Departments of Art and Communication Settle into New Home

U OF M BANDS ARE WAY OF LIFE FOR STUDENTS AND DIRECTORS

THE OHIO LIGHT OPERA OFFERS UNIQUE THEATRE EXPERIENCE

ALMA MATER: UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS AT AMUM THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12
A Message from the Dean

35 years! It is hard to believe that the College of Communication and Fine Arts started 35 years ago when the College of Arts and Sciences’ departments of Speech and Drama, Music, Journalism and Art were combined. The College now includes the Departments of Architecture, Art, Communication, Journalism, and Theatre & Dance, along with the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, Center for Multimedia Arts, Art Museum, Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology, Center for Sustainable Design, and WUMR U92 FM. Home to my office, the Communication and Fine Arts Building did not exist when CCFA was founded. Highlighted in this issue of Voices is the move of the Art and Communication Departments moved into new and upgraded space in the Art and Communication Building (formerly the Law Building). Recent additions were also made to space for art and opera studies on the Park Avenue campus.

As the University celebrates its 100th birthday, the Scheidt School of Music kicked off the celebration with a spectacular concert at the Cannon Center and continued with thrilling performances and concerts throughout the season. It also launched the drive for a new, desperately needed, 200,000-square-foot Music Center. Under the direction of Bob Hetherington, The Department of Theatre & Dance in collaboration with the Scheidt School of Music staged breathtaking performances of The Phantom of the Opera. After this special season, Hetherington resigned his department chair position to lead Theatre’s directing program. I cannot thank him enough for all he has done. Please welcome new Chair, Theatre & Dance Professor Holly Lau. In April, we welcomed Ramesses II, a 25-foot-tall, 5,000-pound fiberglass reproduction, to its new campus home. Previously located outside The Pyramid in downtown Memphis, Ramesses’ spot between the University’s Theatre and Music buildings on Central Avenue signifies the University as the place to see and study Egyptian art and history.

Yearly, our faculty earns numerous awards. Professor of Painting Beth Edwards received the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Achievement Award in the Creative Arts during the University’s 25th Annual Faculty Convocation. Carol Crown, professor of art history, was selected as a University of Memphis First Tennessee Professor. In May, the Carnival Memphis Business & Industry honored the Department of Communication’s film and video production program for its reputation, achievements, and impact on the local film industry.

Reflecting on CCFA’s history, it is important to acknowledge contributions from those leaving us. From the Scheidt School of Music, Jim Richens, John Peterson and Jim Gholson retired, while David Evans entered post-retirement. Theatre’s Gloria Baxter and Susan Chrietberg are now fully retired. In the Department of Architecture, Interior Designer Randle Witherington retired, and David Pohl entered post-retirement and will now teach art courses. Department of Art’s Calvin Foster entered the post-retirement program. In the Department of Journalism, Jim Redmond, Elinor Grusin and Bill Brody are fully retired. Eric and Simone Wilson relocated to Germany to raise their three young children. Eric, an integral part of the Center for Multimedia Arts, established a well-regarded video production studio. Simone was essential in promoting CCFA’s events and handling its communication, including Voices. The Dean’s office also bid farewell to Angie Hollis, excellent graduation analyst and dance instructor, who moved to Florida to start a new life on the water.

Looking forward, I am excited to welcome Katherine Goliver, director of development, to CCFA. Previously director of Development for the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, Katherine brings a passion for the arts, degrees in fine arts and arts administration, and experience at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

During the past 35 years we have seen a lot of change and growth. Thousands of students, often aided by endowed scholarships from CCFA’s generous supporters, graduated and went on to productive and distinguished careers. We pledge to continue bringing you excellence and success with the support of our outstanding faculty, students, alumni, and friends.

Richard R. Ranta
Dean
College of Communication and Fine Arts
When the box office opened for the University of Memphis’ production of The Phantom of the Opera on January 30, some people had been waiting in line for hours to purchase tickets. Hardly four hours later, all eight U of M performances of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s iconic musical were sold out, while the line at the box office had not yet vanished and the phones kept ringing with more requests. “It was like Black Friday,” says Bob Hetherington, professor of theatre and the play’s director. “For a couple weeks afterwards we took many calls from those who left empty-handed. In the end we were able to invite some of them to the special preview before opening night, and others, who were on the waiting list, saw the show after all when we had no-shows on performance night. I wish we could have run it for another month.” The production of Phantom was part of the University’s centennial celebration and a collaboration of the Department of Theatre & Dance and the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music.
Although the University’s Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law relocated from the University of Memphis main campus to the historic U.S. Post Office on Front Street in downtown Memphis in January 2010, it wasn’t until almost two years later that CCFA’s Departments of Art and Communication moved into the old Law School building on campus, now officially the Art and Communication Building.

“We knew that renovations and meeting building code requirements would take time, but we didn’t anticipate to be in limbo for a year,” says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. “The transition has been a team effort. That everything went relatively well was in large part due to the faculty and department chairs who handled the move.”

The Department of Architecture moved from Jones Hall, located in the middle of the U of M’s main campus. It is now located in a highly visible building that sits right along Central Avenue, across from the University Holiday Inn. The Art and Communication Building offers more space and puts art in a prominent, easily accessible spot, which it shares with the Department of Communication, formerly housed in the Theatre and Communication Building (now the Theatre Building). The studios of the University’s radio station, WUMR, U92-FM, which is part of the Department of Communication, remain on the ground floor of the Theatre Building.

The space freed up in Jones Hall allowed the Department of Architecture to add an additional floor to its existing area in the building and take over Jones Hall Gallery as an exhibition space for architecture. The expansion provided much needed space for the growing program, which is preparing for accreditation of its professional Master of Architecture degree by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

With the move, the Department of Art gained 3,200 square feet of gallery space, which includes the student-run PLA(I)N(E) Gallery on the first floor. On the Central Avenue level, The Martha and Robert Fogelman Galleries of Contemporary Art are scheduled to open early in the fall semester. On the same floor, two Atrium spaces will be equipped with museum grade lighting to feature changing exhibitions thanks to the generous support of the James R. Humphreys fund. These additions are significant for us,” says Richard Lou, chair of the Department of Art. “Exhibition space is essential for an art program of our size and the location of the building will allow us to become part of the community and create an identity that will say that we are part of the University as well as the community. That’s really exciting.”

Jessica Lund, a graduate student in painting and director of the PLA(I)N(E) gallery exhibition committee, shares Lou’s excitement. “PLA(I)N(E) gallery is one of the many positive outcomes of the department’s move to the new Art and Communication Building,” Lund says. “The Gallery was conceived as a student-run space with the primary objective of providing art students with ample opportunity to exhibit their work and curate exhibitions. My hope is that it will provide a valuable forum for art students at the University of Memphis while also including artists from outside the U of M to avoid insularity.”

Art is produced, explored or exhibited on almost every floor of the building. The printmaking studios are located on the fourth floor, the
third floor houses the offices and library of the Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology (IEAA) along with seminar rooms and two 90-seat smart classrooms—one for communication and one for art. The second floor provides room for faculty and main offices of both departments as well as the art department’s art history suite, two lecture halls and one 300-seat auditorium, which are used by both departments. The art education program, foundation and painting classrooms, a digital lab, and a gallery space along with editing suites and additional rooms for the communication department’s electronic media classes are on the first floor. The graphic design program, including its “0” gallery is located in the building’s lowest level.

The Department of Communication inhabits the space just as much. “It is great to be in a building with art all around,” says Leroy Dorsey, chair of the Department of Communication. “We are not competing with the Department of Art, but we do want to create a presence that says this is art and communication. I’m sure we will form strong ties with our new neighbors in the Department of Art as we try to achieve this.” The communication department gained additional space for a designated graduate student area, a conference room, a departmental library and computer lab, as well as for various needs of the film and video program.

“The Art and Communication Building is a great addition to CCFA,” Ranta says. “The move has had and will continue to have a tremendous impact on both departments and the College as a whole.”
Matthew Gordy Focuses on Landscape Form in 2012 Eubanks Lecture

Award-winning landscape architect Matthew Gordy, the principal of the landscape and urban design firm On Land and a professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Iowa State University, was the guest speaker at the University’s William R. Eubanks Distinguished Lecture in April. “The subject of this year’s Eubanks lecture was very relevant to our studies,” says Claire Greene, second year BFA in Interior Design student. “Many of us don’t know much about landscape form and how it exists within the built world. Being able to learn about it from someone like Matthew Gordy, who also gave me insight on landscape and greenery as it related to my studio project, was incredible.”

