

Rock On

Jason Davis '95 forges ahead in music industry

By Beth Mohr '06

Jason Davis' passion for music emerged, along with his guitar skills, long before Grove City College. "Like most guitar players, I wanted to be a rock star," Davis '95 recalls. A music education degree was Plan B.

Enter Plan B. After earning his Grove City degree, Davis headed to Duquesne University for a master's in theory and composition and then to Texas, where his new wife, Emily (Warner '97) Davis, had acquired an assistantship.

The new plan was to stay in Texas for two years, which stretched into 11 and became a family joke. "We tell people we were late for dinner for nine years," Davis laughs.

They were years well spent from a career standpoint. He landed a position with a company called FirstCom Music, working with various television networks and the music that aired on their shows. The job gave him opportunity to both gain experience in the music industry and to put his own skills to use. He composed the entire soundtrack for the police reality show "Under Fire" and wrote pieces for various other programs, including "Saturday Night Live" and "The Tonight Show."

Davis' love of playing guitar was still alive as well. He found



Jason Davis '95 performs at a recent show. / Contributed photo

band members and performed under the name "Jason Davis and the New Philosophers." His guitar skills earned him official endorsement from Parker Guitars and several other music suppliers, privileges that came with his own built-to-specifications "JD-147" electric guitar model and many more connections in the music industry.

A recent move to New York state to be nearer to family pulled Davis out of the industry itself. He is now a professor of the new music industry major at a branch of the State University of New York. "The teaching schedule affords me the ability to continue to write and record music as well as play out, so it really is a great situation to be in," he says.

His band, "Jason Davis and the New Philosophers," continues, with several new band members in New York. His web site, www.jasondavismusic.com, has more information.

Where Davis' life will take him next remains to be seen, but one thing is for certain – whatever else his future holds, music will be a part of it.

(Beth Mohr '06 is a freelance writer living in Grove City.)

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sorority and danced in Orchesis. Still uncertain of what she wanted to do, Forsythe left Grove City a few credits shy of graduating.

"I was unsure of my future plans," the Cleveland native explains. "I decided to move closer to home." After some time off, she completed her undergraduate degree in chemistry at Kent State University, followed by a master's degree in geology.

Using her scientific knowledge, she worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory for four years in the bioscience division. After moving back to

Cleveland, she taught oceanography at Kent State's Geauga campus and a lab in physical geology at Cuyahoga Community College. She also did lab work for four years at the University of Notre Dame. When project funding ran out, Forsythe started wing walking on a more full-time basis.

Her current home is in Cleveland, where she lives with her three cats and three goldfish. She works in other air show services as well, such as providing sound through Continental Air Show Productions. When not on a tarmac, she enjoys home interior painting and creating web sites. A special love is inspiring youth at airshows and through

her church in program called Building Hope in the City, started by her parents.

As to her future in the air, she plans to continue wing walking "as long as I possibly can." Her pilot says he has another 10 years before retiring and, adds Forsythe, "I will be doing this at least that long."

See more details and photos on Forsythe's wing walking career at www.jennyforsythe.com or www.americanbarnstormer.com. Upcoming performances include June 20-21 at St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada, and Sept. 12 in Akron, Colo.

(Janice (Zinsner '87) Inman is the Grove City College communications project coordinator and a GeDUNK associate editor.)

