUKILL

Dr. Kexi Liu and Dr. Cynthia Hukill, a piano professor at MSSU, made a concert tour in Taiwan in June. They performed three concerts at National Dong Hwa University, National Chiayi University and National Cheng Kung University. In addition to their performances, Dr. Liu and Dr. Hukill taught master classes at National Chiayi University. Their concerts were reported in Taiwanese newspapers. China Time, wrote: "Their superb performance skills and musical interpretation were warmly applauded by the audience."

PARENT FORUM

(From the Editors: The following article was written by Dr. Kimra Ross, mother of two Suzuki Violin Academy students.)

The Allegro is great for keeping parents informed on current happenings and what other students are doing. I enjoy the Parent Forum and suggestions from more experienced parents. Our children (Glenn 5 and Edith 4) started lessons in October. Since we are so new, I was surprised when Tami asked me to write about practicing. We are using a "Smiley" system. Each happy, non-fussing practice earns them a "Smiley" which they draw on the day's square on their calendar. When they have accumulated a certain number of Smiley's, they get to choose a gift from the Smiley collection (such as books and toys). When in a store they can select items to be put in the Smiley collection. Another aid we used when the children were having trouble remembering a new song for which we did
not have words, was to write words and sing them while practicing. If the notes repeated later in a song, we used the same words again. We used this method on May Song with these words:

Hear a May song, come and play. Hear a May song, come play. Come and play in our new yard. Come and play with me to-day. Hear a May song, come and play. Hear a May song, come play.

Our words for Etude are:

A - Come and play. Come and play. Come and play with me today. We'll go outside. We'll go outside. We'll have fun in the sun.

B - Come and play. Come and play. Come and play with me today. We'll go outside. We'll go outside. We'll have fun on the swings.

C - We'll go down the yellow slide and then we will go back down the slide again as we take turns. Come and play. Come and play. Come and play with me and we'll have fun on our playground.

We play piano accompaniments and multi-violin with them. They like the additional violin to play harmonies. Now they are enjoying performing with our family stringband. In May we gave a "Pioneer Day" performance for Carl Junction Elementary School. Glenn and Edith played: Boil Them Cabbage Down, Go Tell Aunt Rhody and Long, Long Ago.

CALENDAR

November 20: Saturday: 1:00 & 2:30 pm; Student Recitals, Webster Auditorium.
November 23-26: Thanksgiving Break.
December 17: Friday: Last day of fall semester.
December 18: Saturday: 1:00 pm; Play-In Concert, Webster Auditorium.

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 14, NO. 2

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

Jordan McCready, daughter of Rich and Racy McCready of Seneca, and Samuel Neher, son of Dwight and
Janis Neher of Pierce City, joined MSSVA recently.
Welcome aboard Jordan and Samuel!

CHINA TRIP

MSSVA is planning a performance tour in China next year. Suzuki students and their parents will visit three major cities, Beijing, Xi’an and Shanghai, in China. During the tour, Suzuki students will perform at the Children's Palace in these three cities. In addition to performances, the group will visit the Great Wall and Forbidden City in Beijing, the Terra-Cotta Soldiers and Horses Museum in Xi’an, and the Oriental Pearl Tower and Yu Yuan in Shanghai. This is a great opportunity for Suzuki students to gain international experience. They will learn Chinese culture and history as well as local customs. The tentative departure date is May 28 (not finalized yet). The cost of the 12-day trip is $2,000, including round-trip air tickets, all meals, hotels, and transportation in China. The package price for children under age 11 is less than the adult price. Inquiries about this trip should be directed to Dr. Liu.

CHINA TRIP MEETING

An informative meeting for the China trip is scheduled at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, in Room 124 at the Music Department, MSSU. Anyone who is interested in this trip is welcome and should attend this meeting.

LAUREN MEOLI

Lauren Meoli performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on September 22 at her home. She performed seven pieces, including Gavotte by Gossec, from Book 1. Congratulations to Lauren!

STUDENT RECITALS

The fall Student Recitals are scheduled for Saturday, November 20. The sign-up sheet is posted on the door of Dr. Liu's office. Students should sign up as soon as possible.

STUDENT FORUM

[From the editors: ALLEGRO has a new column, Student Forum. The first article is written by Tobiah Murphy, age 14. Students of all ages are encouraged to write about their musical experience, thoughts,
and suggestions.]

Oh, music camp at Ottawa, where shall I begin? With its beauty, sturdiness, great kids, and an awesome faculty, I could probably find enough information to write two or three sonnets. But considering the amount of time that would take, I'll just express my experience in an un-rhymed manner.

When my brother, Isaac, and I decided to sign up for the Ottawa, Kansas advanced music camp, Sound Encounters, I had no idea what I was getting into. Oh yeah, I figured it would be a nice, fun, learning experience, it seemed they had pretty reputable faculty (some of the master classes had to be auditioned for). But I doubt it even took a day for me to realize how underestimated my thoughts were.

When I arrived at Ottawa University, the first thing I did was go to the cafeteria hall and register. Then I plopped down on a couch and looked at all the people that had also come there. There were ages from eight-year-olds to college kids. At first I wasn't too surprised at the large amount of young children (ages 8-11) there, in spite of the fact the minimum level for entering was being at the end of Suzuki Book 7. I had already been to another camp and expected there to be some little kids in Book 7, but here again is an example of my underestimation. Most of them were in Book 8 or had graduated from all ten books (three young graduates of which were all in one family). It certainly came as a humiliation to see an eight-year-old who went to Julliard prep school and played the Mendelssohn better than I did. But it also gave me a great boost of encouragement and inspiration to work harder for my goals (like playing Tchaikovsky at the age of sixteen and getting in to the Perlman Music Program).

Now, what of my teachers? They would probably have to be some of the greatest people I've ever met. There was Ms. Laurie Vanderpol, who taught my elective class, "What Musicians Can Learn From Actors." The main thrust of the class was to teach you how to present yourself in an audition. After that came group class with Carol Dallinger. She taught us as a group to play Paganini's Cantabile in D and the last movement of the Bach Double. Then there was Mary Cay Neal, my private teacher. I was studying a Bach solo sonata at the time, and it was amazing to see her show me such simple things that would make the piece sound so much better.

Then, whom I have saved for last, is David Barg, the orchestra conductor. Mr. Barg, aside from Alice Joy Lewis (who is the director of the Ottawa Suzuki Institute), is probably the most influential person at Sound Encounters. He has a way of getting what he wants from both students and fellow teachers. He is most often kind, though he won't refrain from embarrassing you if the needs arises. His conducting ability is un-describable. At the very first rehearsal the group sounded great, yet he demanded so much more of us, that by the end of camp we sounded professional (he even said that he'd put his orchestras from Ottawa up against one of the big-whig string orchestras any day).

So, how would I sum up all of my experiences at Sound Encounters in just one word? Well, I don't know of any word in the English language that quite does it (the camp experience) justice. But if I had to choose just one word, the word would be "BRAVO". The reason for this word? Well, when camp is over and you look back on your time there, you want to say "BRAVO" to every teacher that helped you become a better musician! I will guarantee that you will walk out more advanced and with a greater love of playing music, than when you walked in. So sign up for camp at Ottawa. I assure you'll be, as I was, greatly surprised and above all, not in the least bit disappointed. (editor's note: The camp at Ottawa has 2 divisions. The first 10 days is called Sound Encounters and is for the more advanced students. The week following Sound Encounters is the Ottawa Suzuki Institute. This week is for all ages and all levels, even pre-twinklers! There truly is a spot for everyone!)
CALENDAR

November 20: Saturday: 1:00 & 2:30 pm; Student Recitals, Webster Auditorium.
November 23-26: Thanksgiving Break.
December 17: Friday: Last day of fall semester.
December 18: Saturday: 1:00 pm; Play-In Concert, Webster Auditorium.

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 14, NO. 3

PLAY-IN CONCERT

The Play-In concert is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 18. All Suzuki Violin Academy students are encouraged to practice the repertoire before the concert. Area violin students are invited to join MSSVA students in the performance. The following is the program:

Trio in C Major (Telemann)
Concerto No. 5, 3rd movement (Seitz)
Gavotte (Becker)
Minuet (Bach, Book 3)
Gavotte from "Mignon" (Thomas)
Long, Long Ago and Variation (Bayly, Book 2)
Minuet 2 (Bach)
May Song (Folk Song)
Lightly Row (Folk Song)
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star Variation A and Theme (Suzuki)

CHINA TRIP
Nine families, more than 30 people, signed up for the China trip. The tentative dates of the 13-day trip are from May 28 to June 9. The group will visit Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, and areas around Shanghai. The group will also visit Children's Palace in the three cities and Suzuki students will perform there.

**HANNA FLACK**

Hanna Flack performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital at her home on Saturday, October 30. Her mother, Nancy Flack, accompanied her on the piano. Hannah invited all the girls from her 2nd grade class to attend her recital. After the recital there was a "music" party. They played rhythm games and pin the note on the staff. Afterwards they had lunch and decorated music cookies. Congratulations to Hannah!

**NICK JOHNSON**

Nick "Yo-Yo" Johnson performed his Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at his home. Joy Moore was his piano accompanist. Family members and friends attended his recital. Nick is currently studying Book 3. This recital was his "make up" graduation recital. Congratulations to Nick!

**ISAAC MURPHY**

On October 31, Isaac Murphy played 6 pieces from the Suzuki Book 7 to complete his requirements for graduation from Book 7. His recital was received with enthusiasm by a group of family members and friends. He was accompanied by his grandmother, Mrs. Tacille King. Congratulations Isaac!

**MARIAH MURPHY**

Bach was the theme of Mariah Murphy's Suzuki Book 3 recital, which was played at her home on November 7. The graduation requirements from Book 3 are to play 4 pieces of your choice. Since there are exactly 4 pieces in Book 3 written by J.S. Bach, Mariah decided to have a "Bach" recital! She played all four Bach pieces beautifully as she was accompanied by her grandmother, Mrs. Tascille King. Congratulations Mariah!

**GLENN & EDITH SIGLER**

Glenn & Edith Sigler performed their joint Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Sunday, Oct. 31, at their home. Each performed seven pieces, including Gavotte by Gossec from Book 1. Their mother, Dr. Kimra Ross, accompanied them on the piano. Family members and friends attended the recital. After
the recital, everyone enjoyed refreshments of cider, spider donuts and Halloween cookies.
Congratulations to Glenn and Edith!

STUDENT RECITALS

MSSVA students performed very well at the Students Recitals held on Saturday, Nov. 20. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the performance. After the recitals, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon & Marguerite Lawson made a $200 donation to the Suzuki Violin Academy. Thank you very much for your support, Mr. & Mrs. Lawson!

PARENT FORUM

[Editor's note: The following article was written by Tami Murphy. Tami has five children (ages 18, 16, 14, 8 & 6), all of whom are now studying violin.]

My name is Tami Murphy and this year starts my 13th year as a "Suzuki" mom! Wow! Even I can't believe it has been that long! When I think back to when my oldest child was about to turn five, I can only thank our Heavenly Father for His guidance in helping us make the decision to start our family all taking violin through the Suzuki method. With my youngest child being 6, I just realized that I still have about 12 more years to go before I graduate from the Suzuki method. Perhaps by then, I too will become a violinist!!!