The William R. Eubanks Distinguished Lecture Series in Interior Design at the University of Memphis was established in 2007 through an endowment by noted interior designer William R. Eubanks. Lectures in the series are held annually with outstanding speakers in the field of architecture and interior design. Past speakers include Frank T. Koe, former dean of the New York School of Interior Design, Jennifer Garrigues, internationally known interior designer, and Rachelle Schoessler Lynn, noted designer and partner in Minneapolis’ Studio 2030.

New Works by Faculty and Guest Artists Showcased at Spring Dance Concert

Momentum, CCFA’s spring dance concert, included new work by U of M Dance faculty Mark Allan Davis, Angie Hollis, Moira Logan, Holly Lau, and Wayne Smith.

Local dance artist Ondine Geary presented the Memphis premier of Peter Carpenter’s solo Rituals of Abundance for Lean Times # 4: Considering the Pelvis. Geary originally premiered this fourth installment of Carpenter’s Rituals series at Chicago’s Other Dance Festival in September. In response to her performance, Time Out Chicago named her one of the top ten best new dancers of 2011. For the finale, U of M dance students presented A (not so little) Postlude, choreographed by Raja Kelley and Karl Rogers of David Dorfman Dance.

“It has been a busy and rewarding year for the dance program,” says Moira Logan, associate dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. “Visiting dancers, guest artists and new choreography by students and faculty fostered a favorable climate for dance to grow and thrive at the University of Memphis. The 2012-13 season promises to be just as artistically rich.”

The season’s line-up will again include New Voices, the fall dance concert featuring student choreography (November 30 - December 2), and Momentum, the spring concert of new faculty and guest artist works (April 26-28). Through a partnership with the Buckman Performing & Fine Arts Center, CCFA will also welcome the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company for a guest artist residency and lecture demonstration at the U of M’s Rose Theatre on November 8. The company will perform at the Buckman Performing and Fine Arts Center on November 4 at 7 p.m.
A Place of Gathering + Celebration Design Competition

For the second year in a row, the Department of Architecture was fortunate to have anonymous donors fund a special design competition open to all students in the department. Participation in design competitions is an integral part of architecture and interior design both in school and in practice.

The challenge presented by this year’s competition was the design of a Place of Gathering + Celebration on the University of Memphis campus. “The place was described as dynamic and sculptural,” says Michael Hagge, chair of the Department of Architecture. “The design was also supposed to reflect the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the University, but not necessarily in a literal way.” Other specifications included that it must be safe, inviting to students, faculty, and visitors, and be in compliance with the standards for accessible design outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Furthermore, the competition encouraged students to make use of reclaimed materials.

Jurors for the competition were local architects and architecture firm principals Joey Hagan (Architecture, Incorporated), Carson Looney (LRK Architects), Juan Self (Self+Tucker Architects). Jurors also included Tony Poteet, U of M vice president of Campus Planning and Design, and Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts.

The Award of Distinction, the competition’s highest honor, was given to Megan Hoover, third year Architecture and Interior Design honors student. Roy Beauchamp, graduating BFA in Architecture student, won the Award of Merit. The First Year Student Special Citation award was given to Fady Khair. Robert Taylor, Jr. and James Bowles each received a First Year Student Honorable Mention certificate. The winner of the Client’s Choice Award, selected by the donors, was Colby Mitchell, first year Master of Architecture student.

Prototype Recycling Zone and Pocket Park Bring New Life to Neglected Area on Campus

A team of faculty and students from the Department of Architecture designed and helped to build a new Recycling Zone Prototype (RZP) along DeSoto Street (near Mynders and Jones Hall) on the University’s Campus. The neglected area, formerly the site of a dumpster, broken asphalt, and a deteriorating brick wall, now houses the RZP and an adjacent pocket park. Instead of mucky trails, new permeable compact gravel surfaces will now allow students to pass through the RZP and its pocket park. Concrete benches will provide rest places and the area surrounding the RZP will be filled with drought tolerant plants. LED lighting will provide both security and sufficient light to use the area at night. Other materials include recycled concrete block within gabion cages and repurposed Brise Soleil panels donated by the Office of the Shelby County Trustee.

In addition to being a recycling center, the RZP is also a demonstration project that offers information on recycling and various aspects of sustainability.

“We wanted to educate people about recycling and sustainable living and provide a pleasant park-like setting,” says Sherry Bryan, associate professor of architecture, director of the Architecture Program and “Green Team” member. “We hope this is but the first of several recycling zones throughout the community.”

With the help of the University’s divisions of Campus Planning and Design and Physical Plant as well as outside contractors and volunteer faculty and students from the Department of Architecture, the Prototype was completed in May.

The project was funded by the University of Memphis “Green Fee” grant and the Department of Architecture.

Above: A rendering of Megan Hoover’s entry for the Place of Gathering + Celebration design competition. Hoover’s Celebration of Time features a sundial that is intended to “echo the view of the clock tower, a University landmark, and create a plaza for meetings or events.”

Above: Jenna Thompson, visiting professor of Architecture and Interior Design, helps with the construction of the Prototype Recycling Zone that faculty and students from the Department of Architecture designed. The FRZ and adjacent pocket park are located on the main campus in the space just north of Mynders Hall and west of Jones Hall along DeSoto Street.
Fred Albertson, professor of art history, will travel to Los Angeles this spring as one of the Getty Research Institutes’ 2012/13 scholars in residence. Being chosen for the prestigious grant provides an exceptional opportunity for Albertson and will allow him to complete a book on his latest research, which focuses on works of Palmyrene funerary sculpture currently scattered across museums in North America.

“I was excited and surprised when I received the acceptance letter,” Albertson notes. “My proposal didn’t quite fit into this year’s theme of ‘Color;’ it did, however, relate directly to the Institute’s call for projects that examine classical and ancient Mediterranean art and archaeology, the reception of antiquity, and that make use of the collections, resources, and programs of the Getty Villa.” Albertson is also looking forward to having the Institute’s extensive library collections at his fingertips as he delves into writing the manuscript.

Palmyra was an ancient city in central Syria, located in an oasis about halfway between the Mediterranean Sea and the Euphrates river. The ancient site fell into abandonment after the 16th century. Today it is known as Tadmor, and a newer town of the same name was built next to the ruins.

Ancient Palmyra had long been a vital caravan stop for travellers crossing the Syrian desert. A trading city in the extensive trade network that linked Mesopotamia and northern Syria, it was known for its prominent elite class whose wealth was funneled into the creation of public buildings and large-scale family tombs with funerary art such as limestone slabs with human busts representing the deceased.

“Palmyra is a special place, particularly for art historians looking to find a large body of well-preserved sculptures from the Graeco-Roman period,” Albertson says.

To date, Albertson has recorded more than 160 examples of Palmyrene funerary reliefs in 47 museums across North America; nearly half of them are unpublished or included only in the museum’s bulletin or handbook.


In North America, however, scholarly interest has focused on the Aramaic inscriptions of the sculptures and less on the sculptures as works of art.

“What’s so fascinating about these pieces is that a Palmyrene portrait is not based on the features of the person portrayed, but on a body of pre-established bust types, facial types, hairstyles and other characteristics,” Albertson says. “Many of these pre-established styles are drawn from the repertoire of Graeco Roman Art.” According to Albertson, these pre-made, pick-and-choose sculpture components will allow historians, who combine the information drawn from the artwork with historic and social context and chronology, to distinguish individual sculpture workshops, if not individual artists, based on the repetitive combination of the forms they used.

