Margaret Woods, Presidential Scholar
As part of the model being developed by Timothy Smith and Professor Brian Wuttke to predict effective teaching skills, Margaret has submitted a literature review concerning personality characteristics of an effective teacher. Combining aspects of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the Kiersey Temperament Sorter, and Holland’s Vocational Preference Inventory, it outlines five main personality traits that predict successful teaching. Related to this research, Margaret is preparing to submit a proposal to IRB shortly, attempting to support this model with a study that will ask veteran teachers their opinions on personality characteristics of effective teachers. In addition, Margaret has conducted a study (with IRB approval) concerning stress indicators and subsequent attendance habits in new and veteran teachers, which was presented at the NAfME Music Research and Teacher Education conference in St. Louis, Missouri in April. Finally, they are now reviewing literature and defining research questions and other parameters for a study dealing with psychological testing and measures of stress as related to teaching.

Timothy Smith, Presidential Scholar
Timothy’s 20 hours per week are spent reading journal articles relevant to his current line of research dealing with developing a model of what constitutes an effective music teacher. This includes, but is not limited to: writing literature reviews, designing research studies, performing statistical operations using SPSS, interpreting statistical output, writing scholarly articles, collecting information from others in the music education research community, and collaborating with his colleague Margaret Woods and Professor Brian Wuttke. They have recently completed a study (with full IRB approval) identifying musical and teaching competencies essential to the first-year secondary music teacher. As a result of this research Timothy and Professor Wuttke have an article in submission to the Journal of Music Teacher Education. In addition they presented the findings from this study at the NAfME Music Research and Teacher Education Conference in St. Louis, Missouri in April. Finally, they are now reviewing literature and defining research questions and other parameters for a study dealing with psychological testing and measures of stress as related to teaching.

CVPA Graduate Student Achievements, 2013-2014

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Timothy Steffey, DMA/GTA, teaches Fundamentals of Music, a course for general education students to learn how to read and write basic music notation; become familiar with the elements of music and how they are organized. Chad also assists Dr. Layendecker with Mason’s Symphonic Orchestra.

Andrew Cote, DMA/GTA, teaches Aural Skills I, a course that teaches undergraduates to sight-read music and be able to turn musical notes on a written page instantaneously into sound. This requires the musical brain to perform the complex task not only of recognizing the notes, but to make sense out of them. Andrew also taught Aural Skills III, an advanced version of the above course.
Other DMA students who received tuition assistance, Hristova, Kohut, Miller, and Rothenberg teach music fundamentals courses or mentor undergraduates in individual teaching sessions.

Laura Petravage, DMA Choral Conducting, achievements include Artistic Director and Conductor, Ensemble du Pain Musical, (Arlington, Virginia; November 2013 to date); Assistant Conductor, l’Association des Amis de Francis Poulenc, 50th Anniversary Concert; Thea Kano, Conductor (Église Saint-Sulpice, Paris, France; March 2013); Singer, master class with Tammy Hensrud for NATS/NOA Winter Workshop in New York City, “Strong Female Characters in the Music of Kurt Weill” (January 2014); Laura was also a winner and sang on last year’s “Young Masters” Concert, May 2013.

MM students have also benefited from the generous contributions from the Provost’s Office. For example, Victor Provost, MM – Jazz Studies, receive a high honor: the Virgin Islands Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, and he was a 2014 Jazz Benefit Concert Honoree.

Luis Palacios, MM – Jazz Studies, work includes ensemble director and performer for the 2014 Jazz Education Network (JEN) conference in Dallas, TX. Hundreds of applicants (both international and national) submitted materials and Palacios’s saxophone ensemble was selected as one of thirty-seven groups to perform; representing both George Mason University as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia. Invited to present at the 24th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning. He was invited to perform at the Annual Virginia Music Educators Conference in November of 2013.

Jennifer Decker achieved Advanced College Women, Category 17A Award, at the 2014 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING COMPETITION, Shenandoah Conservatory, Winchester, Va., February 28 – March 1, 2014.

SCHOOL OF ART

Anne Smith, MFA, and Nathan Loda, MFA, earned Honorable Mention(s) from the Vienna Arts Society 44th Annual Treasury of Art Show; Smith was a Nominee for the 2014 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards.


Ceci Cole McInturff, MFA, GPA with the Fenwick Library’s Gallery, also earned an excellent review in The Washington Post, for her work Thoughts are Things, at the Carroll Square Gallery, Washington, D.C., April 13-25, 2014.


Sara Hawkins, MAT Program, earned a competitive internship with The Lab School of Washington, Summer 14, which will be the focus of her capstone project.
Kristie Windom, MFA/GTA, taught advanced modern dance and ballet to art majors; she also performs with The Washington Ballet. Kristie was a valuable asset this past March 11, assisting Dance faculty with the successful American College Dance Festival, 2014 Mid-Atlantic Conference, held at Mason. She also assisted rehearsal director, Professor Dan Joyce, for the 2014 School of Dance Gala performance of Mark Morris’ Sang Froid.

Luis Torres Ortiz, MFA, dances with The Washington Ballet; he constantly receives high praise for his performances, see The Washington Post’s review of Peter Pan – Luis was “Captain Hook”! Luis teaches ballet in the School of Dance, and he is completing his thesis; he plans to graduate May 2014.