Ewald Kooiman pointed Professor of Organ at Art in 1988. As a teenager, Kooiman studied organ with Klaas Bakker. After passing the State Examination and encouraged by members of the committee, his organ music studies at a higher level, he continued with Pieter Koo at the Conservatory of Amsterdam, earning a Prize of Excellence—the equivalent of a doctorate—in 1969. While studying French at Follot, he simultaneously studied organ with Jean Langlais at the Paris Schola Cantorum, taking the Prize of Virtuosité in 1963.

Kooiman had a long and impressive international career as a concert organist. He twice recorded the complete organ works of Bach—first on LP, then on CD—and was awarded the Prize of German Record Critics in 2003. He was in the midlist of recording his third complete Bach set—on SACD, using Silbermann organs in Alsnæs—which was scheduled to come out in late 2009 or early 2010. Although Bach was at the heart of his musical activities, Kooiman took an interest in many other parts of the organ repertoire, for example, the French Baroque. His study of this repertoire and the relevant treatises was, of course, greatly facilitated by his knowledge of the French language. His interest in the French Baroque organ also led to the construction of the so-called Couperin Organ (Koenig/Fontijn & Gaal, 1973) in the Schola Cantorum of the University of Amsterdam, mostly teaching international students at the graduate level. I had the pleasure of studying with him for years before meeting with him in 1989, having previously studied with Pieter Koo for two years. Although much time was naturally spent with Bach—I learned at least two trio sonatas with him—he also taught later repertoire very well—Moeran, Mendelssohn, Rebhun, Reger, Henshaw, Franck, and Alain came to mind. From time to time, I had to play a little recital, and he personally took care of "organizing" an audience by inviting his friends.

As Professor Ars Organum at the VU University, I participated in advising three Ph.D. dissertations, all dealing with organ art at the dawn of Modernism. Hans Pidum’s "Diversity in Unity. Discussions on Organ Building in Germany 1880–1916" (2002); David Adam’s "Modern Organ Style in Karl Straube's Regier Editions" (2007); and most recently Bent Verveye’s "Cavaillé-Coll and The Netherlands 1875–1926" (2008).

Ewald Kooiman was a Knight in the Order of the Dutch Lion; an honorary member of the Royal Dutch Society of Organists; and a bearer of the Medal of Merit of the City of Haarlem. For his 70th birthday, the VU University orga- nized a conference in his honor and a group of prominent colleagues—including American, Dutch, Swiss, German, and English—offered him a collection of essays entitled Organum Pleno (Venlo: Bouwheijen, 2008). Pieter Koo’s contribution was the musical work, a Sonate for Organ by Karl Wolf and George Stauffer—offered to him a collection of essays entitled Organum Pleno (Venlo: Bouwheijen, 2008). Pieter Koo’s contribution was the musical work, a Sonate for Organ by Karl Wolf and George Stauffer—offered to him a collection of essays entitled Organum Pleno (Venlo: Bouwheijen, 2008). Pieter Koo’s contribution was the musical work, a Sonate for Organ by Karl Wolf and George Stauffer—offered to him a collection of essays entitled Organum Pleno (Venlo: Bouwheijen, 2008). Pieter Koo’s contribution was the musical work, a Sonate for Organ by Karl Wolf and George Stauffer—offered to him a collection of essays entitled Organum Pleno (Venlo: Bouwheijen, 2008).

Though clearly part of a tradition and full of respect for his teachers, Kooiman was in many ways his own man. He enjoyed frequent work-outs at the gym, not only because it kept him physically fit but also because he liked talking with "regular" people. Among colleagues—particularly his German colleagues—he was known for wearing sneakers instead of more...
Joseph F. MacFarland, 96, died on December 28, 2008, at the Westport Health Care Center in Westport, Connecticut. A native and lifelong resident of Norwalk, Connecticut, he was born on February 14, 1922. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Juilliard School, and master’s degrees from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was a teaching assistant in organ and a pupil of Everett J. Holy in organ and Cecil Effinger in theory.

MacFarland served as organist-choirmaster at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. He also was the accompanist for the Wilton Playshop, Staples High School, and Norwalk High School. He was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church, Norwalk, Connecticut. A native and lifelong resident of Norwalk, Connecticut, he was born on February 14, 1922. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Juilliard School, and master’s degrees from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was a teaching assistant in organ and a pupil of Everett J. Holy in organ and Cecil Effinger in theory.