Albertson’s book will be divided into two sections: A catalogue of the pieces that are currently in the museums of Canada, Cuba, and the United States, and introductory materials and essays relating the sculpture to its larger art historical, social, and cultural context. “The book will benefit archaeologists, art historians, historians, and philologists working in the ancient Near Eastern, Classical, and Late Roman/early Byzantine periods,” Albertson notes. “It will also serve useful as a source book for museum curators who want to know more about these specific type of sculpture and its presentation to the public.”
More than 30 scholars and national leaders in the field of rhetoric and the study of political discourse will meet at the University of Memphis for the 13th Biennial Public Address Conference, September 27-29. The conference, *On Civic Learning: Rhetoric, Public Address, Political Division*, will be held in conjunction with the University's 100th anniversary and barely six weeks before the 2012 U.S. presidential election. Two lectures will be open to the public.

“The focus of the conference is on historical and contemporary examples of political controversy in the United States and on how we may improve the quality of our shared civic life,” says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. “Opening up two sessions to the general public made sense and will hopefully lead to a greater discussion about these issues with the community at large.”

Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, professor of communication studies at the University of Minnesota, will present the first public lecture, “Civic Learning, the Presidency, and Partisanship,” on Thursday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. Respondents for this lecture include Kathleen J. Turner, professor of communication studies and director of oral communication at Davidson College in North Carolina. Turner is also incoming president of the National Communication Association (NCA).

The second public lecture, “A Truth-Telling Woman: Contemporary Implications for the Rhetorical Strategies of Ida B. Wells,” will be presented by Jacqueline Jones Royster, dean of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at the Georgia Institute of Technology, on Friday, September 28 at 4:30 p.m.

“Both lectures will be insightful for scholars and communication professionals as well as for the general public,” says Leroy Dorsey, chair of the University’s Department of Communication. “The proximity to the presidential election makes Campbell’s lecture particularly timely, putting the national debates into historical context and allowing participants to gain an awareness of the presidential candidates’ rhetorical strategies.”

Royster’s lecture will include as a respondent Shirley Wilson Logan, professor and director of writing programs in the Department of English at the University of Maryland, as a respondent.

“Jacqueline Jones Royster and Shirley Wilson Logan are two scholars with unparalleled knowledge of the largely untold story of how women, especially African American women, became such powerful rhetorical actors in America during the 19th century,” says Tony de Velasco, conference director and associate professor of communication.

This year’s conference honoree is Thomas W. Benson, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Rhetoric, head and professor of communication arts and sciences at The Pennsylvania State University. He will be honored at a dinner during the conference finale on Saturday, September 29.

“We are particularly pleased with the quality and diversity of this year’s program,” de Velasco says. “The 2012 conference incorporates more women scholars than any gathering in the conference’s history. It also offers an unprecedented mix of scholars at different stages in their careers, which allowed us to bring together the foremost leaders in our field.”

**Veteran Video Journalist Tony Zumbado Shares Field Experience with U of M Students**

In February, the Department of Communication, in partnership with the Department of Journalism, hosted award-winning video journalist Tony Zumbado, whose work has frequently appeared on NBC and MSNBC.

In a more than three-decade-spanning career, Zumbado has covered a wide range of breaking news stories for both NBC and Al Jazeera English, including the O. J. Simpson trial, the Elian Gonzalez controversy, uprisings in Gaza, the rescue of 33 Chilean miners, the 2011 earthquake in Japan, the Pope’s visit to Cuba, and the 2012 death of Trayvon Martin. He came to international attention during the 2005 post-Hurricane Katrina flooding of New Orleans, when he was the first journalist to discover the desperate condition of victims at the Convention Center. Later he documented 45 bodies left behind in the belated evacuation of Memorial Hospital. His commitment to exposing the catastrophe brought NBC an Emmy award for Outstanding Coverage of a Breaking News Story.

While at the U of M, Zumbado gave a public lecture, "From Hurricane Katrina to the War in Gaza: Photojournalism in Disaster and Crisis-Ridden Environments," and visited undergraduate and graduate classes in communication and journalism.
In March, the Department of Journalism in collaboration with the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities (MOCH) and the University of Memphis chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) hosted the 30th annual Freedom of Information Congress at the University of Memphis. This year’s guest speaker was Brian Stelter, media reporter for The New York Times.

Stelter’s presentation, Old Media, New Media, Your Media, focused on the rapidly changing media landscape. Stelter began his career as a media critic when he was a freshman at Towson University in Maryland. His blog, CableNewser, which launched on January 1, 2004, was originally intended to cover the cable news’ reporting of the Iraq war. Operating the site anonymously, Stelter’s new media endeavor quickly attracted an audience of television executives, anchors, producers and viewers. His career took off after he identified himself in May 2004, joined Media Bistro, renamed his blog TVNewser, and started writing about the big broadcast news networks such as NBC, ABC and CBS in addition to covering cable news. In 2007, Stelter became a media reporter for The New York Times, where he writes about television and the Web, both for the paper and for the paper’s blog Media Decoder.

Stelter opened his lecture quoting from the Pew Research Center’s annual State of the News Media report. It found that all traditional media sectors—newspaper, magazine and television—had continued to lose significant revenue during the previous year and no new form of revenue had surfaced to make up for the loss.

“I found it to be a summation of everything I cover in the media,” Stelter said. “To put it another way, there is a massive forest fire raging in the media world.”

Explaining the nature of the new media landscape, Stelter used his own experience. He created his first website, The Bumps, in 1995 when he was 10-years-old. The site focused almost exclusively on the Goosebumps horror fiction novels of R. L. Stine, his favorite children’s literature author. The site received hits from thousands of readers a day and was the number one unofficial Goosebumps site. From then on, Stelter’s Internet presence was constant. He made sites about video games and other hobbies throughout his teenage years.

“I didn’t know that this was a revolutionary thing; as I got older I understood that it would’ve been unimaginable just a few years earlier,” he noted.

For Stelter, his personal story and career is an example of how the media industry will move forward. He believes that young journalists accustomed to an internet-focused industry will have the upper hand in the chaos of the new media landscape.

Sheila Guerrero, vice president of the U of M’s SPJ chapter found inspiration in Stelter’s story.

“Sheila Guerrero, vice president of the U of M’s SPJ chapter found inspiration in Stelter’s story.

“His journey is something out of a movie. He inspired me to take my dreams and goals up a few more levels. His advice was excellent,” she said. “Whether one is in broadcast, print or advertisement, he gave us all something we can take and incorporate into our field and even life. I specifically liked the advice of him telling us to write everyday.”

Bob Hazlett, director of Online Marketing for the Memphis Convention and Visitor Bureau, also felt that Stelter’s speech was about more than media. “The bigger takeaway for me wasn’t about journalism, but rather how people should approach their careers. He created and wrote about a subject he loved, he put in, and continues to, the time to be successful,” Hazlett said. “He’s laid a blueprint on the way people should approach their career and work today. He hustles daily and doesn’t rest on past success.” — by Ed Arnold
Mark Bonner, music education senior at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, couldn’t imagine not playing in a band. He was part of his high school band at Craigmont High in Memphis before coming to the University of Memphis. During his sophomore year he played in all five U of M bands and in May was selected as one of The Mighty Sound of the South Marching Band’s drum majors for the 2012/13 season.

“Playing in the bands and the Wind Ensemble is a great experience,” Bonner says. “You are with a group of people that you may know very little about, but you sit down and make this great music together. The process is fascinating and really shows that music is a universal language that allows us to communicate in this beautiful way with people we barely know,” Bonner notes. “I will be part of the University’s bands until I graduate.”

Bands at the University of Memphis fall in two categories: Concert bands and athletic bands. The former includes the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic and University Bands. The Mighty Sound of the South Marching Band and the Pep Band are part of the latter.

“Our Marching and Pep bands are likely the most visible bands and are easily identified as part of the University,” says Albert Nguyen, director of bands. “However, the Symphonic and University Bands and the Wind Ensemble are equally important, especially for the success and future careers of our students.”

Most bands include students who aren’t necessarily music majors, such as Stephanie Kendrick, a music minor who is majoring in chemistry and biology. “I played clarinet in high school and seriously considered a degree in chemistry and biology. “I played clarinet in high school and seriously considered a degree in music,” Kendrick says. “I ultimately decided to focus on a different area, knowing that I will probably always do music.” Kendrick, who plays in the University’s Wind Ensemble, doesn’t mind the extra time she spends in rehearsals and practicing on her own. She likes the challenge of having to learn and play new music and she enjoys how her involvement in music balances the methodical work of her two demanding majors.