One thing I have grown to love about the Suzuki method is the fact that all the children who stick with it become excellent players by the time they are young adults! There are several factors that make this possible. First of all the basic concept of listening to the recordings definitely helps the child internalize the music long before he/she actually learns it. Secondly, the concept of constant review and continual learning from old pieces is a primary key to producing the ability to play artistically. It is amazing to hear a child go back to a previous book and play a piece they once just "marched" though and now they play it with feeling and emotion! This would never have happened had they not been encouraged to continually review and learn from the old pieces. A third and very important factor that mixes into the ability levels of Suzuki students is the fact they all play the same repertoire for several years! Because of this, each child has great aspirations to play what they have heard the more advanced students play.

Being involved in the Suzuki program has helped to give each one of my children direction and purpose in their life. They are a part of a group of people who are dedicated to excellence and this has inspired each one of them to strive to do their very best! This has affected all areas of their lives. We are extremely grateful for the path our lives have taken via the Suzuki route!

CALENDAR

December 17, Friday: Last day of fall semester.
December 18, Saturday, 1:30 p.m.: Play-In Concert, Webster Auditorium.
December 20-January 7: Winter break.

2005:
January 10, Monday: 1st day of spring semester.
March 5, Saturday: String festival.
March 21-25: Spring break.
April 10, Sunday, 2 & 3:30 p.m.: Student Recitals.
May 1, Sunday, 2 p.m.: Play-In concert.
May 6, Friday: Last day of spring semester.
May 9, Monday: Summer session starts.
May 28-June 9 (tentative): MSSVA China trip.

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 13, NO. 7

April 12, 2004

RADIO CONCERT
Suzuki Violin Academy students performed their annual Radio Concert on Saturday, April 10. The concert is in observance of the National Music Week May 2-9. The concert was recorded and will be broadcast by MSSU's 88.7 FM Fine Arts Radio International at 5 p.m., Friday, May 7. Rose Compton, Kathryn Eutsler, Nathan Humphrey, and Toby Murphy were soloists. The group performances leaders are Sarah Cable, Nathan Humphrey, Alan Liu, Isaac Murphy, and Toby Murphy. Congratulations to all students for a successful performance!

SPRING RECITALS
The recitals of the spring semester are scheduled for Saturday, May 8. The sign-up sheet is posted on the door of Dr. Liu's office. Students should sign up as soon as possible.

PAUL CHO
Paul Cho played "Chorus from Judas Maccabaeus" and "Hunter's Chorus" at the Presbyterian Church in Neosho on Sunday, March 21. His accompanist was Karen Marfin. Paul's family will be a host family for Missouri Southern International Piano Competition.

ERIC DYSART
Eric Dysart entered the local American Kids talent contest on April 3. He performed in four categories: Instrumental (fiddle), Piano, Vocal, and Combination (vocal with fiddle). He won a
gold medal with honors, playing a fiddle tune "I Don't Love Nobody;" a gold medal and trophy, playing "Spanish Medley" on the piano; a silver medal, playing and singing "Blue Moon of Kentucky;" and finally a large trophy, gold ribbon, and a cash prize for the "Grand Champion." He now moves on to the regional contest on May 31.

Eric is also in rehearsal for the American Kids show at Silver Dollar City this summer. He will perform every Saturday and Sunday from June 5 to late August. In the show, he sings, dances, and plays the fiddle.

KOLLEEN GLADDEN

Kolleen Gladden performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Saturday, April 3, at her home in Joplin. Family members and relatives attended her recital. Congratulations to Kolleen!

On Tuesday, April 6, Kolleen was asked to play her violin by Virginia Goodson of Dallas, Texas, at a gathering of International Missionaries and their families, friends and supporters. The gathering was held at the Big Spring Lodge banquet room in Neosho. They recognized her violin performance with a gift of a purple T-shirt that read: "A Little Child Shall Lead Them."

TOBY MURPHY

Toby Murphy, who won the Ozark Festival Orchestra's Young Artist Concerto Competition in January, performed the first movement of Concerto in E Minor by Mendelssohn with the orchestra on Friday, March 27, in Monett. At the end of his performance, the audience gave him a standing ovation. Congratulations to Toby!

TARYN MARIAH PARKER

Taryn Parker performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Sunday, March 7. Congratulations to Taryn!

BRITTANY RENEA STREET

Brittany Street performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital recently at her home. Congratulations to Brittany!

GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATION RECITALS
When a student finishes a book, he/she may perform a "book graduation" recital. The following are MSSVA's guidelines for the graduation recitals.

Book 1: At least 7 pieces from Book 1, including Gossec's Gavotte.
Book 2: At least 6 pieces from Book 2, including Boccherini's Minuet.
Book 3: At least 4 pieces from Book 3.
Book 4: At least 3 pieces from Book 4.
Book 5: At least 5 pieces from Book 5. Each movement of a concerto counts as one piece.
Book 6: At least 6 pieces from Book 6. Each movement of a sonata counts as one piece.
Book 7: At least 6 pieces from Book 7. Each movement of a sonata or concerto as one piece.
Book 8: At least 6 pieces from Book 8. Each movement of a sonata counts as one piece.
Book 9: Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 (whole).
Book 10: Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4 (whole). All pieces performed should be memorized.

FOR SALE

Full-size violin with case and bow, in good condition, $130. Call Dennis at (417) 781-4864.

CALENDAR

May 7: Friday, Last day of spring semester.
May 8: Saturday, 1:30 & 3:00 PM: Spring semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.
May 10: Monday: Summer sessions start.
August 23: Monday, Fall semester starts.
September 6: Monday: Labor Day, no classes.
November 23-26: Thanksgiving Break.
December 17: Friday: Last day of fall semester.

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 12, NO. 1

ALLEGRO SUZUKI NEWSLETTER VOL. 12, NO. 1 September 9, 2002

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS The following students joined MSSVA either in summer or recently: Rose Compton, daughter of Robert & Julie Compton; Timothy Damaso, son of Glenn & Anna Damaso of Joplin; Matthew Damm, son of Shawn & Kelly Damm of Carl Junction; Lindsey Daniels, daughter of Kristen Daniels of Neosho; Jayme Daugherty, daughter of Melissa
Daugherty of Carthage; Shauna Dysart, daughter of Russell & Tamme Dysart of Grove, Okla.; Jocob & Sarah Ingle, son and daughter of Clark & Terri Ingle of Grove, Okla.; Madison Kellenberger, daughter of Chad & Kylee Kellenberger of Lamar; Laurel Lown, daughter of Dong & Joanne Lown of Carthage; Welcome aboard, all new students!

**DR. LIU & SHANGHAI YOUTH ORCHESTRA** Dr. Kexi Liu will perform the first Chinese violin concerto, Liang & Zhu (the Butterfly Lovers) Violin Concerto, with the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Shanghai Conservatory of Music (China) on Sep. 24 at Taylor Performing Arts Center on MSSC campus. On the program, there are other Chinese music works, both traditional and modern, performed on both Chinese and western instruments. Chinese instruments used in this concert include Erhu, a two-string instrument; Zheng, a plucked instrument; and bamboo flute.

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED** The Youth Symphony Orchestra of The Shanghai Conservatory of Music will visit Joplin from September 23 to 26 (3 nights) and perform a free concert on September 24 at Taylor Performing Arts Center on MSSC campus. The Shanghai Conservatory is one of the best music schools in China and the youth symphony orchestra consists of its top students and faculty members. Their concert tour of America includes performances in Los Angeles (at Disneyland), Memphis, and St. Louis, as well as a visit to Joplin. Their stay in Joplin provides an excellent opportunity of international cultural exchange for our community. Host families are needed for this orchestra. If you, or you know somebody, can be a host family, please contact Dr. Liu.

**FUND RASING** The music department of MSSC, the host of the Youth Symphony Orchestra, is raising funds to cover the transportation and performance-related expenses of the orchestra. When you make a donation, you are not only supporting the youth orchestra but also our music department, our college, and our community. For details, contact Dr. Liu.

**BRENDEN BARLOW** Brenden Barlow performed his Book 1 Graduation Recital on May 17. He played 10 pieces from the book. Congratulations to Brenden!

**ERIC DYSART** Eric Dysart had a busy summer. On June 1, he was invited as a guest at the Patsy Montana National Yodeling Contest in Pineville, Missouri, to perform with his violin. He then won the talent contest and the gold medal. On June 8, he entered the Grand Lake National Fiddle Contest in Grove, Okla. and won the second place silver medal and $100 prize. On July 4, he traveled to Richmond, Missouri, and performed on stage with the Leland Jones Country Pickin Opera Show for two and half hours. After he played the Orange Blossom Special, he received a standing ovation. On July 5, he performed at the Mercantile Building Wood Shed in Carthage. On Aug. 10, he performed with the Star of the West Band at the Watermelon Festival in Hope, Arkansas for one hour. Earlier that day, he won the second place in the fiddle contest in the division of age 14 and under. On August 31, he played at the Jana Jae Fiddle Camp & Music Festival. He won the first place in the Jr. Jr. Division, 10 years old and under. Congratulations to Eric!

**KATHRY & MITCHELL EUTSLER** Kathryn & Mitchell Eutsler performed their joint Book 2 Graduation Recital at their home on May 19, in celebration of Mitchell's 9th Birthday. Mrs. Tascille King was their accompanist. Congratulations to Kathryn and Mitchell! Kathryn and Mitchell attended the Ottawa Suzuki Institute in June and performed solos in one of its recitals. They enjoyed the week at the Institute.

**CALENDAR 2002**

**Sep. 24:** 7:30 p.m., Dr. Kexi Liu & Youth Symphony Orchestra of Shanghai Conservatory
(China), Taylor Performing Arts Center, MSSC.

**Nov. 26-29:** Thanksgiving break.

**Dec. 7:** 1:30 & 3:00 p.m., Fall semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSC.

**Dec. 14:** 2:00 p.m., Play-In concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSC.

**Dec. 13:** Last day of fall semester.

**SAM JONES & ISAAC MURPHY** Sam Jones and Isaac Murphy were hired by the city of Joplin to perform at the City of Joplin Employee Appreciation Day on June 15 at John Q. Hammon Center. They performed a dozen of duets by different composers. Their performance was warmly received.

**ISAAC & TOBY MURPHY** Isaac and Toby Murphy, along with their family, attended the International Music Festival held in Berea, Ohio during the week of July 28 - August 3. This festival is a music camp for Suzuki students and traditional students as well. There were students attending from all over the United States as well as students from Austria, France and Japan. Daily during the week, both boys participated in a chamber music ensemble and an orchestra which gave concerts on Friday and Saturday. Each of the boys also took a daily private lesson in a "Master Class" setting. Isaac added a string improvisation class to his schedule while Toby added an art class to his. Everyday after lunch the students attended faculty and student recitals. During one of the student recitals Toby performed the 1st movement of the Concerto in G Minor by Antonio Vivaldi. A highlight at the close of the week included a trip to hear the Cleveland Orchestra perform at their outdoor amphitheater called Blossom. It was a wonderful learning experience for the entire Murphy family! The Murphy's would really like to encourage all parents to consider taking their students to a Suzuki music camp during the summer months.

