Happy holidays from the students and staff of the AOI!

Still shopping for presents for the holidays? The OU Calendar’s Dec. 2010 picture is of Mini-Moller in concert. Calendars are available for $10 plus shipping. More information is available at the OU Alumni Store: http://www.oualumnistore.com, or by calling 1-866-866-1476

At the AOI—Winter 2009
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Sharp Concert Hall. Holiday Pipes Concert featuring Professor John Schwandt, organist

Ticket information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts Box Office at (405) 325-4101.

Join the ranks...
You have the chance to invest in our future. Gifts to the American Organ Institute will ensure that students have the best creative and educational opportunities available. Please use the tear off form below to make a donation. Donations postmarked before Jan. 1, 2010 are deductible in 2009. In addition to cash gifts and pledges, there are several other gift methods you can use. For more information, contact the AOI by phone at (405) 325-7829, e-mail aoi@ou.edu or postal mail (see return address).

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American Organ Institute
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Norman, OK 73069-8253

We’re Going Green...
In keeping with the University of Oklahoma’s “CRIMSON and Green” campaign, the American Organ Institute is phasing out the mailed copies of our newsletter. If you received a hard copy of this issue of Windlines in the mail, don’t let this be your last—please send your e-mail address to aoi@ou.edu today. If you do not have e-mail access and would like to request to remain on the hard copy list, give us a call at (405) 325-7829 and consider a tax-deductible donation to defray the printing and mailing costs.

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Thank you! From the students and staff of AOI!
Reflections from the AOI Gala, “Old Wine, New Bottles”

In a lifetime of attending and playing for organ-related events all over the English-speaking world, I must say that the Gala weekend at OU in October was the most impressive I have ever experienced. The sheer numbers in attendance, the quality of the programs, the kaleidoscopic use of the organ with virtually every area from within the School of Music, and, most importantly, the top-shelf participation of the students made the entire affair unique. I cannot recall an event based around the organ where there was such happiness, as well as smiling faces, and a general feeling of being present at something extremely special. I suspect that many folks didn’t think we were allowed to have so much fun while drinking in quality music and performance, as well as being educated at the same time. If this keeps up (and I have no reason to think it won’t) the organ world is going to have to redefine itself in order to keep pace. Mega-congratulations to all concerned!

—Clark Wilson
East Liverpool, Ohio

I had a wonderful time attending your “Old Wine New Bottles” event. The whole weekend at OU was very enlightening. I especially enjoyed meeting the students and hearing some of them perform. Yes, I heard lots of good organ music, but the whole experience was so much more!

The open house at your restoration shops was a real eye opener. Your shop facilities are really very impressive. I’ve never heard of a college level music program that offers students the opportunity for hands-on participation in a major pipe organ restoration. It was interesting to see how the students were able to learn about the materials and techniques needed to accomplish their work. I could see how they could really learn to correctly perform the many operations involved in pipe organ construction and restoration. It made me wish that I could have had the opportunity to work in those facilities when I restored the Wurlitzer here in Great Falls. Having the guidance of knowledgeable and experienced instructors close at hand is a great advantage.

It’s very satisfying to realize that OU has outstanding facilities in terms of instruments and performance space. It will be fun to return in a year or so to see the progress that is being made with the building and organs. Count me in for your next such event. I’m ready to come back for more!

—Jack Hardman
Great Falls, Va.

I came away from the Old Wine-New Bottles Gala Weekend knowing that The Mini-Mo had done what was expected of it and then some. It really was a weekend that had something for everyone. All of you who put this program together and everyone who participated deserve a standing ovation.

Most of all, I think this program did a very good job of giving us all a little taste of what great programs we can look forward to. My Congratulations to you all for a great beginning.

—John Goulding
Indianapolis, Ind.

I knew that I was in for a treat, as by the list of artists I have heard in the past, but little did I know how much of a treat. This was a weekend filled with a variety of music styles featuring what Dr. John Schwandt calls “The Grand Old Lady.” I knew that Dr. John Schwandt and the gang were going to pull out all the stops, and they didn’t let us down. The gala ended with the Sooner Trio playing “Stars and Stripes Forever” and that was just what I wanted, them to play on forever.

—Glen Boer
Merrillville, Ind.