

NICK CURRY

Statement of Service

Introduction

I have been active in the area of service during my 8+ years as a college professor. At UNF, I was appointed area coordinator for the string area, serve on the University Athletic Committee, coordinate admissions between our department and admissions, and served as special events coordinator for my first five years. Outside of UNF, I am a frequent performing artist for the Riverside Fine Arts Association's outreach program (Project Listen), chair the special projects committee for Florida's American String Teachers Association, adjudicate contests, and have helped raise money for our department through fundraising, establishing scholarships and receiving grants.

Departmental Area Coordinator

In 2011, my colleagues, the chair, and the dean selected me for the role of Area Coordinator for the string area. Coordinators meet regularly to discuss a range of items including admissions, scholarship, creating a department online application, improving communication with adjuncts, out of state tuition waivers, practice room space, and helping to reduce the COAS budget by implementing changes to teaching loads and courses.

University Committees

- Department of Music Scholarship Committee (2007–present)
- Flagship Committee (2007–2008)
- University Athletic Committee (2009–present)
Assistant Chairman (2010–2011)

I have recently been elected to serve on the University Athletic Committee again for another term. Through this committee, I developed a plan along with Deborah Kaye to model our music recruitment in the same manner as athletics. As the contact person between our department and admissions, I make recruitment easier for my colleagues and aid admissions in prioritizing admission as well as scholarship.

Departmental Special Events Coordinator

My role as Special Events Coordinator for my department has enabled me to help the University gain positive visibility with community college teachers and students and high school conductors throughout the state. My main project in this role was coordinating the Florida Community College (FCC) Music Symposium from 2008–2011. This event, which involved over 300 community college music students on our campus over a three-day period each year, has enhanced UNF's image with all of the community colleges in attendance. In particular, it has benefited the department's voice and string areas by motivating many of the most talented visiting students to audition for UNF's Department of Music and attend UNF.

In 2008, I coordinated the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) North State Performance Assessment. My role involved reserving spaces, coordinating the arrival and departure of over 50 buses, greeting band directors, coordinating stage crew and student volunteers, and helping the groups and directors get acquainted with our music facility so that the performances, clinics, and rehearsals could happen in a timely manner. This three-day event provided excellent visibility for our department and it brought prospective high school students onto our campus.

Professional Memberships and Leadership

In the state of Florida, I was elected special projects chair for the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) in 2009 and am a member of Florida Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Federation of Music Clubs, College Music Society (CMS), and the Internet Cello Society. My role in ASTA is especially significant in that I had the unique honor of choosing the composer to compose a work for the 2009 All-State Orchestra held in Tampa at the Florida Music Educators Conference.

Riverside Fine Arts Association (RFAA)

Within Jacksonville, my partnership with The Riverside Fine Arts Association's (RFAA) Project Listen is particularly meaningful. This partnership involves visiting schools to introduce young people from underserved communities to music by performing and talking about the composers, repertoire, and finding ways to creatively relate to the

students the importance of classical music. I average 10 of these performances per year. RFAA also has a significant chamber music concert series involving internationally renowned artists. My connection with RFAA has thus led to master classes for our music students in which an expert in the field of music shares his/her expertise with students and audience members alike.

Adjudicating

I have been fortunate to adjudicate a number of different events during my tenure in Jacksonville. As a respected member of collegiate string faculty in the state, I was selected to judge the seating for the All-State Orchestra in 2008 and 2009, the Jacksonville Youth Symphony Concerto Competition in 2008, and the Brass Ring competition in Ponte Vedra (2008–2011). Judging the All-State seating and other contests boosts the string program and my professional profile in the region. In 2011 I was invited by the faculty at the University of Florida to judge the UF Concerto Competition. In addition to this adjudication, I have consistently presented master classes and pro-bono individualized instruction at high schools around the state and region to recruit students. Each of these activities has made UNF more visible and attractive to prospective students.

Deermeadows Scholarship

Another significant achievement has been to help establish the Deermeadows scholarships for music students at UNF. These scholarships involve the students playing in an orchestra at Deermeadows Baptist Church and the scholarship recipients receive more than \$2,000 each per year (\$1,500 goes towards tuition and the remainder goes towards gas and travel money). This began with two scholarships and carefully selected students who represented UNF in a positive manner. One of the first UNF students to take part in this scholarship opportunity was my cello student Brittany Maroney in 2007 when the scholarship was established. Because of the way that Brittany and other students performed and conducted themselves, I was able to negotiate three additional scholarships for the 2009–2010 academic year. Deermeadows currently awards five scholarships which adds over \$10,000 of funding for our students each year.

UNF Cello Fund

Due to limited departmental resources, I created a cello fund to be able to host internationally acclaimed guest artists to work with our students. The fund was established in 2008 and I have raised more than \$10,000 dollars thus far. This cello fund exists because of private donations made in support of my goal of bettering the string area and ultimately the reputation of the DOM by bringing in world-class guest cellists and chamber musicians to work with our students. It also covers the cost of piano fees that are incurred when students play in these master class settings.

Summary

Through my work coordinating the FCC Symposium and the FBA event, I have had the chance to improve my area as well as the entire department. Hosting the FCC Symposium for three years boosted both the quality and size of the department. Further, the impression we made on the community college directors, teachers, and their current students will have a long-lasting positive influence. It is fulfilling to give back to the community and introduce young people to music through Project Listen, an effort I continue to support and promote. My role as liaison between the department and admissions has been incredibly important. Incoming students are receiving more financial support and students are no longer falling through the cracks due to lack of communication. I believe that my students and colleagues will agree that I am eager to do anything that will make our department stronger and enhance our profile further.

In my five years of active service at UNF, my work and commitment have moved our music program to a deeper relationship with the community; improved our visibility with prospective students and their teachers around the State of Florida, and benefited university students with additional scholarship funds and musical opportunities. We have a solid platform on which to build an even stronger department and program.