“The great thing about our bands is that there is a place for everyone,” Nguyen says.
“Participation is not limited to music majors. There are many students from across the University who have an interest in music and can play their instrument well. Those students can audition to be in one of our bands.” However, he also acknowledges that the more demanding ensembles such as the Symphonic Band and the Wind Ensemble require the skills of a graduate level music student or accomplished undergraduate music major.

Nguyen himself has been drawn to bands ever since he played in his high school band in Arkansas. Similar to Bonner, band participation and leadership certainly seem to be a way of life for him.

“I enjoy the variety in the music and style of each band,” Nguyen says. “Although we don’t have the same extensive repertoire as opera, we are also not bound by its tradition. There are many new and exciting compositions and new transcriptions of existing, historical compositions. The expectations of what a Wind Ensemble concert ought to be are not as defined as those of what an opera ought to be. We have a lot of freedom.”

Equally important to Nguyen is the role of bands in the larger context of the University. “Concert bands celebrate students’ musicianship and provide a real artistic experience,” he notes. “Athletic bands, on the other hand, are the largest goodwill ambassadors for the University and it is an honor for the students to represent the University in such a way. Not every student gets to experience that.”

As for the students, they wouldn’t have it any other way. Accounting major Kerry Baird and history major Lee Wilson, both part of The Might Sound of the South Marching Band, are proud to support the University’s football team and wouldn’t want to miss the opportunity to form life-long friendships with their band mates.

“The great thing about band is that you meet new people you may have never met otherwise,” Wilson says. “Playing in the band together builds a special bond that is hard to find somewhere else.”
The Ohio Light Opera Offers Unique Experience for Theatre Professionals and Apprentices

For the past seven years, Jacob Allen, assistant professor of musical theatre, has spent his summers in Wooster, Ohio — a mid-sized community of approximately 26,000 people, “nestled in the center of Wayne County,” half-way between Columbus and Cleveland. Wooster is home to The College of Wooster, and two subsidiaries of The Ohio State University.

During the summer months, when students pack up to pursue opportunities that will boost their resumes, the city is prone to feel vacant. However, during the weeks when students pour out of Wooster to chase their dreams, the city also attracts close to 22,000 visitors from across the globe who make the pilgrimage to Wayne County for the same reasons as Allen: The Ohio Light Opera.

Resident professional opera company of The College Of Wooster, The Ohio Light Opera (OLO) is now in its 33rd year. Since 1979 it has put on a seven-week long season every summer—June through August. Up to nine plays are performed in rotating rep totaling nearly to 60 performances per season.

“There is no other company like this in the United States,” Allen says. “Being part of a season at Ohio Light is an amazing and intense experience for the whole company and a great opportunity for young performers.”

One such performer is Kristina Hanford, a senior in the musical theatre program at the University of Memphis. “I didn’t know about The Ohio Light Opera until professor Allen mentioned it to me,” Hanford says. “I auditioned for one of its apprentice performer spots in Chicago but also for other internship opportunities while at the South Eastern Theatre Conference (SECT). When I was offered to join The Ohio Light Opera for the summer I didn’t hesitate, even though I had also made it to the call-back round at SECT.”

Allen, who started at the company as an apprentice performer seven years ago, knows that it is a first-rate training ground for young actors and students pursuing degrees in theatre design and performance.

“In just seven weeks the students get to experience everything they would learn during a regular season at a professional theatre,” he says. “Everybody gets paid, the repertoire requires all the essential performance and design skills they learned in school while the pieces are very accessible.” Furthermore, students are immersed in a company that recruits more than 100 of the best theatre professionals from across the United States, which allows them to form valuable connections that may jump-start their careers after graduation.

Having been able to take on more responsibilities over the years, Allen feels that his experience with the company, in his role as professional actor and director, complement his role at the University and allows him to be part of both the academic world and the stage. This season, Allen will direct Guys and Dolls by Frank Loesser and Abe Burrow, a Ohio Light Opera premier. Included in this year’s line-up are six other titles, counting three more OLO premiers, A Connecticut Yankee by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, Blossom Time by Sigmund Romberg, and Miss Springtime (Die Faschingsfee) by Emmerich Kálmán.

“I’ve always had an interest in the early European forms of operetta or comic opera, which later became musical theatre in the U.S.; especially the works of Gilbert and Sullivan,” Allen notes. “Because there is no other company like Ohio Light in the States, we are careful to approach the material from the perspective of historic preservation—staying true to the original material—while making it accessible for a modern-day audience.” Allen also feels that The Ohio Light Opera allows him to realize his vision in a substantial way. “We have a pretty generous budget, compared to other companies, which allows for a good amount of artistic freedom.”

To date, OLO has produced more than 100 titles and put on more than 200 productions from the traditional light opera genre. Tucked away in a little-known place in Wayne County, Ohio, the company’s contribution to the preservation and promotion of traditional lyrical theatre has received recognition around the globe, and this summer, the University of Memphis is part of that recognition.
For its centennial project the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) invited artists Sheryl Oring and Dhanraj Emanuel (MFA '03) for a series of interactive, public art performances. In March, the couple set up an impromptu office on the University’s Student Plaza. Staffed with a crew of typists in 1960s garb and equipped with manual typewriters, passersby were invited to answer a simple question about the University’s future: “What do you think the University could be?” Responses were typed verbatim on postcards that are now part of Alma Mater: University of Memphis. The exhibition opened at AMUM on June 16 and a closing reception will be held on September 12, the day of the University’s 100th birthday.

“The exhibition will look at the University, its history and potential, from several different directions,” says Leslie Luebbers, director of the Art Museum.

A video-montage of the University’s DeSoto yearbooks will be shown alongside the portraits of the more than 200 people who sat down to answer the question about the University’s future during the Alma Mater performance in March. The postcards with their answers are included in the exhibition as well as sound recordings of students reading the cards set to a video of a deserted Student Plaza, the site of the performance with the iconic clock tower.

Oring and Emanuel want the campus community to consider how the role of the University might evolve in its second century. “I wanted people to stop and think about the role of the University,” Oring says. “What do we expect from higher education in the next century? What can the University be?” The use of non-digital technology is no coincidence. The show’s typists and portable office channel the 1960s, a period that pre-dates automatic spell check and the delete button on a keyboard.

“At its core, the project is about expanding time,” Luebbers says. “By inviting students and alumni to reflect on the future of the University we are connecting the past, present and future and explore time as something that is fluid.”

Collectively, Oring and Emanuel are known for their I Wish to Say project, which started in 2004 with a commission from the First Amendment Project in Oakland, California. The Memphis project drew on experiences from an earlier work called in which Oring invited people to share their concerns with the U.S. President on a postcard to the White House.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sheryl Oring is assistant professor of art at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is an interdisciplinary artist whose work addresses and questions technology and its role in society through projects that incorporate both old and new media to tell stories, examine public opinion and foster open exchange.

Dhanraj Emanuel is adjunct assistant professor of photography at Elon University in North Carolina and an editorial photographer known for his food photography. He received his MFA from the University of Memphis and BFA from Memphis College of Art and Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in Andhra Pradesh, India.

ALSO IN THE ART MUSEUM

In Gallery B, AMUM will show The Daily Helmsman: the Voice of the Students, a video retrospective of The Daily Helmsman, the University’s student newspaper, which dates back to 1931 when it was called The Tiger Rag.
CMA Embraces New Projects and Bids Farewell to Long-Time Video Producer

The Center for Multimedia Arts (CMA) is looking forward to a new year of important initiatives and the completion of several long-term projects. This summer, the CMA launched SHELBY Child Impact Assessment v3.0, a web-based decision aid that will focus policymaker’s priorities on Shelby County’s children and engage local organizations and citizens in policy advocacy for kids. The Center’s work with the Teen Parenting and Pregnancy Success Coalition (Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, Memphis City Schools, Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth, Agape, Christ Community Health Services, and others) will culminate in the fall with a marketing campaign aimed at reducing teen pregnancy.

Although Eric Wilson, multimedia and video producer at the Center for Multimedia Arts, moved to Germany with his family to pursue new endeavors, the CMA will continue to offer video production and editing, still photography, animation, and narrative services to its clients and experimental, University-based initiatives.