**ELI WELCH** Eli Welch performed his Book 1 Graduation Recital in summer at his home. His teacher Mrs. Elizabeth Meisinger was his accompanist. Family members and friends attended his recital. Congratulations on a job well done!

**NATHAN HUMPHREY** Nathan Humphrey participated in the Suzuki Institute at Ottowa, Kansas, in the summer. From cruising the Ottowa metroplex to listening to incredible concerts, the Suzuki Institute had something for everyone. Each day's schedule challenged Nathan to excel. While synergy classes gave rise to the dramatic, private instruction worked on details, and group time perfected pieces. Nathan learned a lot and enjoyed very much this 5-day institute.

*** Editors: Kexi Liu Tami Murphy

**ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER**

**VOL. 13, NO. 4**

**ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER VOL. 13, NO. 4 December 15, 2003**

**PLAY-IN CONCERT AND AWARDS**

The Play-In concert was canceled due to snow on Saturday. Four students were selected to play solos in the Play-In concert. They were Andrew Duffield, Taryn Parker, Sarah Kessler, and Eric Dysart. Students who were supposed to receive awards in
the concert will receive their awards in their group classes this week. Fifteen students have practiced at least 100 days during the fall semester and become the 100-Club members. They will receive the 100-Day Club Certificates. The students are: Paul Cho, Rose Compton, Timothy Damaso, Eric Dysart, Kathryn Eutsler, Mitchell Eutsler, Koleen Gladden, Jake Houston, Maria Howe, Nathan Humphrey, Isaac Murphy, Mariah Murphy, Micaela Murphy, Toby Murphy, and Danielle Myers.
The following students have performed the "book graduation" recitals either in summer or fall and will receive their "Graduation Certificate." Book 1 Graduation: Paul Cho, Rose Compton, Timothy Damason, Joshua Horton-Dunn, Sarah Kessler, Danielle Myers, Book 2 Graduation: Shauna Dysart, Jake Houston, Micaela Murphy, Book 3 Graduation: Jordan Flack.

ROSE COMPTON
Rose Compton performed her book 1 Graduation Redital on Friday, November 28 at 3:00 p.m. at the Oakton United Methodist Church near Lamar, MO. Rose played 8 songs from Book 1 with Joan Jaccaud as her accompanist. About 30 friends and relatives attended the recital. We also enjoyed having 2 of Rose's cousins from Ozark, MO share a couple of songs on their band instruments. Michael Suiter played his tuba and Sarah Suiter played the clarinet. A reception was held following the recital. Congratulations to Rose!

TIMOTHY DAMASO
Timothy Damaso performed his Suzuki Book 1 Graduation Recital on Sunday, December 14, at Holiday Inn Joplin. Family members, relatives, and friends attended his recital. Congratulations to Timothy!

JORDAN FALCK
Jordan Flack performed her Suzuki Violin Book 3 Graduation Recital on Saturday, November 29, in Springfield at her cousin's home. Family members and relatives attended her recital. Congratulations to Jordan!

RADIO CONCERT
The new date of the annual radio concert has been scheduled for April 10, 2004. The concert will be recorded and broadcast by MSSU's Fine Arts Radio International in the first week of May in observance of the National Music Week.

PRACTICAL PRACTICING POINTERS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS
[Because of the space limit, the continued quotations from this article by Barbara Schneiderman, published in American Suzuki Journal, will be in the next issue of Allegro.]

PARENT FORUM:

[The following article has been written by Joanne Lown, mother of Laurel Lown. Laurel is a student of Jon Gayman and is currently a member of the Tuesday night group class.]
A little over a year ago, I thought I had the perfect plan. I asked my daughter Laurel if she would like to start taking piano lessons in hopes we could both start lessons at the same time. I have always wanted to play the piano and thought it would be even more fun taking lessons together. "Oh Mommy, I don't want to take piano lessons...I want to play the violin!" was Laurel's response. And so our wonderful adventures of Suzuki began.

Laurel absolutely loves everything about the violin. She has even announced at times that she would even like to marry her violin. As Laurel began taking lessons there were times she could barely contain herself she was so excited. She uses my old music stand and practices in our living room which she has renamed "the music room". We are very lucky with how Laurel practices...she has always practiced on her own. She just walks into the music room and plays several times a day. My husband and I are always around to give encouragement and help, but she loves to discover the songs on her own. The rest of the family (dogs included) are her audience several nights a week. I believe another reason she loves playing the violin so much is her instructor, Jon Gayman. I cannot imagine a better teacher for my daughter. He gently guides and encourages her every step of the way.

Laurel has started Book Two and she's very excited about her new half-size violin. It is a dream as a parent to see your child doing what she loves. Laurel loves playing the violin for herself...not for her parents or anyone else. She chose the perfect instrument for herself and we have been able to meet wonderful people along the way. We may not be playing the piano together, but I do get to hear her play some very beautiful music.

FROM EDITORS

This is the last issue of Allegro in 2003. Next issue will be in early February. We wish everyone Happy Holidays!

CALENDAR

2003

Dec. 19, Friday: Last day of the semester.

2004
Jan. 12, Monday: First day of spring semester.
March 6, Saturday: String Festival, Music Department, MSSU.
April 10, Saturday: Annual Radio concert, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.
May 7, Friday: Last day of spring semester.
May 8, Saturday: Spring semester recitals, Webster Auditorium, MSSU.

*** Editors: Kexi Liu Tami Murphy
WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

The following students have joined Suzuki Violin Academy recently: Jasmine and Hallah Butcher, daughters of Don and Melinda Butcher of Carthage; Sarah Cornell, daughter of Scott and Dena Cornell of Carthage; Gwyneth Sacry, daughter of Roger and Patrice Sacry of Carthage; Paul Sherrod, son of Charles and Sharon Sherrod of Joplin; and Amy Smith, daughter of Dave and Nancy Smith of Joplin. Welcome aboard new students!

EVENTS IN SPRING SEMESTER

The 14th annual String Festival will be held on March 12 (originally was scheduled for Mar. 5) at the Music Department on MSSU campus. The concert in observance of the National Music Week is scheduled for April 10 at Webster Auditorium. The spring semester recitals will be on May 1 at Webster Auditorium. Please mark those dates on your calendar.

CHINA TRIP WORKSHOPS

Dr. Kexi Liu will conduct 4 workshops for the China trip group. The 4 workshops cover topics ranging from Chinese history to practical issues. The dates and topics are: Feb. 3, Thur.: "Ni Hao!" (Hello) - Learn to Speak A Little Chinese; Mar. 3, Thur.: "Duo Shao Qian?" (How much is it?) - Money Talk; Apr. 7, Thur.: "Kuai Zi" (Chopsticks) - Living in China: Customs, Traditions, and Practical Issues; and May 5, Thur.: "Shi San Ling" (Ming Tombs) - Chinese History and Culture.

100-DAY CLUB

Six students did not miss a single day practicing on the violin and received Super 100-Day Club Certificate at the Play-In Concert on Dec. 18. They are: Christin Benner, Kathryn Eutsler, Kolleen Gladden, Danielle Myers, Maria Murphy, and Micaela Murphy. Other 100-Day Club members are: Kira Bunch, Paul Cho, Rose Compton, Timothy Damaso, Eric Dysart, Hannah Flack, Jordan Flack, Audri Harlen, Tyler Harris, Jake Houston, Nick Johnson, Paige Myers, Aaron Neher, Lydia Neher, Taryn Parker, Daniel Roach, Allison Schiltz, Edith Sigler, and Glenn Sigler. Congratulations to all 100-Day Club members!
GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

The following students performed at least a "book graduation" during the fall semester. They received the Book Graduation Certificate at the Play-In concert on Dec. 18. They are: Book 1: Hannah Flack, Nick Johnson, Aaron Neher, Edith Sigler, Glenn Sigler; Book 2: Rose Compton, Nick Johnson, Sarah Kessler; Book 3: Jake Houston, Mariah Murphy; Book 5: Eric Dysart; Book 7: Isaac Murphy. Congratulations to all above students!

PIZZA PARTY

After the Play-In concert on Dec. 18, Suzuki Violin Academy held a Pizza Party. Everyone had a good time visiting and relaxing after the recital! Thanks go to Cindy Sheng and Tami Murphy for their hard work organizing this party and we also thank all the parents who made contributions to this party. A special thank-you goes to Pizza Hut on Range Line, who donated several delicious pizzas to the Academy party.

ISAAC MURPHY

Isaac Murphy competed in the Monett, Missouri, Ozark Festival Orchestra's "Young Artist Concerto Competition" on Saturday, January 22, 2005 and was selected as one of 3 winners! He played the Beethoven "Romance in F". The winning contestants will be accompanied by the Ozark Festival Orchestra in Monett at the city hall auditorium on Saturday evening, April 2, 2005. This is a marvelous opportunity to have a chance to play as the featured soloist with an orchestra. We hope everyone will mark their calendars and plan to attend this "Young Artist" concert! If you need directions or times for the concert please contact Tami Murphy at 673-1664. Congratulations to Isaac!

NICK JOHNSON

Nick Johnson performed his Suzuki Violin Book 2 Graduation Recital on Dec. 11 at his home. Joy Moore was his accompanist. Family members and friends attended his recital. Congratulations to Nick!

MADISON KELLENBERGER

Madison Kellenberger performed her Suzuki Violin Book 2 Graduation Recital on Jan. 8. She performed for an audience of 30 people, including family members and church members in Lamar. She was accompanied by Ashley Davis of Lamar. Congratulations to Madison!
PARSONS WORKSHOP

The Parsons Suzuki String Workshop will be held March 18-19. Interested students should contact Dr. Liu for further information.

GLENN AND EDITH SIGLER

[From the editors: The following article was written by William Ross, grandfather of Glenn and Edith Sigler, age 6 and 4.]

September of 2004, Glenn and Edith Sigler joined their family in playing period folk music at the Yankee Peddler Craft Festival in Canal Fulton, Ohio. This festival, which draws over 100,000 paid visitors, is in its 32nd year and was named the top craft festival in the nation in 1996. The craft show is located in a 40-acre park enclosed by a stockade fence. Inside the stockade, all crafts are judged and must be handmade, with their making demonstrated to visitors. Various areas of the park are transformed into 1776-1800 trading villages including covered wagons, tepees, open-fire cooking, entertainment which covers dramas, story telling, and music programs. All involved must wear period costumes. The Harmony Hill String Band featured Glenn, 5, and Edith, 4, on their violins. They were easily the hit of the Pavilion Stage shows. They were also invited to play with the Brick Road Ramblers, a well-known Ohio Country and Western band at the festival.

Upon their return to Joplin, Glenn and Edith joined the family Harmony Hill String Band in providing musical entertainment for the three-day Barnyard Days craft festival near Neosho. This festival was not restricted to period music programs, and Glenn and Edith played a variety of selections to a very appreciative audience.

To honor the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Carl Junction Primary School and the Educational Technology Department of Pittsburg State University presented a "Trail of Discovery Day" at the Carl Junction Primary K-1 School. Glenn and Edith were invited along with their family band to play pioneer music selections for the program. They played 9 half-hour programs for groups of students, faculty, and staff members.

These events give Glenn and Edith valuable experience in playing a variety of music in varied settings before a large and diverse audience.