Stephens taught public school music in south Texas, was the organist-choirmaster of Trinity Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran Churches in Victoria, Texas, and was south Texas representative for the Reuter Organ Company, Lawrence, Kansas. He married Mary Elizabeth Durett of Memphis, Tennessee, in Denver on November 15, 1949. In 1956 Bill moved his family to Lawrence, Kansas, and installed Reuter pipe organs in all of the 50 states except Alaska. He operated an organ building and maintenance service business, covering most of the Midwest. He was also organist-choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Church, Ottawa, Kansas, for three years.

During his years at Reuter he taught many young men the mechanics, care, and feeding of pipe organs and was very proud of their work when they became qualified organists. In 40 years he was curator of organs at Christ Church Cathedral, London on November 19, 1946. In 1966 Bill moved his family to Lawrence, Kansas, and installed Reuter pipe organs in all of the 50 states except Alaska. He operated an organ building and maintenance service business, covering most of the Midwest. He was also organist-choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Church, Ottawa, Kansas, for three years.

William Stephens was born on February 26, 1925, in Chicago. He served in the U.S. Army as a radio engineer from 1943 until 1946 and studied electronics at the City College of New York. While stationed in New York City, he often visited Radio City Music Hall and loved the room-filling sound of the organ there while also being fascinated by the mechanics of pipe organs. It was during that time that he held his parents' goal in life was to “perfect the organ.”

Mr. Peterson then co-founded the Hansen Organ Company in Chicago, which built 50 electronic organs for churches all around the Midwest. Soon thereafter, he founded Peterson Electro- Musical Products, currently in Alhambra, Illinois. In 1952, he presented a prototype spinet electronic organ to the Gulbransen Piano Company. Gulbransen’s president was thrilled with the sound of the instrument, and they soon negotiated an arrangement where Richard sold the piano company into the organ business and, as an independent contractor, he would develop and license technology to be used in building a line of classical and theatre-style home organs for Gulbransen to sell. One particularly notable accomplishment was Gulbransen’s introduction of the world’s first fully transistorized organ at a trade show in 1957. Gulbransen would ultimately sell well over 100,000 organs based on Peterson inventions.

Meanwhile, many of Peterson’s developments for electronic organs evolved into applications for real pipe organs, especially notable among over 50 of Dick’s innovative products for the pipe organ market. Dick had filed a number of U.S. and foreign patents.

In the 1950s, Dick Peterson enjoyed learning to fly a Piper Cub airplane, and in more recent times preceding his illness enjoyed ham radio, boating, and restorations of vintage Volkswagens. He was a long-time member of Palos Park Presbyterian Church in his home town of Palos Park, Illinois. In recent years, he had moved his family to Lawrence, Kansas, and installed Reuter pipe organs in all of the 50 states except Alaska. He operated an organ building and maintenance service business, covering most of the Midwest. He was also organist-choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Church, Ottawa, Kansas, for three years.

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Prior to retiring, Mr. Durett was the administrative assistant to George W. Hand, director of the organ department at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. Before his retirement, Mr. Durett taught public school music in south Texas, was the organist-choirmaster of Trinity Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran Churches in Victoria, Texas, and was south Texas representative for the Reuter Organ Company, Lawrence, Kansas. He married Mary Elizabeth Durett of Memphis, Tennessee, in Denver on November 15, 1949. In 1956, Bill moved his family to Lawrence, Kansas, and installed Reuter pipe organs in all of the 50 states except Alaska. He operated an organ building and maintenance service business, covering most of the Midwest. He was also organist-choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Church, Ottawa, Kansas, for three years.

Marguerite Long Thal died December 30, 2008, in San Antonio, Texas. She was 73. Born January 27, 1935, in Quintier, Kansas, she studied organ with Marilyn Mason at the University of Michigan, where she earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music education. She received a Fulbright grant to study in Paris, France for two years, where she attended the American University and studied with Jean Langlais and Nadia Boulanger. Returning to the U.S., she was appointed minister of music at the First Congregational Church in Toledo, Ohio, and taught organ at Bowling Green State University. In 1961, she married Ron Thal Jr., and they moved to Syria, where they remained for more than 40 years. Active in the AGO, Mrs. Thal was a past dean of the Toledo chapter and served as Ohio district convener. She served as minister of music at Syria United Church of Christ for 18 years, gave many recitals and organ seminars, and appeared with Principia VI, a group of six organists who performed regionally. She is survived by her husband, Ron Jr., two daughters, and three grandchildren.