



Fall 2014
1st Tuesday of Each Month
7:oop — Browne 215

Western Illinois ACDA

REINVENTING AN OLD CHAPTER

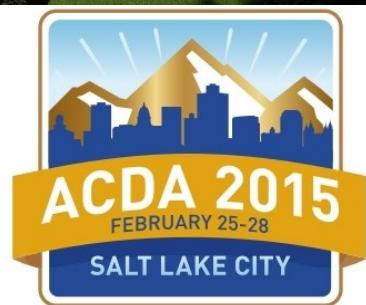
As Western Illinois University's chapter of ACDA has been on the decline for the past couple of years, the few left of the chapter took it upon ourselves to reinvent the chapter. From two meetings the entire 2013 – 2014 year, we've brought it to monthly meetings with professional presentations from faculty or guest speakers. During the 2013 – 2014, our chapter's activities were limited to one opening meeting in the fall, and a reading session in the spring. We have also more than tripled our membership since last year with six returning members expanding to around twenty this year. This year, we have also begun to more actively assist with setting up and working at the Holiday Festival of Choirs, sponsoring the Student Conductor's Concert, and by providing leadership at the annual IMEA District IV workshop and the Jr/Sr Honors Chorus. In addition to this, our chapter has begun actively updating our page in the new IL-ACDA Student Chapter website.

During the fall 2014 semester, we have had four professional presentations and one reading session, and plans are in the works for a set of presentations for the upcoming spring semester. Our presentations this year have included the following subjects: asking for letters of recommendation, contemporary a cappella music, solo literature for the high school singer, working with accompanists, and a holiday music reading session to end the semester. A description of each of these presentations is provided further in this document. Topics we are hoping to have presented next semester include but are not limited to: church and community choirs, the 6th – 12th grade music classroom, the audition process for the adjudicator and performer, and personal health as a singer.

CHAPTER HISTORY

Western Illinois University's chapter of ACDA is a student-led organization that has been serving by preparing choral conductors, educators, and enthusiasts for what to expect when teaching in a choral setting. With monthly presentations, students have the opportunity to learn from various professionals of important aspects of choral education, which is not presented in their collegiate coursework.

In addition to the monthly choral education sessions, members also have the opportunity to travel to workshops, conferences, and performances throughout the area. The ACDA student chapter is active in our community working with high school students, presenting music to local businesses, and hosting civil service events.

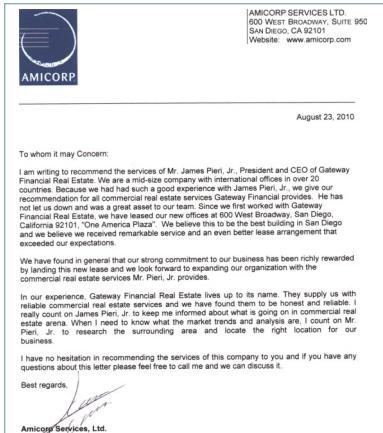


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SPRING CHOIRS CALENDAR

- ➔ Saturday, March 7:
Student Conductor's Concert,
COFAC, 7:30p
- ➔ Friday, March 27:
WIU Junior and Senior Honor Chorus
Concert, COFAC, 4p
- ➔ Tuesday, April 21:
Vocal Jazz Concert, COFAC 7:30p
- ➔ April 25-28:
University Singers performs the
Duruflé "Requiem" in Boulder,
Colorado
- ➔ Sunday, May 3:
University Singers and Concert Choir
Spring Concert, St. Paul Church, 4p



September 2nd- Dr. James Stegall: Asking for Letters of Recommendation

For our opening meeting of the semester, Dr. James Stegall, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at WIU, gave an opening presentation regarding professional letters of recommendation.

He explained the process of how to professionally ask references for letters, how to execute this process in a timely manner, who to ask for recommendation letters, and how to know if you are being given a good recommendation.

"It is music's lofty mission to shed light on the depths of the human heart."