CALENDAR

Feb. 3, Thursday, 7-8 p.m.: China trip workshop, "Ni Hao!" (Hello) - Learn to Speak A Little Chinese, Room 108.
Mar. 3, Thursday, 7-8 p.m.: China trip workshop, "Duo Shao Qian?" (How much is it?) - Money Talk, Room 108.
March 12, Saturday: String Festival, at the Department of Music, MSSU.
March 21-25: Spring break.
**ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER**
**VOL. 12, NO. 6**

**ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER VOL. 12, NO. 6 April, 2003**

**WELCOME NEW STUDENTS**
Maria Howe, 6, has joined Suzuki Violin Academy recently. She is the daughter of Jeff and Elke Howe of Carl Junction. Welcome aboard, Maria!

**STUDENT RECITALS**
Suzuki Violin Academy will have two student recitals at 1:30 and 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, at Webster Auditorium on MSSC campus. Students who plan to participate in the recitals should sign up at Dr. Liu's office as soon as possible.

**RADIO CONCERT**
Suzuki Violin Academy students and Keynote Club of Carthage piano students performed a special concert in observance of the National Music Week May 4-11 on Sunday, April 13. This concert was recorded and will be broadcast by Missouri Southern State College's Fine Arts Radio International 88.7 FM at 5 p.m., Friday, May 9. The piano accompanist was Becky Higginson. The violin soloists were Kolleen Gladden, Joshua Horton, Jake Houston, Sarah Ingle, Laurel Lown, Mariah Murphy, Kellen Taylor and Nathan Humphrey. The group leaders were Sarah Cable, Elizabeth Heger, Alan Liu, Isaac Murphy, and Toby Murphy. Congratulations to all students who participated in the concert!

**DISTRICT FESTIVAL**
Four Suzuki Violin Academy students participated in the district festival held on April 4-5 at MSSC. All of them did an excellent solo performance and received the "I" rating, the highest rating. They are Molly Farren, Melissa Hoffmeister, Kaitlin Hoover, and Kylee Tripoli. Melissa received a "I+" rating and Kylee received a "I superior" rating, the only "I+" and "I superior" for string players. These four students are eligible to go to the state festival in Columbia on May 3. Congratulations to Molly, Melissa, Kaitlin and Kylee!
JENNIFER WEIST
On March 28, 2003, Jennifer attended the Parsons Suzuki String Workshop for a second year. She advanced two group levels since last year and the expectations from the instructors were much higher. Last year, her group concentrated on Book 2 pieces and finger placement of "High-2/Low-2" and rhythm. This year, emphasis was on dynamics and improvisation with practice pieces being from Book 4. The weekend went by fast and there was much information and technique that Jennifer now uses in her daily practicing. She learned and heard how simple dynamics make such a difference in the presentation of a piece to the audience. The instructors made the lessons fun and brought various methods of teaching to the group. There were familiar faces and some new associations made for next year. The highlight of the weekend was when her group had the honor of playing Seitz Concerto No. 5 with the Sherman Middle School Orchestra. This experience was quite different from playing with a piano accompanist and required listening to the orchestra and watching for direction. All in all, this year's workshop broadened her knowledge of "feeling" the music she plays and went beyond the basic techniques learned in the early years of violin study. She is already looking forward to next year.

ISAAC, TOBY & MARIAH MURPHY
On Saturday, April 26, the Murphy household will be filled with recital music! Isaac and Toby will be giving their graduation recital from Book 6 and Mariah will be giving her graduation recital from Book 1. The entire household is very excited about completing these requirements!

PARENT FORUM
From the editors: This month's article is written by Dana Parker. Dana has two children, Taybor and Taryn, enrolled in MSSVA.] Ok, I'll admit it. I don't make my kids practice everyday. I beg them, threaten them, and sometimes even attempt blackmail. But I don't make them. Every week when we go to lessons, I regret the lack of practice time, and I get inspired for them to do better this next week. Unfortunately, my zeal wanes quickly as I once again get caught up in the everyday stuff. My intentions are good, I just can't seem to get all of my jobs done on a daily basis. My son Taybor began Suzuki late in his kindergarten year. He had finally begun to play some of the more advanced pieces, when my daughter Taryn decided she also wanted to play. We were back to "Twinkling" again. I can't say that I hate the early Book I songs, but they do wear thin after a while. My children each have their own unique style. One practices happily, while the other just wants to get it over with. One enjoys group lesson, while the other really doesn't. As the kids grow, so many other things seem to catch their attention. Trying to balance work, school and its associated activities, homework help, volunteer positions, and practice time has become quite the challenge in our home. Lately, the main challenge has been to keep from losing the Suzuki books. The day I was asked to write this article, we had begun moving to a new home. Those sneaky violin books like to hide all over the house, under boxes, between boxes, or on the floor in front of or behind the boxes. The kids don't know where to stand when practicing, because there are boxes everywhere. Hmmm, should we practice or unpack boxes? Maybe they could practice in an empty box! My children will continue to stumble along the
Suzuki path, whether I help them or not. They are both so proud of themselves when they master a difficult section and when they do well at lessons. It is so gratifying to hear them humming along with music they hear out somewhere. For instance, we were recently at a restaurant and suddenly both children were singing "da-de-da-de-da da.da.de-da-da". It was an orchestral version of Boccherini Minuet. Last song, Book 2. Through all the frustrations and arguments, I know my children are learning. They are gaining an appreciation and understanding of music. This will last forever.

**CALENDAR**

**May 9**, Friday: Last day of Spring Semester.

**May 10**, Saturday, 1:30 & 3 p.m.: Suzuki Student Recitals.

**May 12**, Monday: Summer sessions begin.

**August 25**, Monday: First day of Fall Semester.

**September 1**, Monday: Labor Day, no class.

**November 25-28**: Thanksgiving break.

**December 19**, Friday: Last day of Fall Semester.

**ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER**

**VOL. 14, NO. 6**

**STUDENT CONCERT**

Suzuki Violin Academy students successfully performed the annual concert in observance of the National Music Week on Sunday, April 10, at Webster Auditorium. Featured soloists are Rose Compton, Timothy Damaso, Kathryn Eutsler, Madison Kellenberger, Tobiah Murphy, Paige Myers, Lydia Neher, and Glenn Sigler. Group leaders are Eric Dysart, Jordan Flack, Isaac Murphy, Toby Murphy, and Jennifer Weist. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the performance!

**SPRING RECITALS**

The student recitals of the spring semester are scheduled for 1:30 and 3 p.m., Sunday, May 1. The sign-up sheets are posted on the door of Dr. Liu's office. Students who want to perform in the recitals should sign up ASAP.
ISAAC MURPHY

Saturday evening, April 2, was an evening that senior, Isaac Murphy, will always remember as he made his debut soloing beautifully with the Ozark Festival Orchestra in Monett, Missouri. Isaac, as well as 2 other Missouri seniors who auditioned for the OFO's "Young Artist Concerto" competition, which was held in January, won this special opportunity to be accompanied by the orchestra. Isaac played the beautiful "Romance For the Violin and Orchestra" by Beethoven. In his own words, Isaac made this statement about his piece, "The Beethoven 'Romance' is not flashy or showy but it is a thoughtful and contemplative piece of music. For me the 'Romance' can be compared to a relationship. The relationship starts out very smoothly, and then the union between them turns sour for a while but in the end their differences are resolved. I have truly enjoyed interpreting this work!" Congratulations, Isaac, on a job well done!

SARAH CORNELL

On April 1st Sarah Cornell played for her Kindergarten class at Columbian Elementary in Carthage. The songs she played were: "Variation A" "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and "Song of the Wind". She also "taught" her teacher and class about the violin.

ALLISON SCHILTZ

Allison Schiltz performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Sunday, March 13. She performed for an audience of 40 people, including family, friends and church members in Lamar. She was accompanied by Jenny Peters of Lamar. Congratulations Allison!

TOBY MURPHY

Summer should prove to be a very intense and challenging time musically for Tobiah Murphy as he heads for West Port, New York to attend Meadowmount School of Music. Meadowmount was started by the famed teacher, Ivan Galamian 62 years ago and has been the top summer camp attended by many professional musicians through out the years. Toby auditioned and was accepted by two well known summer programs but he has chosen Meadowmount because of its emphasis on individual lessons, practice and chamber music. Tobiah stated, "I am hoping to reach and attain a higher level of playing this summer as I attend Meadowmount." We wish Tobiah the best and we will be anxious to hear about what he has studied when as he returns home from this wonderful experience.
GLENN AND EDITH SIGLER

Glenn Sigler, 6, and Edith Sigler, 5, played violin duets on February 11 at the First United Methodist Church for the "Sweet Things for the Children" program. Their mother, Kimra Ross Sigler, accompanied them on the piano. This talent night, with sweets to eat, raised over $1650 for the tsunami victims.

CALENDAR

May 1, Sunday, 1:30 & 3 p.m.:
Student Recitals
May 5, Thursday, 7-8 p.m.:
China trip workshop, "Shi San Ling" (Ming Tombs) - Chinese History and Culture, Room 108.
May 6, Friday: Last day of spring semester.
May 9, Monday: Summer sessions starts.
May 14, Saturday, 7 p.m.:
Isaac Murphy Senior Recital, Webster Auditorium.
May 21, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Megan Johnson Senior Recital, Webster Auditorium.
May 28-June 9: MSSVA China trip.

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 14, NO. 5

SOUTHERN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Suzuki Violin Academy hosted the 14th annual Southern Music Festival last Saturday, March 12, at MSSU. The festival was formerly known as the String Festival. Last year, piano students were included in the festival and this year vocal students were included. To reflect the changes in the festival, the name has been changed to Southern Music Festival. The festival is part of the National Junior Festivals of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Suzuki Violin Academy is a member of Missouri Federation of Music Clubs. About 150 students from Joplin, Neosho, Webb
City, Carl Junction, Carthage, Lamar, Springfield, Mt. Vernon and Miami (Okla.) participated in the festival and they performed beautifully. Congratulations to everyone who performed in the festival.

Thirty-five students of Suzuki Violin Academy participated in the festival and they were judged by Mr. George Williams. On the request of the director of the Academy, Dr. Kexi Liu, Mr. Williams recommended soloists, based on their performance at the festival, for the upcoming annual radio concert of the Academy in observance of the National Music Week. The recommended soloists are: Rose Compton, Timothy Damaso, Kathryn Eutsler, Melissa Hoffmeister, Madison Kellenberger, Alan Liu, Tobiah Murphy, Paige Myers, Aaron Neher, Lydia Neher, Allison Schiltz, and Glenn Sigler. Congratulations to these students!

RADIO CONCERT

The annual Suzuki Violin Academy's concert in observance of the National Music Week is scheduled for 2 p.m., Sunday, April 10, at Webster Auditorium. The concert will be recorded and broadcast in the National Music Week, which is the first week in May, by Missouri Southern State University's Fine Arts Radio International FM 88.7. The concert will include group performances as well as solo performances. The groups will perform the following works:
Group 1: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star Variation A and Theme (Suzuki), Song of the Wind (folk song);
Group 2: Happy Farmer (Schumann), Hunter's Chorus (Weber);
Group 3: Gavotte (Lully), Gavotte (Martini);
Group 4: Czardas (Monti), Song of Four Seasons (Jia-yang Wang)

SENIOR RECITALS

Two senior students of Suzuki Violin Academy plan to give senior recitals in the spring semester. Megan Johnson's recital is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 21, and Isaac Murphy's is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 14.