Wilson joined the CMA in May 2006, establishing a video production and post-production studio for the Center, which serves a variety of clients such as corporate and non-profit organizations, local government agencies, and University of Memphis research centers and departments. While at the CMA, Wilson filmed and edited Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for campaigns that brought awareness to domestic violence, gun crime, and child neglect. He produced documentaries about the lives of Hurricane Katrina survivors who found a new home in Memphis, local government agencies’ efforts to improve infant mortality rates, and problems surrounding teen pregnancy. “Eric’s work took him to the most devastated parts of New Orleans and the most misunderstood neighborhoods of Memphis,” says Michael Schmidt, CMA director and University of Memphis associate professor of art. “He documented the efforts of community activists, took his camera to clinic exam rooms of prenatal caregivers, and to the private homes of expectant and new mothers. He directed shoots of corporate CEOs, babies and toddlers, celebrities, and politicians. His work really runs the gamut.”

In 2010, Wilson was honored with a silver Telly award for “Verso Simple”, his corporate identity video for Verso Paper. Both easily accessible and bold, his work is well-respected in the local film and video industry and familiar to many at the University of Memphis and in the Memphis community.

As an integral part of the Center, Wilson collaborated with its design team to create exhibition videos for The Urban Child Institute’s early childhood brain awareness exhibit, the Paul Revere Williams retrospective at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM), as well as a prototype exhibit for the C.H. Nash Museum at the Chucalissa archaeological site that used video to share Chickasaw culture. Furthermore, he served as a regular resource for CCFA colleagues, taught undergraduate journalism students in a video journalism course, and recruited student-interns from the Departments of Communication and Journalism to learn the demands of in-studio and on-location shoots and the challenges of multi-camera editing and graphics compositing.

“The foundation Eric built during the past six years is a great asset for the CMA,” Schmidt notes. “He added another dimension to the creative work we were already doing and we hope to expand even further.”
I’m thrilled to be joining the College of Communication and Fine Arts as the new Director of Development during this historic time. As part of the University’s development staff since 2010, I know the impact donors have on our institution and as such am a donor myself. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a Master’s degree in Arts Administration I have long been an advocate for funding of the arts and the value of education.

The University’s Centennial Year continues to be a remarkable one for our College. The Mid-South’s first college production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, which sold out in mere hours, was an outstanding success, showcasing the caliber of our students in the Department of Theatre & Dance and the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music. The Department of Journalism is in the spotlight with a fifth consecutive win for the College Journalist of the Year award at the Southeast Journalism Conference. In the fall, the Department of Communication will host the Thirteenth Biennial Public Address Conference, one of the field’s most exclusive and prestigious scholarly gatherings. The Departments of Communication and Art recently moved into the old Law School building, located on Central Avenue, across from the University Holiday Inn. The Department of Art now has 3,200 square feet of gallery space. The Fogelman Gallery of Contemporary Art is scheduled to open in the fall. The Martha and Robert Fogelman Galleries of Contemporary Art will open during the 2012-13 academic year. Two Atrium spaces will be equipped with museum grade lighting to feature changing exhibitions thanks to the generous support of the James R. Humphreys fund. The transformation of the former Law School into the Art and Communication Building at the beginning of this year also allowed the Department of Architecture to add to its existing area in Jones Hall. The expansion provided much needed space for the growing program, which is preparing for accreditation of its professional Master of Architecture degree by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

It is indeed a historic year for the College of Communication and Fine Arts and our students.

The University’s Centennial provides a unique opportunity to build on a century of educational achievements, steady growth and service to the community. While the University of Memphis has accomplished much during the last century, we know the future holds even greater promise. With a goal of $250 million, the *Empowering the Dream* Centennial Campaign will add new facilities, build the University’s endowment to attract and retain world-class faculty and talented students. The *Empowering the Dream* campaign is the catalyst to position the University to take its legacy of success to a new level and push it forward. The dollars raised toward this historic initiative are significant, but it is the lasting impact these gifts have on our University and in the region that is most noteworthy.

Increasing the support for our students is a vital need in our College. State funding for higher education has been reduced during each of the past three years. Known traditionally as a “state-supported institution,” the University of Memphis is more accurately a “state-assisted institution” because we depend on non-state resources for more than half our operating needs. Investments in our faculty are also a priority. The College is committed to its faculty to ensure the integrity and quality of its academic programs. Recognition and support of faculty, who have earned distinction in research, teaching, and outreach, is needed to recruit and retain outstanding faculty.

We are pleased to be focusing our efforts for a new Music Center! The 200,000 square foot future home of the Scheidt School of Music, will serve as the new “front door” to the Memphis campus. A 900-seat concert hall will accommodate large-scale performances and allow for collaborations with visiting guest artists and other arts organizations. State-of-the-art practice rooms and rehearsal spaces will dramatically improve the student experience.

This is the place. This is the time. This is your unprecedented opportunity to celebrate the first 100 years of the University of Memphis and create the success stories for the next century. There is no better time than now to be part of the University of Memphis and *Empowering the Dream*.

Katherine Goliver
Director of Development, CCFA

Point your smart phone here or visit [memphis.edu/development](http://memphis.edu/development) to learn more about the University’s *Empowering the Dream* campaign.
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CCFA

The College of Communication and Fine Arts was recognized during Memphis City Schools 2012 Adopt-A-School Luncheon for 20 years of service and partnership with its adopted schools, Overton High School and Colonial Middle School.

Several CCFA faculty and former faculty were honored by the University of Memphis’ Center for Research on Women (CROW) during its event “100 Years 100 Women.” CCFA honorees included Lily Afshar (Music), Gloria Baxter (Theatre & Dance), Sherry Bryan (Architecture), Lorelei Corcoran (Art), and Ellinor Kelley Grusin (Journalism). Also honored were CCFA graduates Dixie Carter (BS ’63), Erma Clanton (MA ’69), Johanna Edwards (BA ’01), and Pat Kerr Tigrett (BFA ’63), as well as long-time CCFA supporter Honey Hohenberg Scheidt.

Katherine Goliver joined the staff of the CCFA Dean’s Office as director of development. A native Ohioan, she attended the Columbus College of Art and Design where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and Indiana University where she received her Master’s in Arts Administration. Before coming to the CCFA, Goliver was director of development for the University’s College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, was featured in “Empowering the Dream,” the University’s centennial campaign. Ranta has given to the University of Memphis Foundation for more than 35 consecutive years through automatic payroll deduction and direct contributions to targeted programs. “I have always believed that providing financial support to our educational programs was an integral part of being a member of the University community,” he notes.

Kimberly Rogers (BA ‘97, MA ’01) joined the CCFA staff as Coordinator, College Media. Kimberly is responsible for CCFA’s online and print publications, public relations and outreach efforts. This includes Voices, the CCFA Web site and special events. Kimberly’s former CCFA connections include staff member of The Daily Helmsman and The Teen Appeal, as well as a couple of semesters as a member of The Mighty Sound of the South. Professionally, Kimberly worked at Baptist Memorial Health Care as a publications coordinator and at Methodist Healthcare as a member of the Web staff.

Sandy Truman joined the staff of the CCFA Dean’s Office as senior administrative assistant to Moira Logan. A native Memphian, she attended Memphis State University and is happy to be back on campus. Truman lived in Northwest Florida for 18 years where she enjoyed a career as Architectural Review Board administrator and real estate broker for several gulf front developments.

ARCHITECTURE

FACULTY

Sherry Bryan, associate professor of architecture, director of the Architecture Program and interim director of the Interior Design Program, won a second Course Redesign Fellowship from the the Provost’s office and the Information Technology Division. The fellowship will continue the work started with professors Jennifer Barker and Michael Hagge on the Introduction to Architecture + Design and Fundamentals of Design courses.

Jenna Thompson, adjunct professor of Architecture and Interior Design, received the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award from the Department of Leadership in the College of Education, Health, and Human Services.

Randle Witherington, associate professor of architecture, retired from the University in the spring. He had been part of the architecture and interior design faculty for 22 years.

STUDENTS

Megan Hoover, third year Architecture and Interior Design honors student, received the Department of Architecture Creative Achievement Award.

