



Windlines

a newsletter of the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma

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<http://aoi.ou.edu/>

THANK YOU

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"Mini-Mo" Playing in Sharp Hall

A major milestone in the AOI Mini-Möller project occurred February 11, 2009 as the last ranks were installed. AOI students, staff, and volunteers gathered that evening for an impromptu concert by Richard Hills who was visiting OU (see picture above). You can listen to MP3 recordings made that week on the AOI website. While work remains before the first major concert, it was an exciting time for all involved who have contributed thousands of hours over the last year. Pictured below left is 6 ranks in the Main chamber taken from the roof access ladder. Pictured below right is the Z-Tronics relay, which is hinged on the Main chamber door allowing for ease of maintenance while taking up a minimal amount of space.



**Your private partnership in the American Organ Institute
is vital to its success.**

Interested in making a donation, signing up to receive *Windlines*, changing address, or learning more? Contact the AOI by phone at (405) 325-7829, e-mail aoi@ou.edu, or snail mail 2101 W. Tecumseh Rd. Ste. C, Norman, OK 73069-8253

At the AOI – Spring 2009

April 23, 8 p.m., Sharp Hall. Combined Choirs performance including the Möller.

April 26, 3 p.m., Sharp Hall. President's Concert featuring the OU Symphony Orchestra and the Möller. This will be the debut of the fully completed 3/14 Möller and will feature the premier of a new organ and orchestra concerto written by Dr. Marvin Lamb, OU Professor of Music (Composition) and performed by Dr. John Schwandt, OU Associate Professor of Music (Organ). Tickets are available now by calling the Box Office at (405) 325-4101.

May 1, 4 p.m., Gothic and Sharp Halls. Bradley Fitch, Doctoral degree recital.

May 3, 3 p.m., Sharp Hall. University Chorus concert performing two pieces with the Möller.

Events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. Accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts Box Office at (405) 325-4101. Updated event schedules available online at aoi.ou.edu

Be an organ donor: Join the ranks!

Your gifts to the AOI will ensure that students will have the best creative and educational opportunities available anywhere in the United States. Gifts can be made to the AOI in the following ways: matching gifts, gifts of cash, securities, real estate, life insurance, deferred or planned gifts. Gifts can be general or specifically towards restoration projects, scholarships, archives, or other program components.

Call Fine Arts Director of Development Linda Tiller at (405) 325-7376 or Institute Development Manager John Riester at (405) 325-7829 to join the ranks today!

On the Horizon...

As the Mini-Möller nears completion this month there have been many questions asked of everyone in the AOI; such as 'What's next?' and 'Are you continuing work on the Möller?' Here's a preview of some upcoming projects:

- Students will continue laboratory restoration work on Möller Opus 5819 components such as chests, pipework, and reservoirs.
- Work has begun in the documentation of the Op. 5819 Artiste roll player (pictured right) prior to starting restoration. Once restored, it will be installed on Mini-Möller. Less than 200 roll players were made by Möller. Artiste roll players are considered to be one of the best pipe organ roll players ever made. Work has begun to acquire additional rolls to be played on Mini-Möller. More information in the next *Windlines* issue.



Work has begun to increase and improve the OU practice organ facilities:



- Möller Opus 10736, an existing OU practice instrument (above left), will be rebuilt. New pedalboard, keyboards, and switching will be installed and note pouches and reservoir will be releathered. Pipes will be cleaned and the voicing evened.
- The Hinners organ (above right), donated by Judith Finn, will receive a historically sympathetic restoration and then be installed in a practice room in Catlett Music Center.

The AOI vision (which is online at aoi.ou.edu) is much larger than just Möller Opus 5819. In order to begin to realize the vision, students have been assisting the faculty and staff on a broad range of independent projects, from developing curriculum, establishing archive policies, cataloging donations, website design, and service work at local churches and universities. Their hard work and practice further the goal of the AOI to become the leading educational center for the art of American organ playing, composing, pedagogy, and organ building.

Dipping In...

I have been playing the organ for about nine years, but I never dreamed that I would be involved in the technical side of the instrument. When I first moved to Norman to begin my graduate studies in organ, I did not know what to expect from my graduate assistantship. I was nervous, and did not think I would be competent to do anything of real help in the organ shop. However, thanks to the excellent mentors at the shop, I feel like I truly contributed to the Mini-Mo progress.

My first week at the shop, I started off by waxing pipes. That kept me busy for quite some time, but there was a part of me that hoped I would not be doing that the entire semester. My prayers were answered when my next assignment was making new tuning flaps. I had never worked with sheet metal before, so naturally, I was a little intimidated. After many rough products, I finally got the hang of it and became proud of my work. While making tuning flaps are only a small part of a massive project, it was still very exciting for me to think that I had a part in making an organ come to life.

I recently spoke to a good friend of mine who is an organist at a church in Paris and I told him many things that we are doing at AOI. He was more than impressed, and perhaps even a little jealous. While he is an excellent organist, he has always wished that he understood the instrument more than he did. Very few people have the opportunity to go to a school that not only offers lessons in organ performance but also intense technical training.

I greatly look forward to more work at the shop, and to gradually become more in tune with the mechanics of an organ through the AOI training I am receiving. Even though my focus will still be organ performance after I graduate, I truly believe that the shop experience will enhance my performing career.

—Olivia Buthod



A native of Tulsa, Okla., Olivia Buthod graduated from The Catholic University of America in 2008 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance. This past fall, Olivia was appointed Church Music Intern and Organist at McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church in Norman, and is pursuing a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance at the University of Oklahoma.

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. The American Organ Institute is a department within the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts (<http://finearts.ou.edu>) and the School of Music (<http://music.ou.edu>). This publication is issued by the University of Oklahoma. This newsletter is printed at no cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma.

DS...

Electrical Engineering major (and Pride of Oklahoma band member) Brian Spinner (pictured right) has been working in the AOI shop since September 2008. Here he is wiring a combination setter board for the Waldorf=Astoria console now controlling Mini-Möller.