ROSE COMPTON

Rose Compton performed her Book 3 graduation recital on Sunday, March 13th, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. The recital was held at Oakton United Methodist Church in Lamar and Rose was accompanied by Joan Jaccaud. Rose played four songs from Book 3 for an audience of about 30 family and friends. A reception was held afterwards.

On March 1st, Rose played Bourree, unaccompanied, as part of the 4th Annual PTO Tiger Talent Show at Thiebaud Auditorium in Lamar. Congratulations Rose!

KOLEEN GLADDEN
Kolleen C Gladden and others in the CHCS (College Heights Christian School) third grade class presented a chapel type program for the residents of "Spring River Christian Village" retirement home, on Friday, March 11, 2005. Kolleen was one of the students selected by the teacher to perform on an individual program. Kolleen played "Long, Long Ago" by Bayly and "Waltz" by Brahms for the attentive and appreciative audience! 

TARYN PARKER

Taryn Parker performed her Suzuki Book 2 Recital on Saturday, March 12th. She played for several members of her family while at her grandparent's house. She played 7 pieces from Book 2. Just for fun, she decided at the last minute to play Gavotte by P. Martini from Book 3. She did a great job. Congratulations to Taryn!

CALENDAR

Apr. 7, Thursday, 7-8 p.m.: China trip workshop, "Kuai Zi" (Chopsticks) - Living in China: Customs, Traditions, and Practical Issues, Room 108.
April 10, Sunday, 2 p.m.: Concert in Observance of the National Music Week, Webster.
May 1, Sunday, 1:30 & 3 p.m.: Student Recitals.
May 5, Thursday, 7-8 p.m.: China trip workshop, "Shi San Ling" (Ming Tombs) - Chinese History and Culture, Room 108.
May 6, Friday: Last day of spring semester.
May 9, Monday: Summer sessions starts.
May 28-June 9: MSSVA China trip.

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 14, NO. 7

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Suzuki Violin Academy warmly welcomes three new teachers aboard! They are Dr. Paul Carlson (violin and viola), Mr. Necati Giray (cello), and Dr. Selim Giray (violin and viola). The new
faculty members bring their expertise and experiences to the Suzuki program at MSSU. They will help to strengthen and further develop the program. Welcome all new teachers!

**PAUL CARLSON**

Chicago born violinist Paul Carlson has won accolades on four continents for his solo and chamber music performances and teaching. As Professor Emeritus of the Department of Music of Pittsburg State University, he now pursues an active career of teaching and performance.

Regarding teaching in Missouri Southern State University's Suzuki Violin Academy, Carlson said, "I have long admired the magnificent work of Dr. Kexi Liu and I look forward with much pleasure to working with his fine students at MSSU. I have also enjoyed studying the Suzuki approach with Rhonda Cole in Ithaca, New York. Dr. Liu and I have enjoyed many collaborative experiences which include: performances at Missouri Southern State University, Pittsburg State University, and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in The People's Republic of China."

In addition to performances in the United States, Canada, and South America, Dr. Carlson has performed in England, Austria, and Monaco. In the Orient he has performed in Korea, Taiwan, the People's Republic of China, Thailand, Vietnam, and India.

Carlson's teachers have included: Suzuki training with Rhonda Cole in Ithaca, New York; Josef Gingold; Yfrah Neaman; Paul Rolland; and Jaap Schroeder. Having earned the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, he is also a graduate of the Chicago Conservatory and Northwestern University.

He has served as concert master of the Chicago Civic Orchestra, the Springfield (Missouri) Symphony, and the Southeast Kansas Symphony. Solo appearances with orchestra include: members of the Chicago Symphony, the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, the Springfield Symphony, the Southeast Kansas Symphony, and the City Symphony of Asuncion, Paraguay. In Vietnam he appeared with their National Opera and Ballet Orchestra in Hanoi.

Carlson exemplifies the belief that teaching and playing music can serve as one of the strongest catalysts in helping to bring together people of diverse backgrounds and cultures for mutual understanding.

**SELIM GIRAY**

Dr. Selim Giray was appointed as Assistant Professor of violin and viola at Pittsburg State University in 2002. Previously, Dr Giray taught at highly regarded institutes such as Interlochen Arts Camp.

As a violinist, Dr. Giray has performed extensively in three continents, and has appeared frequently on national public radio and television. He has performed as a soloist, recitalist,
chamber musician, and orchestral player. Also an active researcher, currently he is editing Adman Saygun's violin concerto for the Peermusic Classical. In 2003, Edwin Mellen Press published Dr. Giray's treatise titled "A Biography of the Turkish Composer Ahmed Adnan Saygun and a Discussion of his Violin Works." The Minister of Culture of Turkey published the same work in Turkish, with a preface by then Minister of Culture, Istemihan Talay.

As a doctoral candidate at the Florida State University, Selim Giray studied with Eliot Chapo-former concertmaster the New York Philharmonic and the Dallas Symphony. Prior to that, in 1992 he was awarded a joint fellowship from the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra and East Carolina University, where he studied with Fritz Gearhart. A native of Istanbul, Selim Giray graduated from Istanbul State Conservatory and Mimar Sinan University State Conservatory, where he studied with Saim Akçıl. Dr. Giray performs on an exquisite violin made by Ansaldo Poggi (1950). He is married and has one daughter.

**NECATI GIRAY**

Necati Giray taught at Istanbul Technical University from 1976 to 2003, and maintained a private studio for twenty-three years. Through the years, Mr. Giray played under the batons of conductors such as Nadia Boulanger, Aaron Copland, Robert Wagner, among others. He was featured in the Encyclopedia of Music (ed. A. Say). For over forty-three years Necati Giray served as a member of the Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra, the Istanbul State Opera and Ballet Orchestra and with Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra, where he retired as principal cellist in 2003.

A native of Istanbul, Necati Giray graduated from Istanbul State Conservatoire and Istanbul Municipal Conservatoire. Mr. Giray performs on a beautiful cello made by himself. His son, Selim, and daughter are both violinists. In addition to teaching at Suzuki Violin Academy, Mr. Giray will also start to teach the cello at the Music Department of MSSU in the fall.

**SPRING RECITALS**

MSSVA students beautifully performed during the two recitals on Sunday, May 1, at Webster Auditorium on MSSU campus. Congratulations to all the students who performed. The Award Ceremony was held between the two recitals. Students received 100-Day Club Certificates, Festival Certificates, Gold Cups, and Graduation Certificates. Congratulations to all the students who were honored at the Award Ceremony!

**100-DAY CLUB**

Students who practiced every single day in the fall semester received the Super 100-Day Club Certificate at the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, May 1. They are: Kolleen Gladden, Danielle Myers, Edith Sigler, and Glenn Sigler.
Students who practiced at least 100 days in the fall semester received 100-Day Club Certificate. They are: Kira Bunch, Paul Cho, Rose Compton, Sarah Cornell, Timothy Damaso, Kathryn Eutsler, Mitchell Eutsler, Hannah Flack, Jordan Flack, Audrianna Harlen, Jake Houston, Nick Johnson, Isaac Murphy, Toby Murphy, Paige Myers, and Daniel Roach. Congratulations to all 100-Day Club members!

GOLD CUP

Students who participated in the Junior Music Festivals of the Missouri Federation of Music Clubs and had accumulated 15 points or more received their first Gold Cup. Normally it takes 3 to 4 years of dedicated work to get the first Gold Cup. Students who received the first Gold Cup are: Paul Cho, Rose Compton, Jake Houston, Madison Kellenberger, Megan Johnson, Nick Johnson, and Taryn Parker. Eric Dysart and Jennifer Weist, who accumulated at least 30 points, received their second Gold Cups. Alan Liu, who had accumulated 45 points, received his third Gold Cup. Congratulations to all the above students!

FESTIVAL CERTIFICATE

Students who performed and received "Superior" rating at the Junior Music Festival of Missouri Federation of Music Clubs in March received their Superior Certificates at the Awards Ceremony. They are: Kira Bunch, Paul Cho, Rose Compton, Timothy Damaso, Cole Duffield, Eric Dysart, Kathryn Eutsler, Mitchell Eutsler, Hannah Flack, Jordan Flack, Melissa Hoffmeister, Jake Houston, Megan Johnson, Nick Johnson, Madison Kellenberger, Sarah Kessler, Alan Liu, Toby Murphy, Danielle Myers, Aaron Neher, Lydia Neher, Taryn Parker, Edith Sigler, Glenn Sigler, and Jennifer Weist. Congratulations to all of the above students!

GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

Students who finished a Suzuki book and performed the graduation recital in the spring semester received their Graduation Certificate at the Award Ceremony. They are: Allison Schiltz (Book 1), Timothy Damaso (Book 2), Madison Kellenberger (Book 2), Rose Compton (Book 3), and Nicholas Johnson (Book 3). Congratulations to all the above students!

TIMOTHY DAMASO

Timothy Damaso successfully performed his Suzuki Violin Book 2 Graduation Recital on Thursday, April 21, at St. Mary's School for his 3rd grade class. Congratulations to Timothy for a job well done!
NICHOLAS JOHNSON

Nicholas Johnson performed his Suzuki Violin Book 3 Graduation Recital on Saturday, April 23, at his home in Joplin. Audience members were family and friends, including his grandfather from Pittsburg and aunt and uncle from Wichita. He was accompanied by Joy Moore on the piano. His performance was enjoyed by all! Congratulations Nick!

JOHNSON & LIU

Megan Johnson and Alan Liu participated in the State High School Music Festival held on Saturday, April 30, in Columbia. Both of them performed violin solos and received the "I" rating, the highest rating, for their performance. Congratulations to Megan and Alan!

ISAAC MURPHY

All Suzuki families are cordially invited and encouraged to attend the Senior Recital & Graduation celebration of Isaac R. Murphy. Isaac will be playing works from within and without the Suzuki repertoire. The recital will be held on Saturday, May 14th, 2005 (THIS RECITAL HAS BEEN CANCELLED) in the MSSU Webster Auditorium. A reception will follow in Phinney Hall.

JON GAYMAN

Jon Gayman resigned from his teaching position at Suzuki Violin Academy to pursue other interests. His resignation is effective immediately.

FROM EDITORS

This is the last issue of ALLEGRO of the spring semester. Next issue will be in September 2005. Have a nice summer!

CALENDAR

May 5, Thursday, 7-8 p.m.: China trip workshop, "Shi San Ling" (Ming Tombs) - Chinese History and Culture, Room 108.
May 6, Friday: Last day of spring semester.
May 9, Monday: Summer sessions starts.
CANCELLED: May 14, Saturday, 7 p.m.: Isaac Murphy Senior Recital, Webster Auditorium.
May 21, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Megan Johnson Senior Recital, Webster Auditorium.
May 28-June 9: MSSVA China trip.
August 22: Monday: First day of the fall semester
November 19: Saturday, 1 & 2:30 p.m.: Student Recitals, Webster Auditorium.
November 22-25: Thanksgiving Break.
December 16: Last day of fall semester.
December 17: Saturday, 1:30 p.m.: Play-In Concert, Webster Auditorium

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 15, NO. 1
September 12, 2005

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

The following students have joined Suzuki Violin Academy in the summer or recently: Jordan Chambers, daughter of Michael and Stacy Chambers, Joplin; William Delozier, son of Mike and Dawn Delozier, Miami, Okla; Katy Kaminsky, daughter of Jack and Jill Kaminsky, Joplin; Corban Qualls, son of David and Lisa Qualls, Alba; Kelli Scribner, daughter of Cecil and Carol Scribner, Joplin. Welcome about all new students!

