This situation is not unlike the Oscars - Academy Awards, where crowd-pleasing films released in December dominate, and truly outstanding films from the prior August are already forgotten.

One of the most remarkable achievements in the entire history of CWU music happened at the very beginning of this school year. Below is an updated re-send of my message from 8/11/17. After this letter was written, Dr. Samples presented a lecture on his article to the faculty and general public. I do not have access to his vita.

Dr. Caoile and Dr. Shiver-

Though it seems strange to do this in mid-August, I fear a remarkable and unprecedented Central Music achievement may be overlooked as the long 2017-2018 school year unfolds.

I would like to nominate Dr. Mark C. Samples for a CAH Award for “Outstanding Faculty Research,” or perhaps "Outstanding Faculty Artistic Achievement."

His 2017 article “The Humbug and the Nightingale: P. T. Barnum, Jenny Lind, and the Branding of a Star Singer for American Reception” was just published in Musical Quarterly, perhaps the premier academic journal in the discipline of musicology. Below are links to his article, website blog, and an independent source.


http://www.mark-samples.com/blog/humbug


His paper is the culmination of more than 5 years of research and work.

In the world of musicology, having a paper published in the Oxford Musical Quarterly is the intellectual equivalent of winning an Olympic medal, Oscar, Grammy, or a Super Bowl ring. It is a long process including extensive peer review before submissions are even considered for publication, let alone published.

To help put his achievement in further perspective, my research shows Central has enjoyed only two other musicologists spanning the 75 years from 1941 through Samples’ arrival in 2015. Like Mark, both were extremely talented and highly respected.

Central music ensembles have been known for excellence in national and international circles since the 1950s. Mark is the first and only Music professor to have a paper published in the Musical Quarterly. This is a distinct and important honor for Mark and CWU. It is the only example of published scholarly research at this highest
level in the entire history of Central music, which has been in continuous instruction since 1891. Thanks to Dr. Samples, after 127 years Central is at long last recognized for excellence in terms of scholarly musical research at the international level.

N.W.
CWU Department of Music

CWU Musicology History FYI

Hired in 1941 as one of only four on the music staff during WW II, Lawrence Moe had many duties, directing the orchestra, choirs and more. One of only 5 recognized American Guild of Organists in the entire Northwest, Moe began working summers on his doctorate at Harvard.

Moe stories are legendary, including teaching the 12-movement, 40-minute Giovanni Pergolesi- Sabat Mater to the training school elementary students in Latin with elementary soloists.

In 1948 Moe guest hosted for the titan of American pipe organists E. Power Biggs on his hugely popular Sunday national CBS radio program. Moe introduced and performed varied important organ classics, plus new works by Northwest composers. He was on leave from Central to study with Biggs at Harvard while working on his doctorate in musicology.

Moe was the first and only Central professor in history to host a live nationwide network radio broadcast program. Moe left Central, ultimately to become department chair at UC Berkeley, passing in 2013.

In 1951-1952 Lawrence Moe was on sabbatical to complete his doctorate. His interim replacement was Henry Eickhoff, who would finish his own doctorate at Northwestern in 1960-1961.

Eickhoff would spend 39 years at Central, the longest tenure of any music professor to date. Henry was active in the American Association of University Professors, the Northwest Chapters of the American Guild of Organists, and the American Musicological Society. He spearheaded the purchase of the Coulter Organ for Hertz Hall, which was moved to McIntyre Hall.

He presented papers on organ and organ music at various conventions.

Eickhoff retired in 1989 and passed in 2016

Though beloved and highly-respected musicologists, neither Moe or Eickhoff were ever published in the Musical Quarterly like Dr. Mark Samples.

Mark is only the third “official” musicologist in the 127 years of Music at Central.

N.W.