Robert McDaniel, graduating BFA in Architecture student, was awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal by a vote of the faculty. This prestigious award is given at all architecture schools nationwide to recognize outstanding leadership and academics. McDaniel is a past president of the Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students.

Colby Mitchell, first year Master student, designed the Tiger Grill Pavilion that was funded under a Green Fee Grant and will be built on the north side of the University’s Administration Building. Mitchell also won First Place in the Fine Arts category of the 24th Annual Student Research Forum for his architectural research “Architecture + Ecology: Engaging the Wolf River through Design.”

Alexandria Spann, third year Interior Design honors student, and Megan Hoover were selected for membership in the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Mario Walker, graduating Master student, received the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC) Jonathan King Medal for research. This prestigious medal is given to one student at each ARCC member institution in the USA and Canada. Selection is by a vote of the faculty and based upon criteria that acknowledge innovation, integrity, and scholarship in architectural and/or design research. Walker also submitted the winning design for the 2012 Construction Specifications Institute Products Display Show Poster Competition, and received a Graduate Performance Award from the University of Memphis Graduate School as well as the Department of Architecture Graduate Achievement Award.

Members of the University of Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) visited St. Louis over spring break and toured a number of major works of architecture. The students also visited the School of Architecture at Washington University. They were accompanied by AIAS advisor Sherry Bryan. This summer, the University of Memphis AIAS chapter will serve as co-host of the 2012 “Redefining Design” conference of the Gulf States Regional Council of the American Institute of Architects.

The Department of Architecture presented the 2012 Design Excellence Awards at its tenth annual Awards Reception held in the University Center.

Mario Walker (Architecture Thesis Studio) was presented the Graduate Award and Ben Cooper (Architecture Design 4 Studio) won the Undergraduate Award.

Other graduate students nominated were Ted Risch, and Jesse Webb. Other nominated undergraduate students were Roy Beauchamp, Ben Cooper, Jeremy Dollar, Katherine Nelson, Alexandria Spann, Morgan Ralph, SooMin Kim, and Claire Greene.

ART

FACULTY

Mariat Ayad, associate professor of art history, is spending two academic years in Egypt working at the American University in Cairo where she teaches highly specialized Egyptology classes to graduate and undergraduate students. In December, Ayad joined the Italian Archaeological Mission again at the tomb of Harwa (TT ‘37) on the Theban western bank, where she brought many years’ worth of fieldwork to near completion. She presented the project’s progress at the Mummmification Museum in Luxor. In January, Ayad spoke to the members of the Northern California chapter of the American Research Center (ARC) in Egypt about “The God’s Wives of Amun: Rise and Role during the Libyan and Nubian periods.” In April, she traveled to Providence, Rhode Island to present her work on the “Opening of the Mouth Ritual” inscribed at the Tomb of Harwa at the 63rd annual meeting of ARC in Egypt.

Bryna Bobick, assistant professor of art education, published an article in the National Teacher Education Journal entitled “Advocacy for Art Education: Beyond T-shirts and bumper stickers.” Bobick published a review of the book Understanding Students with Autism Through Art in the International Journal of Education through Art in collaboration with Bruce Bobick, she showcased her work in an exhibit The Carrollton-Memphis Connection at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center in Gainesville, GA. Bobick also served on a panel entitled “Getting Hired in Higher Education” at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Conference in New York City.
Lorelei Corcoran, professor of art history and director of the Institute of Egyptian Art & Archaeology, presented a paper entitled “A Case for Continuity” at the 63rd annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) in April. The meeting was held at Brown University.

Carol Crown, professor of art history, was invited to give several lectures this spring: in New York for the American Folk Art Museum; in Los Angeles for Loyola Marymount University and Otis College of Art and Design; and in Athens, Georgia for the Georgia Museum of Art. Crown also gave a lecture locally on folk art for the Town Village Audubon Park Retirement Community. She was named a First Tennessee Professor.

Beth Edwards, professor of painting, was honored with the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Achievement Award in the Creative Arts during the University’s 25th Annual Faculty Convocation on April 20. Also in the spring, Edwards’ “Antidotes,” featuring her paintings evoking a sense of child-like bliss through the use of vintage cartoon dolls and characters, was shown at the Tennessee Art Commission Gallery in Nashville. Edwards recently showed work at the Parlor Gallery in Asbury Park, New Jersey, in a group show entitled “Toylanders” at the Noyes Museum in Oceanville, New Jersey, at David Lusk Gallery entitled “In Florescence,” and was featured in a three person show entitled “Nature Redux” at the Tory Folliard Gallery in Milwaukee.

Donalyn Heise, associate professor of art education and Bryna Bobick, assistant professor of art education, co-authored a chapter in “Transforming City Schools Through Art: Approaches to Meaningful K-12 Learning,” published by the National Art Education Association and Teachers College Press. Heise and Bobick also coordinated a showcase of elementary student art work at Lester School, hosted by the University of Memphis Community Art Academy. The academy incorporates engaged scholarship and provides art education majors opportunities to team teach in community settings. At the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference in Vancouver, Canada, Heise and Bobick served on a panel addressing “Transforming City Schools through Art: Approaches to Meaningful K-12 Learning.”

Heise also received an honorable mention for her artwork at the Second Annual TAEA Member Art Exhibition at the Leu Visual Art Building at Belmont University in Nashville. Furthermore, Heise, in partnership with Laurie MacGillivray, professor in instruction curriculum leadership, received a 2012 Strengthening Communities Capacity Building Grant from the University of Memphis for a project that focuses on fostering resilience through art and literacy with families who are homeless. The University of Memphis will partner with the Salvation Army Renewal Center for the project.

David Horan, instructor of photography, was in a group show in Spokane, Washington. Horan and Bryna Bobick, assistant professor of art education, took graduate and undergraduate art majors to Rome and Florence, Italy for a month this summer to study and earn class credit in the areas of art education and digital photography.

Cedar Nordbye, associate professor of art, wrote of his explorations of the 35th parallel in “Parallel Lives” an article published in The Urban Campfire. Since 2010, Nordbye has been driving the back-roads of the thirty-fifth line of latitude that runs through Memphis, Albuquerque, Kyoto, Japan, Cypress, Crete, and Chattanooga. On his travels, Nordbye talks with and photographs residents living on the line and has documented the project in an artist’s book, Latitude. The project was first exhibited at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro’s Gatewood Gallery last August and then at the Space-Camp Gallery in Indianapolis as part of its exhibition, “Mapable.”

Todd Richardson, assistant professor of art history, co-edited two books, The Transformation of Vernacular Expression in Early Modern Arts and The Turn of the Soul: Representations of Religious Conversion in Early Modern Art and Literature. Richardson also presented a lecture at the Lois Corinth Symposium at Emory University entitled “Hermes’ Hands.”

STUDENTS

Julie J. Messana, student in art education, was selected by the art department as the recipient of the 2012 University of Memphis Donalyn Heise Art Education Leadership Award. The award was established in 2009 to recognize an undergraduate U of M art education major who has demonstrated leadership and outstanding contributions to quality art education.

Tommy Wilson, senior photography major, won the annual Department of Art Creative Achievement Award.

University of Memphis art education students led hands-on art making at the Brooks Museum in February for visitors of all ages. The event was held in conjunction with the Brooks family day celebrating the exhibition, “Armed + Dangerous.”

ALUMNI

Jennifer Butterworth (MA ‘10) completed her first year in the art history PhD program at Emory University.

Elissa Ferguson (MA ’12) was admitted to the art history PhD program at Penn State University.

Sunny Montgomery (MFA ’06) was chosen by the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis for a commissioned piece of work in honor of University of Memphis President Shirley Raines. Raines is one of the recipients of the Foundation’s 2012 Legends Award.

AMUM

Eric Bork, exhibition specialist for the Art Museum at the University of Memphis, attended the PACCIN (Preparation, Art handling, and Collections Care Information Network) conference at the Getty Villa in Malibu, CA. The three-day conference was composed of forums, lectures, and seminars regarding all aspects of art and artifact handling, transportation, storage, lighting and display.