CONCERTS SCHEDULED

The student recitals of the fall semester has been scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 19 and the play-in concert for Saturday, Dec. 17. Please mark those dates on your calendar.

CHINA TRIP

Thirteen students of the Suzuki Violin Academy and their families visited China in June. While in China, the students performed with Chinese students at the Children's Palaces in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai as well as at the Great Wall. Their performances were warmly welcomed by the audience. China Today, the largest monthly English magazine in China, published an article in its August issue about the performance in Beijing.

In addition to the performances, the group of 43 people also visited numerous scenic and historic places in China, including the Forbidden City, the Ming Tombs, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, in Beijing; the Terra Cotta Soldiers and Horses Museum, the Old City Wall, the
Small Wild Goose Pagoda, in Xi'an; the West Lake, the Lingyin Temple, in Hangzhou; the Tiger Hill and the Leaning Tower, Wangshi Park, in Suzhou; Tongli, a water village; Yuyuan Park, Huangpu River in Shanghai. They also enjoyed several cultural events, including a Tang-Dynasty style dinner show, an acrobatic performance, and visits to a tea house, a jade factory, a tea farm, and a silk factory.

The members of the group gave the trip a thumbs-up. Here's what they wrote about it:
"It is a once in a lifetime trip...you and your family will enjoy the experiences of the Chinese culture. We had an amazing time in China. Beijing is a beautiful place. China has a lot of cultural things and we learned a lot [about] the history of China. The Chinese people are very nice and friendly." (Harris family)

"Our group and my family had a pleasurable and enriching experience." (Prusator family)

"The China trip was enjoyable, pleasant, and educational. We had a great time." (Myers family)

"Great trip, well prepared and lots of preparation went into it." (Anonymous)

"I was amazed when I found out this was the first China trip [of the Suzuki Violin Academy] because everything seemed so smooth." (anonymous)

After the trip, an anonymous survey was conducted. In the survey, in addition to questions about the itinerary, hotel, food, and suggestions for future trips, members of the group were also asked to rate the trip. The average rating was 4.6 on a 1-5 scale (1 as "poor" and 5 as "outstanding").

PAUL CHO

Paul Cho performed his combined Suzuki Violin Book 2 and Book 3 Graduation Recital at his home in Neosho on Saturday, Aug. 13. In his recital, he also performed three piano pieces. More than 30 friends and family members attended his recital. There was a reception after the recital. Congratulations Paul!

ERIC DYSART

Eric Dysart performed his Suzuki Violin Book 6 Graduation Recital on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the home of his grandparents. He played six pieces from Book 6, a number of fiddle pieces, and a piano piece. Twenty-five friends and relatives attended his recital. There was a swimming party after the recital, and refreshments were served. Congratulations Eric!

KATHRYN AND MITCHELL EUTSLER

Kathryn and Mitchell Eutsler performed their Suzuki Book Four recital on the evening of September 9. Thirty friends and family members gathered in Anderson for a spaghetti dinner
prior to the recital. Kathryn and Mitchell introduced the evening of music by performing Concerto for Two Violins by J.S. Bach. Next, Kathryn performed the 1st and 3rd Movements of Concerto No.5 by F. Seitz. The sister/brother duo split Vivaldi's Concerto in A Minor, with Mitchell playing the 1st and 3rd movements, and Kathryn playing the 2nd. The grand finale of the evening came when the two violinists played Song of the Seasons. This Chinese piece gained much approval from the audience. Cake and ice cream were served as the guests enjoyed the many photographs and stories from the recent China trip. Congratulations Kathryn and Mitchell!

EDITH AND GLENN SIGLER

Glenn and Edith, along with Mother and Grandmother, attended the Lincoln Suzuki Institute, July 11-15, at Nebraska Wesleyan University. It is designed as a family experience with a daily session for parents and evening family activities. Age and ability were considered in class placement. Students' core curriculum included a Master Class; a group experience; Orchestra, Choir, or Suzuki Singers; and a choice of one enrichment class from a list of seven. Classes were from 8:00 - 4:00. Glenn (6) and Edith (5) took the Suzuki Singers and the Irish Tin Whistle classes. A professional flutist taught Whistle, following the Suzuki tradition in learning American and Irish Folk Songs. Most influential for us was Donna Carnes, our Master class and group experience instructor. She is a professional violinist who had Suzuki training with John Kendall and others. Donna and all of our teachers were great with the youngest students. Participants attended daily concerts by students and teachers, all students took part in the final concert. Students were expected to practice each day and actually did! An enjoyable break was selecting a treat from the goody-basket brought to each practice room during the hour by institute instructors. Once, this basket contained fortune cookies with a Suzuki quote in each. Each day was filled with music and the push to improve techniques. It was good to be with a lot of children who all had the same purpose. The adults also enjoyed being together. In addition to attending the institute, Edith and Glenn were active in performing. In June, Edith played Chorus from Judas Maccabaus by Handel and Musette by J. S. Bach in an Exploration Adventure assembly at the Carl Junction Primary K-1 School. She was accompanied by her mother, Dr. Kimra Ross. Glenn and Edith Sigler also performed their joint Suzuki Violin Book 2 Graduation Recital on Sunday, August 14, at their home. Each performed six pieces, including Minuet by L. Boccherini. Their mother, Dr. Kimra Ross, accompanied them on the piano. Twenty-two friends and family members attended the recital. After the recital, everyone enjoyed refreshments of cookies and lemonade. Congratulations to Glenn and Edith!

CALENDAR

November 19: Saturday, 1 & 2:30 p.m.: Student Recitals, Webster Auditorium.
November 22-25: Thanksgiving Break.
December 16: Last day of fall semester.
December 17: Saturday, 1:30 p.m.: Play-In Concert, Webster Auditorium
Jan 16, 2006, Monday: First day of the spring semester.
March 4, Saturday: Federation Junior Music Festival.
March 20-24: Spring break.
April: Date TBA, Concert in Observance of the National Music Week.
May: date TBA, student recitals.
May 12, Friday: Last day of spring semester.
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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
VOL. 15, NO. 2

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

The following students have joined Missouri Southern Suzuki Violin Academy recently: Kaden Carter (cello), son of John and Kristi Carter of Carthage; Naomi Roark (adult, cello) of Anderson; Andrew Schesser, son of Ted and Melinda Estes of Carthage; Ty West and Wade West (cello), sons of Daniel and Sasha West of Anderson. Welcome aboard all new students!

SOUTHERN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
The Department of Music at Missouri Southern State University will present the inaugural concert of the Southern Symphony Orchestra, "An Evening of Classical Fun," at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 8, at Taylor Performing Arts Center at MSSU.

Under the baton of Dr. Kexi Liu, the Orchestra will perform works by Beethoven, Haydn, and Mozart. The Joplin High School Orchestra, directed by Mr. Terry Dolanc, will make a special guest performance. Admission is free.

Southern Symphony Orchestra consists of 60 members, including university students and faculty members, community members, and selected high school students. Several MSSVA students will participate in the performance. They are Melissa Hoffmeister, Megan Johnson, Alan Liu, Mary Moore, Toby Murphy, and Nathan Ward. Several MSSVA graduates will also participate in the orchestra. They are Emily Clark, Sam Jones, Kathy Liu, Isaac Murphy, and Christy Paxton.

Mark the concert date on your calendar. Have the Classical Fun!

ERIC DYSART

Eric Dysart attended the 34th Walnut Valley Festival from Sep. 5 to Sep 18 in Winfield, Kansas.
On Sep. 15, he participated in the Walnut Valley Old Time Fiddle Championship contest and won the 3rd place. This contest was open to players of all ages and was a blind contest. Eric played a hoedown, a waltz, and a tune of choice. After being selected by judges as one of the top five contestans, he had to compete in another round and played three more pieces. He won a large trophy and a Franz Sandner "Jubilee" violin, made in Germany and valued at $2500.

On Oct. 1, Eric participated in the Oklahoma State Junior Fiddle Contest and won the first place with a $200 cash prize. He has won the title of Oklahoma State Junior Fiddle Champion three years in a row.

Congratulations to Eric!

**HANNAH FLACK**

Hannah Flack performed her Suzuki Violin Book 2 Graduation Recital on Saturday, Oct 1, at her home in Joplin. She performed six pieces from Book 2, including the Minuet by Boccherini. Her mother, Nancy Flack, accompanied her on the piano.

Congratulations to Hannah!

**KOLLEEN GLADDEN**

Kolleen Gladden performed her Suzuki Violin Book 2 Graduation Recital on Sunday, Sep. 11. The recital was held at her home in Joplin. Family members, relatives, and friends attended the recital. Everyone enjoyed her performance. Following the event, the group had dinner at the Outback Steakhouse.

Congratulations to Kolleen!

**SIGLERS**

Glenn and Edith Sigler have had a busy month playing with their parents and grandparents in the family band. On September 10, 11, 17, and 18, they played again at the Yankee Peddler Festival in Canal Fulton, Ohio. This large craft show is a return to the pioneer America of 1776. Glenn and Edith played a program of old folk tunes and Suzuki songs as a duet. They also played solo selections and were again well received by large audiences.

Saturday, September 24, they played on stage for the Pioneer Days of Mountain View, Missouri, and again, got to dress in pioneer costumes. On Sunday, September 25, they played for the morning service at the Mountain View Christian Church attended by their grandmother Sigler and her relatives.

On September 30, October 1 and 2, they enjoyed playing for Barnyard Days at the Circle R Ranch near Neosho. This Missouri Arts and Craft show puts you back a few years and has many demonstrations and activities to teach and entertain children.
When I was accepted last spring as a student to spend my summer attending the Meadowmount School of Music, I couldn't believe that I was actually going to have the opportunity to study at a place that I had only read and dreamed about. This past summer was an amazing experience. An experience that I will never forget and one that I hope to repeat again in the future!

Many reading this article may not be aware of the Meadowmount School of Music, so I will try to explain a little bit about it. Meadowmount is located in the state of New York and is one of the oldest and most important music camps in America. It was started in 1943 by the legendary violin teacher Ivan Galamian. This musical haven of rest has fostered the talents of many aspiring young string players, among whom are Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Kyung-wha Chung, Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, and Michael Rabin.

When I first arrived on the campus, which is set in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains of northern New York, I immediately noticed the difference in the atmosphere. Here was a place so dedicated to the seriousness in music-making that it had named the dorms after many famous string players! The dorms were named things such as Piatigorsky, Rabin, Casals, Paganini, Wienawski, and Fritz Kreisler. The studios and practice rooms were also named similarly such as: Stradivari, Primrose, Du Pre, and Heifetz.

