Greetings Jazz MA Alumni and friends! Since its founding in 1997 by Dr. Lewis Porter, the Jazz History & Research M.A. program at Rutgers-Newark University has produced a diverse group of talented musician-scholars, armed with the mission to go out and raise the standards of research in the field of jazz history. Our distinguished alumni, now numbering close to 100 and increasing every year, have made sizable contributions and, in many ways, met the challenge of elevating jazz scholarship. In the summer of 2011, the Jazz MA Alumni group, an officially chartered Rutgers Alumni group, was formed to keep the community of graduates, current students, faculty, and friends connected. Hopefully the group will facilitate reunions of classmates, create networking opportunities, help members exchange information about their activities, and promote the Jazz History & Research program for future applicants.

**First Meeting of Jazz MA Alumni**
A small contingent of the group met during Homecoming Week, September 20-24, 2011, on the campus of Rutgers-Newark. It was great seeing former classmates and faculty, and meeting other alumni and current students in the program. On Tuesday, September 20, alumni and other guests met in the Dana Room for a special presentation and book signing event by alumni Ricky Riccardi, author of *What a Wonderful World: The Magic of Louis Armstrong's Later Years* (Pantheon, 2011). Ricky's insightful presentation was followed by pianist and former Louis Armstrong All-Star, Marty Napoleon, and trumpeter Randy Sandke playing music closely associated with Armstrong. A fantastic event!

**A Musical Get-Together**
Members of the alumni group gathered again on Wednesday, September 21, for the Research Roundtable to hear Dr. Michael Kahr discuss the life and music of Clare Fischer (who just passed this past January). Following the talk, alumni were encouraged to continue the conversation at McGovern’s Tavern, but the plan changed and the group headed over to Skipper's Plane Street Pub (304 University Avenue) for a drink and to hear some music. A big "thank you" to organist and soon-to-be alumnus, Radam Schwartz, for suggesting Skipper’s where drummer Steve Berrios was leading an outstanding group that night. Amiri Baraka even stopped by and "sat in" with the group on chekere. It was another great night.
Annual Alumni Lecture
Finally, on Friday, September 23, the 1st Annual Jazz MA Alumni Lecture, “New Discoveries in Jazz Research,” was presented by the Rutgers jazz faculty - Lewis Porter, Henry Martin, and John Howland - wherein each professor outlined their current activities and projects. The event was scheduled to be webcast live, but technical problems arose so it was recorded and later transferred to the web. Dr. Howland described how he has become “The Ellington Guy” since the publication of his Ellington Uptown: Duke Ellington, James P. Johnson, and the Birth of Concert Jazz (University of Michigan Press, 2009), and many of his current projects are closely related to the bandleader. He is editing a collection of essays, Duke Ellington and His World, which is scheduled for release when Ellington is the honored composer at the 2013 Bard Festival. Dr. Martin described his music theory database and some exciting developments in his career as a composer, including a new commission for a series of organ preludes and fugues and symphonies based on the works of Dante. Dr. Porter described how he has begun to focus less on publications and more on his career as a performer and composer. In typical Lewis Porter-fashion, though, Lew continues to be prolific on all fronts with a new John Coltrane reference work, co-authoring David Liebman's autobiography, recordings with Liebman and Marc Ribot, a fascinating Jazz Research blog at WBGO.com, and upcoming keynote address at Boston University. The jazz faculty are clearly a talented and very busy bunch! Thank you, sirs, for taking the time to attend and granting the alumni a glimpse of your various projects. An archived video of the lecture (in six parts) can be viewed at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4bCNXMsRoY

The alumni lecture during homecoming week will be an annual tradition for the Jazz MA Alumni group. Who will be the speaker next year? Please send ideas and lets make the second lecture another great one.