Leslie Lubbers, director of the Art Museum of the University of Memphis and project director for the Paul R. Williams Project, was a featured speaker at Palm Springs Modernism Week. Her lecture took place in the Palm Springs Tennis Club, one of Williams’ most important modernist designs, and addressed the African American architect’s extraordinary career as a designer of homes and places of leisure for mid-century America’s rich and famous.

COMMUNICATION

The Department of Communication film and video production concentration was recognized in May at the Carnival Memphis Business & Industry Luncheon. The movie and film industry was selected as the industry of honor for 2012, and the communication department was honored because of its reputation, achievements, and impact on the industry.

FACULTY

Katherine Hendrix, professor of communication, was the recipient of this year’s Southern States Communication Association Michael M. Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award. The award, named in honor of Michael Osborn, University of Memphis professor emeritus, honors SSCA members who have achieved excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.


STUDENTS

Chad Barton and Patrick Churvis, film and video production students, along with recent alumnus Shelby Baldock, won the Indie Memphis Cinema in Music Award (best cinematography) at the Live From Memphis Music Video Showcase for their work on “Rollin’ and Tumblin” by the North Mississippi Allstars.

Patrick Churvis also won the annual Department of Communication Creative Achievement Award.

Kristen Hungerford, doctoral student in communication, received the Top Student Paper Award in Media Studies at the Central States Communication Association convention for her paper “Laughing at Comedies of Difference on Saturday Night Live: A Case Study of Betty White’s Mother’s Day Episode.”
Melody Lehn, doctoral student in communication, has won the 2012 John Angus Campbell Teaching Award. Lehn’s teaching portfolio demonstrated a breadth and depth of creativity and skill, as well as a clear commitment to both her students and her discipline.

Brandon Chase Goldsmith, doctoral student in communication, had his solo show “A 12 step Program for Recovering White Caucasians,” accepted as a Top Student Performance at the Southern States Communication Association.

ALUMNI

Kevin Dean (BA ’02) was named executive director at Literacy Mid-South. He served as director of development at Hope House. Dean was recently named one of Memphis’ Top 40 Under 40 by the Memphis Business Journal.

Kimberly Johnson (PhD ’10) joins the faculty at Tennessee State University in Nashville in fall 2012 as assistant professor of speech communication.

Lyman Mcallen (MA ’90), assistant professor in foreign studies at Hankuk University in Seoul, was invited to dinner with William Alexander, Governor Lamar Alexander’s son, when he and the Governor’s staff visited Korea. In April and toured Hankuk University as part of their visit.

JOURNALISM

For the first time, the University of Memphis Department of Journalism is offering an Entrepreneurial Journalism/Media Management course in its graduate program. The class is designed to teach journalism students new skills relevant for operating in a dynamic media environment. The department teamed with LaunchMemphis for its first semester. One of LaunchMemphis’ goals is to open up entrepreneurship in seemingly unconventional areas, such as health, education, and now journalism.

FACULTY

Carrie Brown-Smith, assistant professor of journalism, co-wrote an article calling out American newspaper managers and daring them to aim higher. “A Call for Leadership: Newspaper Execs Deserve the Blame for Not Changing the Culture,” appeared in Harvard University’s Nieman Journalism Lab. It cites examples of successful digital adaptation and challenges media managers to put their money where their mouths are, to take chances at innovation rather than simply drum the same rhetoric.

Joe Hayden, associate professor of journalism, taught a seminar “Politics and the Press” at Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz in May. In March, Professor Marlies Klamt from Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz was a visiting professor at the University of Memphis. Klamt is an expert video journalist and held a two-day lecture and workshop to share video shooting and editing techniques.

Ron Spielberger, associate professor of journalism, was honored by the university when Provost Ralph Faudree presented him a certificate designating him as a PI (Principal Investigator) Millionaire for securing at least $1 million in grants during the period from 1996-2011. Spielberger was one of 62 University of Memphis professors recognized for that distinction at the Centennial Research Celebration in February.

Erin Willis, assistant professor of journalism, gave presentations at the spring Kentucky Conference on Health Communication. She co-presented “The efficacy of Twitter use by state health departments to promote health literacy” and also presented “Transforming patients into chronic disease experts: Online health communities and the facilitation of self-management behaviors.”

STUDENTS

Chelsea Boozer, a senior journalism major, won the Department of Journalism Creative Achievement Award, which is given annually to an undergraduate student for outstanding accomplishments in journalism.

Kyle LaCroix, an internet journalism student, received an academic internship in corporate communications at ALSAC, St. Jude Hospital for the summer of 2012.

Student Helmsman staff members who attended the Southeast Journalism Conference convention at the University of Tennessee Martin won many awards, including the organization’s top award, College Journalist of the Year, won by this year by senior journalism major Chelsea Boozer. The Helmsman has entered this category five times since the Best of South awards began and have won all five times: Michael Thompson (BA ’94), Amos Maki (BA ’03), Trey Heath (BA ’07), Nevin Batwalia (BA ’08), and now Boozer. Other Best of the South award winners included John Martin, Sports; Michelle Corbet, Arts and Entertainment; Erica Horton, Features; Chelsea Boozer, News; Cole Epley, Page Design; and Scott Carroll, Editorial/Opinion.

The University of Memphis Ad Team won Second Place in the Seventh District’s National Student Advertising Competition. Winners were announced in April in Nashville at the American Advertising Federation Seventh District’s Conference. Advertising student Walter Smith, a member of the team, won the Best Presenter Award. The five judges from Nissnan, the client for 2012, commented on the team’s strong creative strategy, integrated communication strategy and media plan.

ALUMNI

The Department presented student awards at its 2011/12 end-of-the-year banquet. Scott Carroll (BA ’12) won the Otis Sanford Award and Christina Hessling (BA ’12) won the Outstanding Internet Journalism student award.

The collaborative effort of two journalism alumni, a reporter of The Commercial Appeal, and a current journalism adjunct professor were recognized by the Society of American Business Editors and Writers. Mike Erskine (BA ’99) and Amos Maki (BA ’03), with adjunct professor Grant Smith and fellow Commercial Appeal reporter Daniel Connolly won national recognition for their investigative work, “Landing Electrolux.” The story analyzed public incentives received by Electrolux, the Swedish appliance maker building a plant in Memphis.

Ed Arnold (BA ’12) has been writing about Memphis small businesses with Memphis Crossroads, the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce’s economic development quarterly magazine. He also hosts a podcast called “People I Know” and contributes to Rezoon.com as a writer.

Brandi Hunter (BA ’05, MA ’09) is the newest videojournalists at KAIT-TV in Jonesboro, AR. Before getting the job at KAIT, Hunter worked in production at WREG-TV. She also freelanced as talent and producer on a number of projects.

Marcus Matthews (BA ’03, MAT ’08), director of the Teen Appeal, was featured in the Memphis Flyer in an article written by U of M journalism alum Louis Goggans (BA ’11). The article, “Father Figures,” focuses on Matthews’ book, I Am Not the Father, as well as on the documentary he is currently making about the subject. Additionally, Matthews was nominated by the University’s Alumni Association to process in the spring commencement ceremony. Each class honored one graduate to participate; each honoree received a special Centennial Medallion and Centennial Certificate.

Tiffany Neely (BA ’12) received a full-tuition scholarship to attend the prestigious University of California-Berkely Graduate School of Journalism. The admissions committee was impressed by her work with MicroMemphis, the Department of Journalism’s hyperlocal news project. UC Berkely School of Journalism runs one of the most well-known hyperlocal university initiatives in the country.

Susie (Caldwell) Norris, (BA ’97) owner and creative director of Orange Apple Branding Boutique in Knoxville, campaigned to bring the 2011 Advertising Federation District 7 Leadership Conference to Knoxville. The conference attracted 160 attendees.

Daniel Wilkerson (BA ’10) is gaining national exposure as an anchor/reporter for WBBJ-TV in Jackson, TN. He broke a story of a body discovered in a missing person case, then got an exclusive interview with the Dyer County sheriff investigating the case, which is now being ruled a homicide. CNN’S Nancy Grace had requested the interview, as had other network affiliates. Earlier this year, Wilkerson covered the story of a gay teenager kicked out of school for wearing makeup. Again, the story gained national attention and attracted several gay rights organizations. The student was allowed back into school and school policy was changed to allow males to wear...
makeup. Wilkerson’s work was also featured on the website of ABC’s The View for a story he reported about a gay couple beat up by church members.