What about the teachers? Meadowmount attracts some of the finest teachers from around the world; many teachers come from universities and conservatories of well repute. My teacher for the summer was Kathryn Votapek. She was probably the most extraordinary teacher I have ever encountered. She gave me an understanding of the art of effective practicing. This was something I had not really grasped before I went there, and I am still working on perfecting my practicing techniques now! She also was a great encouragement to me. When I was frustrated with a particular technique, she would patiently show me how to practice and accomplish my goals.

Probably one of the things Meadowmount is most famous for is its insistence on practice. Every weekday the students are required to practice a minimum of five hours. Right after breakfast, four of these five hours are spent in practice, with the last hour later in the afternoon. Woe betides the student who is caught sleeping during practice hours! The school has a very strict disciplinary policy in regard to practicing, and students who refuse to comply with the rules will be expelled. This is all part of the school's way of getting the student acquainted with his instrument, as well as teaching him how to become a serious musician.

No one would dare write an article on Meadowmount without mentioning the student concerts. As well as attracting the best teachers from around the world, Meadowmount also offers scholarships to some of the most amazingly talented young string players (the walls of the dining room, covered with pictures of some of the famous string players who attended the school, attest
to that fact). At the student concerts we heard live performances of many major concertos, sonatas, showpieces, and short pieces, as well as many great pieces of chamber music. Almost all concerts were magnificently played, and many were extremely inspirational.

It was equally a great place to meet friends with similar interests. Most of the kids there were respectful of other people's feelings and were very supportive. All in all, it was a completely satisfying and productive summer for me. I will finish this with a quote from Sally Thomas, a teacher at The Juilliard Conservatory of Music who spends her summer teaching at Meadowmount, "The students learn so much here that they can't completely absorb it all, but throughout the school year it bubbles up inside of them, and then it solidifies." I can certainly say that this is true of me.

**FALL RECITALS**

MSSVA's fall semester recitals are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 19. The sign-up sheet is posted on the door of Dr. Liu's office. Students should sign up as soon as possible.

**CALENDAR**

**November 8, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.:** "An Evening of Classical Fun" - Southern Symphony Orchestra, Taylor Performing Arts Center. Admission is free.
**November 19:** Saturday, 1 & 2:30 p.m.: Student Recitals, Webster Auditorium.
**November 22-25:** Thanksgiving Break.
**December 16:** Last day of fall semester.
**December 17:** Saturday, 1:30 p.m.: Play-In Concert, Webster Auditorium
**January 16, 2006, Monday:** First day of the Spring semester.
**March 4, Saturday:** Federation Junior Music Festival.
**March 20-24:** Spring break.
**April:** date TBA, Concert in Observance of the National Music Week
**May 13, Saturday, 1 & 2:30 p.m.:** Spring semester student recitals.
**May 12, Friday:** Last day of Spring semester.

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Editors: Kexì Liu, Tami Murphy
PLAY-IN CONCERT

Suzuki Violin Academy will host a Play-In concert on Saturday, Dec. 17, at Webster Auditorium on the MSSU campus. Area students are cordially invited to participate in the performance with MSSVA students. The concert starts at 1:30 p.m. It is open to the public and admission is free. The following is the concert programs;

Canon in D by Pachelbel
Concerto in A Minor, 1st movement by Vivaldi
Humoresque by Dvorak
Gavotte by Martini
Theme from "Witches' Dance" by Paganini
Chorus from "Judas Maccabaeus" by Handel
Minuet 1 by J.S. Bach
Long, Long Ago by Bayly
Lightly Row
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star Variation A and Theme.

All students are encouraged to practice those pieces prior to the concert. For further information of the concert, contact Dr. Kexi Liu, director of the Suzuki Violin Academy, at 417-625-9681.

100-DAY CLUB

The 100-Day Club practice charts are due in the week of Dec. 12-16. Students who practice at least 100 days in the fall semester will receive a certificate at the Play-In concert. Please turn in the charts to Dr. Liu.

SOUTHERN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The new Southern Symphony Orchestra successfully performed its first concert on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Nine Suzuki Violin Academy alumni and current students participated in the performance. The alumni are Emily Clark, Sam Jones, Kathy Liu, and Isaac Murphy. The current students are Melissa Hoffmeister, Alan Liu, Mary Moore, Toby Murphy, and Nathan Ward. Congratulations to the MSSVA alumni and students for a wonderful performance!
TARYN PARKER

Taryn Parker performed her Suzuki Book 3 Graduation recital on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2005, at her home in Joplin. Following a busy morning learning to make deviled eggs, home-made rolls, and chocolate pie, and after feasting on turkey, noodles, stuffing, cranberries, and much, much more, Taryn treated family and friends to a delectable dessert of Gavotte by Martini, Gavotte in G minor by Bach, Humoresque by Dvorak and Bourree by Bach. For an extra treat, she threw in a dash of the Lullabies from Book 4. She was accompanied by her mother. Congratulations to Taryn! On December 1, 2005, Taryn participated in the Joplin All-City Orchestra Christmas Concert, Songs of the Season. It was an excellent and festive concert performed by 100 Joplin children, many of whom had decorated their violins and bows with garland and bows. On December 2nd, Taryn performed at several Joplin elementary schools with the All-City Orchestra.

SIGLERS

Glenn Sigler's second grade class did the chapel program on November 10 for College Heights Elementary. Mrs. Ball, his teacher, had heard him and his family perform at Barnyard Days and asked them to play for chapel. Glenn started the program by playing Musette by J.S. Bach. His sister, Edith, then played Chorus from "Judas Maccabaeus" by G.F. Handel. Their mother, Dr. Kimra Ross, accompanied them on the piano. Glenn and his classmates then led the pledge and prayer and recited Bible verses. Next, Glenn and Edith played Amazing Grace, accompanied by their grandmother, Elizabeth Ross, on autoharp and their grandfather, William Ross, on string bass. The remainder of the program consisted of early church camp-meeting songs performed by the Ross-Sigler family string band. Audience participation was very good as the students sang and clapped to the songs.

KIRA BUNCH

Kira Bunch performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on Nov. 14 at her school. Congratulations to Kira!

DR. PAUL CARLSON

Dr. Paul Carlson, a faculty member of Suzuki Violin Academy, was busy in the past several weeks performing nationally and internationally. He performed Dvorak's Violin Concerto with an orchestra in Arizona and Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3 with the Delhi Orchestra and took duty as an assistant conductor.

MR. & MRS. LAWSON
After the Suzuki Violin Academy student recitals on Saturday, Nov. 19, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon & Marguerite Lawson made a cash donation to the Academy.

Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Lawson for your generous support!

FOR SALE

1/8 size violin with shoulder rest. $100. Call 782-4380.

CALENDAR

December 16: Friday, Last day of the fall semester.
December 17: Saturday, 1:30 p.m.: Play-In Concert, Webster Auditorium
January 16, 2006, Monday: First day of the Spring semester.
March 4, Saturday: Federation Junior Music Festival.
March 14, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: Southern Symphony Orchestra Spring concert, Taylor Performing Arts Center
March 20-24: Spring break.
April: date TBA, Concert in Observance of the National Music Week
May 13, Saturday, 1 & 2:30 p.m.: Spring semester student recitals.
May 12, Friday: Last day of Spring semester.

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
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PLAY-IN CONCERT

Missouri Southern Suzuki Violin Academy students performed a Play-In concert on Saturday, Dec. 17. Before the Play-In program, five selected students performed solos. The soloists were
Spencer Dawson, Eric Dysart, Mitchell Eutsler, Megan Johnson, and Paige Myers.

During the Awards Ceremony before the Play-In program, students who practiced at least 100 days in the fall semester received 100-Day Club Certificates, and students who finished a Suzuki book and performed a book graduation recital either in summer or fall received the Graduation Certificates. Congratulations to these students!

Some area violin students joined MSSVA students in the performance. After the Play-In concert, students and their families together had a Pizza Party. Everyone enjoyed it and had a great time.

100-DAY CLUB
Four MSSVA students practiced every single day in the fall semester. They received the Super 100-Day Club Certificate. They are Eric Dysart, Kolleen Gladden, Edith Sigler, and Glenn Sigler.

Other 100-Day Club members are: Kira Bunch, Jordan Chambers, Paul Cho, Rose Compton, Timothy Damaso, Spencer Dawson, Kathryn Eutsler, Mitchell Eutsler, Hannah Flack, Jordan Flack, Audri Harlen, Nick Johnson, Laurel Lown, Danielle Myers, Paige Myers, and Daniel Roach.

Congratulations to all 100-Day Club members!

GRADUATION
Eight MSSVA students performed at least one Book Graduation Recital in the fall semester. They received the Graduation Certificate during the Award Ceremony. They are:

Book 1 Graduation: Kira Bunch;
Book 2 Graduation: Paul Cho, Hannah Flack, Kolleen Gladden;
Book 3 Graduation: Paul Cho, Taryn Parker;
Book 4 Graduation: Kathryn Eutsler, Mitchell Eutsler;
Congratulations!

JUNIOR MUSIC FESTIVAL
The Federation of Music Clubs Junior Music Festival at MSSU will be held on Saturday, March 4. The registration forms are now available. Students who plan to perform at the festival should turn in the form and fee as soon as possible. Students are encouraged to practice their performance pieces.
NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK

MSSVA's Concert in Observance of National Music Week is scheduled for Sunday, April 2. The National Music Week this year is from May 7 to 14. The concert will be recorded and the recording is to be used during National Music Week.

STUDENT RECITALS

The student recitals of the spring semester are scheduled for Saturday, May 13. Please mark your calendars.

SOUTHERN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Southern Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert on Tuesday, March 14, at Taylor Performing Arts Center on MSSU campus. The theme of the concert is "An Evening of Romantic Dances." The program includes The Moldau by Smetana, Polkas by Strauss, Hungarian Dances by Brahms, Waltzes by Tchaikovsky, and Slavonic Dances by Dvorak. Several MSSVA students perform with Southern Symphony Orchestra.

JORDAN FLACK

Jordan Flack performed her Suzuki Violin Book 4 Graduation Recital on December 23 at her grandparents' home in Sarcoxie. Jordan performed three pieces from Book 4 including Concerto No.2, 3rd Movement (Seitz), Concerto No.5 3rd Movement (Seitz), and Concerto in A Minor 1st Movement (Vivaldi). Her recital also included traditional Christmas carols. Congratulations to Jordan!

CALENDAR

March 4, Saturday: Federation Junior Music Festival.
March 14, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: Southern Symphony Orchestra Spring concert, "An Evening of Romantic Dances", Taylor Performing Arts Center
March 20-24: Spring break.
April 2, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Concert in Observance of the National Music Week, Webster Auditorium
WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

The following students joined MSSVA recently:
Loran Dawson, daughter of Jonathan and Andrea Dawson of Carl Junction; Andrew Lown, son of Douglas and Joanne Lown of Carthage.

Welcome aboard Loran and Andrew!

FEDERATION JUNIOR MUSIC FESTIVAL

MSSVA hosted a Federation Junior Music Festival on Saturday, March 4. The festival was part of the Junior Festivals of the National Federation of Music Clubs. About 150 strings, piano, and vocal students performed as part of the festival. Thirty-five Suzuki students participated in the festival. All of them earned either a "Superior" or "Excellent" rating. Congratulations to the students who performed in the festival!

