

Phoenix Rising Star grant

The Phoenix Saxophone Quartet, students of **Todd Oxford**, has been awarded a Rising Star Grant in the amount of \$500 to perform at the 36th Annual International Saxophone Symposium sponsored by the United States Navy Band. The grant combines with School of Music and College of Fine Arts & Communication commitments of funds toward the trip to Fairfax, VA, in January of 2013.

Concerto winner

Texas State University 2011 alumna **Vanessa Montelongo** recently won the concerto competition at Western Illinois University where she is a graduate assistant in horn.



Whales, dolphins, and a black dress

Composer **Charles Ditto** received a commission for a work entitled "The Black Dress" by veteran NYC performance artist Vernita N'Cognita as part of SoHo20's annual performance series *Savoir-Faire*. The work was performed in SoHo, NYC, during September. Additionally, an 18-minute electro-acoustic soundscape by Ditto was published on S4G (Sound for Good) Records' *Oceans Music Project* sponsored by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) in San Francisco.

Celebrating "Fathead"

Hank Hehmsoth, with School of Music former Director of Jazz Studies Dr. John Mills, leader of the GRAMMY© nominated ten-piece group Times Ten, presented the First Public Performance of "*Still Hard Times 10*" at the Eighteenth Annual JAZZ AT ST. JAMES' Concert Series, funded and supported by the UT Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, and celebrating the life of Texas' own legendary saxophonist David "Fathead" Newman.



Grant for Equilibrium

Todd Oxford received an \$800 Research Enhancement Program grant to fund a recording project featuring new solo works for saxophone by Texans and other American composers. The resulting compact disc will be released internationally by the Equilibrium Record label and distributed by Albany Music.

Chinese educators visit Austin

Austin ISD was chosen as one of only three school districts in the country to be visited by the K-12 Physical and Arts Education Delegation from the People's Republic of China, a trip to learn how we teach our students to be creative and work successfully in teams. The delegation, headed by Mr. Li Yaojian, Deputy Director of the Supervision Bureau at the Chinese Ministry of Education, visited at the invitation of the United States Department of Education. TxState faculty



Mollie Tower (in red), former AISD Coordinator of Choral and General Music, planned and hosted the delegation's visit. After her opening presentation at St. Edward's University, the day was filled with exciting excursions: a performance by McCallum Fine Arts Academy students, a performance and curriculum showcase featuring the exemplary Music, Art and PE programs at Mills Elementary, and a tour of the world-class Fine Arts and PE facilities at Gorzycki Middle School. The delegation was also treated to a true Texas "Friday Night Lights" experience at the Austin HS-Westlake HS football game/halftime show.

Cruisin'

Butch Miles spent a week in November aboard the Crystal Symphony Cruise Ship as part of the Jazzdagens Jazz Cruise with various jazz artists. Ports of call included Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, two nights in San Francisco, Ensenada, Mexico and San Diego. Butch performed with jazz greats from both the United States and Europe. On December 6, Butch was a guest artist with John Magaldi's Prime Time Jazz Orchestra for "A NIGHT OF JAZZ ON BROADWAY" featuring guitar great Jackie King along with the UIW Jazz Ensemble at University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

Día del Trombón Dos

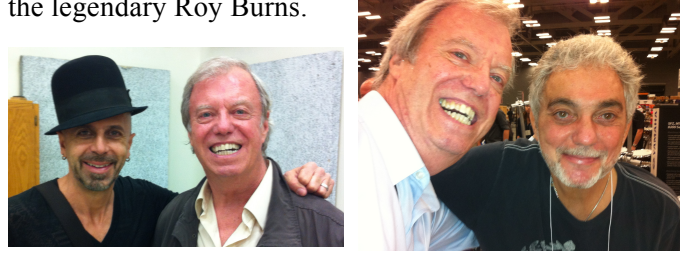
Professor **Charles R. Hurt** recently presented a “Trombone Day” at Lehman High School at the invitation of **Joey Lucita**, Director of Bands and Texas State alumnus. The “Trombone Days” involve private lessons, master classes, section rehearsals, and recitals. “Trombone Days” is part of an on going outreach initiative sponsored by the School of Music.



Above left to right: Joey Lucita; Charles Hurt; **Marvin Housley**, Assistant Director of Bands and Texas State alumnus; Duane Spencer – Assistant Director of Bands

Zoro comes to Austin

Our own jazz drum legend **Butch Miles** attended the Percussive Arts Society International Conference (PASIC) held in Austin on the first week-end in November, where he had the chance to say hello to Steve Gadd, Zoro, and the great Hal Blaine (seated in the photo) along with Jim Catalano of Ludwig Drums and the legendary Roy Burns.



Zoro, Butch

Butch, Steve Gadd

Hal Blaine (seated below)