Alumni News:
The Institute of Jazz Studies, an unrivaled archive and resource for researchers of this great music, continues to be an important asset to the alumni of the Jazz History & Research M.A. program. It is also an employer of some of our classmates. Bassist Joseph M. Peterson (class of 2000) continues to be an essential, helpful member of the IJS Staff. In December he hosted an episode of WBGO's Jazz From the Archives on the music of bassist Jimmy Blanton. Another esteemed member of our group, saxophonist Dan Faulk (class of 1999), joined the IJS staff as a research assistant in 2011. It is comforting to know that the program, whose students benefit so greatly from the IJS, is also training the next generation of expert guides to the IJS's fantastic holdings.

Ricky Riccardi (class of 2005) had a big year with the publication of his first book, What a Wonderful World: The Magic of Louis Armstrong’s Later Years. The book generated tremendous buzz and was voted #2 by the readers of Jazz Times as Best in the Business for the year's new books. His widely followed blog, http://dippermouth.blogspot.com, is still going strong and, as project archivist for the Louis Armstrong House Museum, Ricky continues to effectively promote Armstrong, the man and his music, to a new generation of jazz fans.
Katja von Schuttenbach (class of 2006) was instrumental in getting pianist Jutta Hipp recognized in her native Germany with a street named for her in Leipzig, “Jutta Hipp Weg.” A video clip of the dedication and Katja’s comments can be viewed here: http://www.info-tv-leipzig.de/news/info-tv-news/kommunalpolitik/gedenkfeier-zu-ehren-von-jutta-hipp/

Katja also worked hard on making the 2012 NEA Jazz Masters Awards Ceremony & Concert a great success. The new Jazz Masters were honored in style on January 10, 2012, at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home to Jazz at Lincoln Center. The 2012 Jazz Masters are: drummer, keyboardist, and composer Jack DeJohnette; saxophonist Von Freeman; bassist, composer, and educator Charlie Haden; vocalist and educator Sheila Jordan; and educator, trumpeter, flugelhornist, composer, and arranger Jimmy Owens. Owens also received the A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Master Award for Jazz Advocacy. An archived webcast of the Awards Ceremony & Concert can be viewed here: http://www.arts.gov/honors/jazz/2012-concert-archive2.html

Alex Rodriguez (class of 2011) is enjoying his first year of PhD coursework in the Ethnomusicology program at UCLA, where he intends to pursue research into the jazz scenes in South America, particularly Chile and Argentina. He regularly contributes to a jazz-oriented blog: http://lubricity.wordpress.com

Evan Spring (class of 1999) successfully brought the Journal of Jazz Studies (formerly known as the Annual Review of Jazz Studies) into the modern era by making it available online for free. As Managing Editor, Evan established a high standard of scholarship and renewed visibility for the official research journal of the Institute of Jazz Studies. Stepping down in late 2011, he passed the reins on to Jeff McMillan (class of 2000).

Journal of Jazz Studies
CALL FOR PAPERS: The Journal of Jazz Studies is looking for original research and fresh studies in jazz history, historiography, and music theory. The JJS has also been known to publish outstanding contributions in the fields of poetry and photography, so if you have something you would like to contribute, please inquire. As the official organ of the Institute of Jazz Studies, the editors of the JJS are well aware that outstanding work is being done on the campus of Rutgers-Newark University by current students and graduates of the Jazz History and Research MA program. Please consider the JJS as a possible platform for your research.

The JJS is an open access, peer reviewed, online journal that is published twice annually. The editors are Dan Morgenstern, Ed Berger, and Henry Martin. If you have any questions or would like to submit an article, please contact me: bluemorg1@mac.com.
'Til Next Time
There is surely more to report about alumni activities, but I need you to tell me about it. Don't be shy - shoot me a note about your recent activities – research, publications, talks, recordings, gigs, whatever – and we can get it into the next newsletter. Also, please join the Jazz MA Alumni facebook group if you haven't already. The group is an excellent way to stay connected, make announcements, and find out what everyone is up to.

Here's to a prosperous 2012!
All the best,

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