ABOUT THE JUDGES

There were two judges who judged for string students.

Carolyn Belknap recently retired from teaching music in the Independence, MO, public school system. Carolyn, her husband Carl, and their five children had lived in Monett for ten years during the 1980's, where they owned Belknap Music Store and Studio. She taught violin, viola, and cello to many students from the surrounding areas during that time. Carolyn also helped form the Ozark Festival Orchestra in Monett and was the concertmaster for eight years.

Leslie Seay grew up in Aurora, MO. She started violin when she was 2 1/2 years old. When she was in high school, she played in the Springfield Youth Symphony and in college she played in...
the Brigham Young University String Orchestra and Early Music Ensemble. She has a master's degree in special education. She wrote after judging in the festival to our students: "I really enjoyed listening to your beautiful music!"

Congratulations!

RECOMMENDED SOLOISTS

Upon a request from the director of MSSVA, Dr. Kexi Liu, the judges recommended soloists for the upcoming MSSVA student concert. The recommendations were based on students' performance in the festival. Judge Leslie Seay suggested Jasmine Butcher, Rose Compton, Timothy Damaso, Jake Houston, and Sarah Kessler. Judge Carolyn Belknap recommended Eric Dysart, Kathryn Eutlster, Mitchell Eutsler, Nick Johnson, Alan Liu, and Tobiah Murphy.

Congratulations to the above students!

CONCERT PROGRAM

MSSVA students will perform a concert in observance of National Music Week, which will be the first full week in May, on Sunday, April 2, at Webster Auditorium on the MSSU campus. In addition to solo performances, the Suzuki students will perform in groups as well. The following are the pieces each group will play. All Suzuki students are encouraged to practice these pieces.

Group 1: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star Variation A and Theme; Allegro.
Group 2: Chorus from "Judas Maccaebaeus"; Hunter's Chorus.
Group 3: Gavotte by Martini; Gavotte in G Minor by J. S. Bach.
Group 4: Sonata No. 10 by Corelli; Concerto in A Minor, 1st movement by Vivaldi.

ROSE COMPTON

Rose Compton performed her Suzuki Violin Book 4 graduation recital on Sunday, March 12, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. The recital was held at Shepherd Music & Dance in Diamond, MO and Rose was accompanied by Joan Jaccaud, owner & instructor. Rose played three songs from Book 4 and her sister, Grace, played 3 pieces on the piano. Both girls played beautifully. After the performance, Rose's family celebrated Rose's graduation and her birthday. Congratulations & Happy Birthday, Rose!

It was a busy week for Rose. In addition to Sunday's recital, she played in the Lamar PTO Talent Show at the Thiebaud Auditorium in Lamar, on Tuesday evening, March 7. She played Vivaldi's Concerto in A Minor, 1st Movement, unaccompanied. In order to perform on Tuesday, she had
to audition in late January and was then selected to play in the West Elementary talent show on February 22. This performance was judged and the top 10 performers were invited to go on to play in the March 7th show along with the top Middle School acts. Way to go, Rose!

GLENN & EDITH SIGLER

Glenn and Edith Sigler were featured performers at the annual John Deere Days held in Lamar on Jan. 5. They played Suzuki and traditional folk tunes with the Harmony Hill String Band. Congratulations to Glenn and Edith!

CALENDAR

March 14, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: Southern Symphony Orchestra Spring concert, "An Evening of Romantic Dances", Taylor Performing Arts Center
March 20-24: Spring break.
April 2, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Concert in Observance of the National Music Week, Webster Auditorium
May 13, Saturday, 1 & 2:30 p.m.: Spring semester student recitals.
May 12, Friday: Last day of Spring semester.
May 15, Monday: Summer Sessions begin

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Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy

ALLEGRO - SUZUKI NEWSLETTER
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WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

The following students have recently joined Suzuki Violin Academy:

Kitty Clary, daughter of David and Sara Clary of Joplin; Zach Most, son of Mike and Kari Most of Carl Junction.
Welcome aboard Kitty and Zach!
FAREWELL AND WELCOME
Suzuki Violin Academy says farewell to Dr. Selim Giray and Mr. Necati Giray, who will not continue to teach at Suzuki Violin Academy after the spring semester. Dr. Giray's wife is expecting their second child. He wants to spend more time with his family and focus on his teaching at PSU. Mr. Giray will go back to Turkey in May. Suzuki Violin Academy thanks Dr. Selim and Mr. Giray for their dedicated teaching in the past year and wants to send the best wishes to them.

Suzuki Violin Academy is very pleased to announce that Dr. Carolann Martin will join Suzuki Violin Academy in May. She will start to teach cello students when summer sessions begin. Dr. Martin will also teach college cello and bass students in the fall. Welcome aboard Dr. Martin!

SOUTHERN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Southern Symphony Orchestra will perform a "Pops on a Sunday Afternoon" concert on Sunday, May 7, at Taylor Performing Arts Center on the MSSU campus. The concert starts at 2:30 p.m. Several Suzuki Violin Academy students participate in the concert. They are Melissa Hoffmeister, Megan Johnson, Alan Liu, Mary Moore, and Toby Murphy. There are also several Suzuki Violin Academy alumni in the orchestra. They are Emily Clark, Sam Jones, Kathy Liu, Isaac Murphy, and Nathan Ward.

The orchestra will perform popular music of Anderson, Bizet, Rossini, Strauss, Sousa, Weber, and others. There will also be a storyteller telling original and entertaining stories. The concert is open to the public and admission is free.

STUDENT RECITALS

Two Suzuki Violin Academy Student Recitals are scheduled for Saturday, May 13, at Webster Auditorium on MSSU campus. The first recital will begin at 1 p.m. and the second one starts at 2:30 p.m. Between the two recitals there will be an award ceremony. The recitals are open to the public and admission is free.

BRENDEN BARLOW

Brenden Barlow performed with Ozark Festival Orchestra on Saturday, April 8, at Monett City Auditorium. He was one of the winners of the Young Artist Competition that the orchestra held earlier this year. Congratulations to Brenden!

JORDAN CHAMBERS
Jordan Chambers, daughter of Michael and Stacy Chambers, performed her Suzuki Violin Book 1 Graduation Recital on her birthday, Sunday, March 12, at her home. She played Brahms' Lullaby, Allegro, Etude and Minuet 2. She did a beautiful job! After the recital, the family celebrated with cake, ice cream, and presents. Congratulations to Jordan!

KATY KAMINSKY

Katy Kaminsky, daughter of Jack and Jill Kaminsky, celebrated Easter Sunday by performing delightful selections from Suzuki Violin Book 1 for her graduation recital. Over twenty family members and friends were serenaded by pieces such as Minuet 1, Allegro, and others. Guests were thrilled by Katy's performance that took place during a banquet and was followed by too many scrumptious desserts and a hilarious Easter Egg Hunt. Congratulations to Katy!

TOBIAH MURPHY

Tobiah Murphy will be returning to the Adirondack Mountains in the state of New York this summer to study 7 weeks in the Meadowmount School of Music. At Meadowmount, new and returning students must audition every year. After auditioning this year, director of the school, Owen Carmen awarded Tobiah a merit based, partial scholarship to attend the camp. He was also offered a position to study in the private studio of Sally Thomas, who has taught at the Julliard Conservatory of Music for several years. Ms. Thomas, received her B.S. and M.S. degree at the Julliard School where she studied with Ivan Galamian. (Ivan Galamian started and founded the Meadowmount School of Music 52 years ago.) Besides practicing 5 hours a day, having daily chamber music practice, weekly private lessons, and attending student concerts, Tobiah will also be taking a weekly class with Charles Avsharian on advanced bowing techniques. Mr. Avsharian currently teaches violin at Michigan State University and is also the co-owner and CEO of the nationally known Shar Music Company. We wish Tobiah all the best this summer!

DR. CAROLANN MARTIN

Dr. Carolann Martin is a Professor Emeritus of Pittsburg State University, where she had taught music for 23 years from 1977 to 2001. During that time she was Musical Director and Conductor of the Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra. She has conducted orchestras in many states throughout the United States of America as well as in England and South America. Dr. Martin was the first woman ever to conduct the national orchestra in Paraguay, the Orquesta Sinfonica de la Cuidad de Asuncion. Dr. Martin was winner of the National Adult Conducting Competition in 1980. She was the first woman ever to win or reach the finals in that contest.
Dr. Martin is also an accomplished cellist and teacher of cello and bass. Her cello instructors include Gorden Epperson, Janos Starker, Bernard Greenhouse, and Frank Miller. She was principal cellist with the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, the Chicago Civic Orchestra and the Sioux City Symphony in Iowa. She also performed professionally with symphony orchestras in Oklahoma City (Oklahoma), Columbus (Ohio), Norfolk (Virginia) and Tucson (Arizona). She currently plays with the North Arkansas Symphony in Fayetteville and has played with the Springfield Symphony in Missouri. She is a member of the Pittsburg State University Faculty String Quartet.

Her education includes Bachelor's Degree in Music from Oklahoma City University, Master of Arts from Ohio State University and Doctor of Music Arts degree with a double emphasis on cello performance and conducting from Arizona University. She has had further study at Indiana University and at numerous workshops and clinics.


GLENN & EDITH SIGLER

Glenn and Edith Sigler played "Gavotte in G Minor" by J.S. Bach at the Spring Music Recital held by the First United Methodist Church on April 9. Their mother, Dr. Kimra Ross, was their piano accompanist. Glenn also played "Gavotte in G Minor" with his mother at his College Heights school music class on April 26.

DR. PAUL CARLSON

Dr. Paul Carlson will perform a recital on Saturday, May 27, at 2 p.m. About the recital Paul Carlson wrote, "Having enjoyed teaching in the MSSU Suzuki Violin Academy as well as playing in the Missouri Southern Orchestra, I am delighted to take this opportunity to play a recital which will feature the violin of before 1800 (the baroque violin) and the violin of today. Before about 1800 the string family of instruments: violin, viola, cello, and bass generally had shorter necks and string lengths, thinner bridges, and no metal winding on the strings. The pitch was lower than today. Together with these characteristics the bows were lighter, thus creating a sound that was softer, thinner, and perhaps more 'transparent' than the instruments of today. Demonstrating the baroque violin and comparing it to the violin of today, I will play some compositions by J.S. Bach, Eugene Ysaye, and Bela Bartok for solo violin. The brief program will be about one hour. Just after the recital, string players will be invited to come up and play the baroque violin and thus experience first hand the sound and 'feel' of the violin that Bach, Handel, and Corelli heard and played."
May 13, Saturday, 1:00 & 2:30 p.m.: Spring semester student recitals, Webster Auditorium

May 12, Friday: Last day of Spring 2006 semester.

May 15, Monday: Summer Sessions begin

May 22, Monday: 7:30 p.m. Accorde String Quartet (Kathy Liu, Megan Johnson, Jennifer Coberly, Nathan Ward) concert, Webster Auditorium.

May 27 Saturday: 2:00 p.m., Paul Carlson recital, Phinney Recital Hall (Room 222).

August 21, Monday: First day of Fall 2006 semester.

September 4, Monday: Labor Day, no classes.

November 21-24: Thanksgiving break

December 15: Last day of Fall 2006 semester. ***

Editors: Kexi Liu, Tami Murphy