MUSIC

FACULTY

Lily Afshar, professor of classical guitar, performed at the Caserta Festival 2012 in Italy. She was also on the jury of the guitar competition at the Festival.

Leo Altino, associate professor of cello, has launched a series of e-masterclasses with a group of students in Brazil. The young musicians are members of the Orquestra Criança Cidadã which is comprised of children who live in Coque, one of the poorest and most violent communities in the Recife Metropolitan Region. Soh-Hyun Altino, associate professor of violin, and John Chiego, professor of double bass, will also work with the students, giving a total of 24 masterclasses each.

David Evans, professor of ethnomusicology, gave four concerts in Germany and presented a paper titled “Will the Real Azmari Please Stand Up? Changing Roles and Definitions of Azmari in Contemporary Ethiopia” for the International Conference on Azmari in Ethiopia at the University of Hildesheim. He also published “Integrating Folklore and Music Research into Tourism and Development” in Culture and Development for Amhara Region.

Allen Rippe, assistant professor of saxophone, performed the world premiere of “Haiku for Alto Saxophone and Macintosh Computer” during the biennial conference of the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) at Arizona State University. Rippe’s submission was selected by NASA’s National Selection Committee.

Kevin Sanders, assistant professor of tuba, recorded Charles Booker’s Tuba Concertino with the U of M Wind Ensemble for publication on a CD of Booker’s music titled “Radiant Blues: The Music of Charles Booker Jr., Vol. 4” on Mark Records.

Copeland Woodruff, assistant professor of music and opera studies co-director, was a guest artist at Lawrence University and Conservatory, teaching “Viewpoints” and acting to 75 voice majors. The weekend culminated in a successful presentation of the students’ theatrical compositions. Woodruff also directed the premiere of Bovinus Rex for Guerilla Opera in Boston and returned for his 14th season as stage director and acting instructor for the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop at Georgia State University, directing Sondheim’s A Little Night Music.

Pam Dennis (PhD ’00), University Libraries learning commons coordinator, published “An Index to Articles” in The Etude Magazine. It is the latest publication in the Music Library Association’s (MLA) Index and Bibliography Series published by A-R Editions, a leading publisher of musicological resources. The Etude is an invaluable tool for researching the music culture of the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Dennis served as library director and as a member of the music faculty at Lambuth University during the previous ten years.

STUDENTS

Walter Hoehn, master’s student in saxophone performance, performed “Orion for Saxophone and Electronics,” a piece he commissioned from Dr. Scott L. Hines, at the Electroacoustic Barn Dance at Mary Washington University in Fredericksburg.

Jesse Kasigner, student in violin performance, won first place in the Beethoven Club Competition; he studies with Soh-Hyun Altino. Rashid Lawal, student in bass performance, won second place in the Competition; he studies with John Chiego. Masters student Amanda Boyd placed first in the voice competition.

Ruta Vendekskyte, senior violin performance major, won the 2012 Dean’s Creative Achievement Award. Vendekskyte was one of six students nominated for the award from across the college. Other candidates included Megan Hoover (Architecture), Tommy Wilson (Art), Patrick Churvis (Communication), Chelsea Boozer (Journalism), and Benjamin Fichthorn (Theatre & Dance).

ALUMNI

Dwanye Heard (MM ’10) was selected as the principal tubist of the Chicago Civic Orchestra for the 2012-13 season. The Chicago Civic Orchestra is the training orchestra for the Chicago Symphony. Positions in its ranks are extremely competitive, many drawing international applications.

Garrett McQueen (BM, ’10), won a 2-year fellowship with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. McQueen is completing his graduate studies at the University of Southern California where he is principal bassoonist in the American Youth Orchestra in Los Angeles. He will begin his fellowship with the DSO during the 2012-13 season. The DSO’s African-American Fellowship Program addresses the shortage of African-Americans in professional orchestras by offering a 2-year fellowship.

Mikah Meyer (BM, ’09), countertenor, joined The Simon Carrington Chamber Singers (SCCS) and The Spire Ensemble, two professional choirs based in Kansas City, for their 2011 seasons. Meyer can be heard on the SCCS 2012 CD-release “Juxtapositions,” and will return to both ensembles for their 2012 seasons.

Tesfa Wondemagegnehu (BM ’04), choral teacher at Freedom High School in Orlando, Florida, was named Teacher of the Year for Orange County Public Schools. Mr. Won graduated with a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance.

THEATRE & DANCE

FACULTY

Bob Hetherington, professor of theatre, directed Noel Coward’s comedy “Present Laughter” at The Circuit Playhouse in May. He authored essays on Gilbert & Sullivan’s “The Pirates of Penzance” for the souvenir program at The Stratford Shakespeare Festival of Canada, where he gave a public lecture during the summer. He also wrote an essay on John Guare’s “His Girl Friday” for The Shaw Festival of Canada, published this summer in its house programs.

Holly Lau, professor and new chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance, is the 2012 recipient of the Benjamin W. Rawlins Jr./Union Planters Professorship Award for her outstanding record of research, teaching and service.

Anita Jo Lenhart, associate professor of theater, directed “King Lear” for New Moon Theatre. The play starred Bill Baker, long-time adjunct faculty in the theatre & dance department.

Rick Mayfield, assistant technical director, presented “Stage Rigging 101- What Does the Scenery Weigh?” at the 2012 Southeastern Theatre Conference. He also presented an overview of the scenic elements from The Phantom of the Opera including the automation of the boat. Another presentation was entitled “Outside the Box: Design/Tech Strategies to Save Time and Money, Why Reinvent the Wheel?” He was asked to take a leadership role for the Design South-Technical Direction session for future conferences. He will organize and present a session on the Arduino micro-controller for theatre applications at the conference next year.

Wayne Smith, dance instructor, performed and collaborated in choreography with guest artist Jhon Strunks in Project:Motion’s “Axis” at Evergreen Theatre. He also performed, along with Holly Lau, in Playback Memphis’ “Memphis Matters.”

Sherri Stephens (BPS ’07), administrative associate in the Department of Theatre & Dance, is the recipient of the University College’s 2012 Outstanding Alumni Award.

STUDENTS

Benjamin Fichthorn (BA ’12) won the Department of Theatre & Dance Creative Achievement Award, which is given annually to an undergraduate student for outstanding accomplishments in theatre and dance.

Daniel Mathews, (BA ’12) won the 2012 Dean’s Academic Achievement Award, which is given to the graduating CCAF student with the highest grade point average. Mathews majored in theatre with a focus in design and technical production, and in the fall begins the MFA program in design at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.
On the Move: Ramesses II Statue Finds New Home at U of M

In April, the University of Memphis welcomed Ramesses II to its new home on campus. The 25-foot tall, 5,000-pound fiberglass reproduction of the granite original had been located outside The Pyramid in downtown Memphis since 1991. It now has a new spot between the University’s Theatre and Music buildings, facing Central Avenue.

The replica was a direct result of the 1987 Ramesses the Great exhibition, in which CCFA’s Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology (IEAA) was integral in exhibition education, writing of the catalog, and the local curatorial activities.

“We are thrilled to have the statue on campus,” says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. “At the same time we wanted to make sure that the community still had access to it. For that, a front row spot on Central Avenue is hard to beat.”

At the U of M, Ramesses II will reign over the University’s Egyptology program, the collection of Egyptian artifacts at the Art Museum, the IEAA and its Egyptology library of thousands of books.

“The Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology offers one of the premier programs in the country,” says Lorelei Corcoran, IEAA director. “One of the Institute’s ongoing projects is the documentation of work that was ordered by Seti I and his son, Ramesses II, in Luxor, Egypt.”

The University formally welcomed Ramesses II during a ceremony that included University of Memphis President Shirley Raines, Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Memphis business leader Jim McGehee, Honey Scheidt, who was instrumental in bringing the 1987 Wonders exhibition to Memphis, and Dean Richard Ranta. Community leaders such as Bobby Fogelman, Honey Scheidt, and Jim McGehee were key advocates for the statue’s relocation to the U of M campus.