-Robert Schumann



September 9th- Dr. Brad Pierson: *From the Radio to the Classroom:* *Contemporary a cappella in the High School Setting*

During WIU's ACDA September meeting, the Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education, Dr. Brad Pierson, gave a presentation geared toward commercial a cappella music. This presentation included resources to begin a commercial a cappella ensemble, to create and/or access sheet music, and different aspects relating to the maintenance of the group. Some of these different aspects included vocal percussion, technology equipment, and performance opportunities.

October 7th- Mr. Terry Chasteen: Asking for Letters of Recommendation

During WIU's ACDA October meeting, the Associate Professor of Musical Theatre and Voice, Mr. Terry Chasteen, presented our chapter with information and advice on selecting solo repertoire for the high school singer.

During this presentation, Chasteen elaborated on the ideas of singing parts versus choral parts, how to obtain repertoire, different useful repertoire sources, considerations that an educator must take when coaching a student on a piece of music, the idea of classical music versus musical theatre, performance anxiety, and efficient practicing.



Members of our collegiate chapter at our October Meeting...

November 4th- Dr. Minjung Seo:

I Have an Accompanist: Now What!?

Western Illinois University's accompanist coordinator, Dr. Minjung Seo, presented at WIU ACDA's November meeting on proper accompanist etiquette. This presentation elaborated on the *do's and dont's* of working with an accompanist for both the solo and choral ensemble setting. Dr. Seo's presentation included volunteers who helped simulate the examples of a good and bad soloist and conductor.



December 2nd- WIU ACDA Leadership:

Holiday Music Reading Session

For the December WIU ACDA meeting, we looked at different holiday-based repertoire with a choral reading session lead by our WIU ACDA's chapter officers. The difficulty of the repertoire we read at ranged from the junior high level to the collegiate level, and this presentation gave future choral conductors the opportunity to experience new repertoire which could be utilized in their futures as part of a themed holiday program.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

President: Alissa Plewa

Vice President: Jose Clavell

Secretary: Eric Mohlis

Historian: Benjamin Rogers

Chapter Advisor: Dr. James Stegall

UPCOMING TOPICS

→ February 3rd:

6-12th Grade Music Classroom

→ March 3rd:

Auditions for Performers and
Adjudicators + Conference Recap

→ April 7th:

Personal Health as a Singer and
Performer

→ May 5th:

Cinco de Mayo: Multicultural
Reading Session + Closing Remarks

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Two of our officers, Alissa Plewa (president) and Benjamin Rogers (historian), will be in attendance at the 2015 ACDA National Conference this February.

They both have received a scholarship from the Illinois ACDA, along with two other students from Augustana College. They plan to document their experience and to share it with the rest of the chapter during our March Meeting.

New Webpage

This fall, the Western Illinois ACDA has activated a website for potential members to view what activities our chapter participates in and hosts. Our website also allows alumni of our chapter, as well as other members of ACDA to view our chapter activities.

SING-UP

Our chapter participated in the SING-UP Campaign and added twelve new members to our chapter of ACDA. We have more than tripled our membership with this campaign.



Western Illinois ACDA

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[http://ilstudentacda.weebly.com/
western-illinois-university.html](http://ilstudentacda.weebly.com/western-illinois-university.html)

THE PURPOSES OF ACDA

- To foster and promote choral singing, which will provide artistic, cultural, and spiritual experiences for the participants.
- To foster and promote the finest types of choral music to make these experiences possible.
- To foster and encourage rehearsal procedures conducive to attaining the highest possible level of musicianship and artistic performance.
- To foster and promote the organization and development of choral groups of all types in schools and colleges.
- To foster and promote the development of choral music in the church and synagogue.
- To foster and promote the organization and development of choral societies in cities and communities.
- To foster and promote understanding of choral music as an important medium of contemporary artistic expression.
- To foster and promote significant research in the field of choral music.
- To foster and encourage choral composition of superior quality.
- To cooperate with all organizations dedicated to the development of musical culture in America.