PROFESSOR AWARDED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE

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ON THE COVER "Disappearing Ink," an exhibition at The Art Museum of the University of Memphis, featured an installation by curator John Salvest, artist. The 1,400 most recent front pages of The Jonesboro Sun represent a giant flock of startled birds rising, turning and filling the top 40,000 cubic feet of AMUM’s main gallery.

CCFA Advisory Board Ward Archer, Rikki Boyce, Dean Deyo, Art Gilliam, Herman Markell, Charlotte Neal, Michael Osborn, Steve Pacheco, Mike Palazola, Chris Peck, Knox Phillips, David Porter, Frank Ricks, Mickey Robinson, Rudi E. Scheidt, Linn Sitler, Jack Soden, Jimmy Tashie, Ron Walter

Emeritae: Judy McCown, Beverly Ross
As you have hopefully heard by now, our most recent provost, Dr. M. David Rudd, is now our 12th president of the University of Memphis. He and I established a close working relationship and I personally witnessed the support David has for the arts. I invite you to read his essay on the following page and see for yourself how important he thinks the arts and humanities are to the education of our university’s students. Moreover, he has recently announced the campaign for a new music center. See page 19 and our website, memphis.edu/ccfa.

The cover of CCFA Voices illustrates the challenges in other areas — journalism and communication. “Disappearing Ink,” the visually stunning exhibition at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) addressed the importance of the press and, more specifically, the front page of the newspaper. I hope it is one that you saw in person. It and “BAR 1-9,” another visually stunning and thought provoking exhibition displayed in the Art Department’s The Martha and Robert Fogelman Galleries of Contemporary Art, illustrated that despite financial challenges, CCFA units continue to produce world class events.

It is not just world class visual art that is on display in CCFA, there are examples throughout college of students, faculty, alums and friends operating at the highest level, much of which is noted in this issue of Voices. In June, Architecture Professor Jim Williamson received a rarely presented national award for his work in religious architecture. Film and video students in the Communication Department joined Professor Craig to produce a moving film about a person working with women prisoners to help them tell their stories and change their lives. The reach of this film, as with so many others created in this outstanding department, extended beyond the class and was presented on the local PBS affiliate WKNO so the region could hear the story. Professor Sarah Brown of Theatre and Dance took her large-sized puppet act to the Middle East. Music Professor and Conductor Pu-Qi Jiang translated “The Grammar of Conducting,” taking the wisdom of one of the world’s great conductors to all Chinese-speaking music students. Fellow music professor Lily Afshar burns up the world with her latest in a string of CDs, “Bach on Fire.” David Horan, instructor in the Department of Art, received the 2014 Alumni Association Distinguished Advising Award, and Jacob Allen, Department of Theatre & Dance assistant professor, received the 2013-2014 Thomas W. Briggs Foundation’s Excellence in Teaching award. Students in Art Education under the leadership of Bryna Bobbick worked with a community art academy and taught art at the Brooks Museum of Art.

Before closing, I must mention the great honor bestowed upon our dear friend and multiple benefactor, Honey Scheidt, at the spring commencement where she joined thousands of students in receiving a degree. You may now refer to Honey and Rudi as Doctors Scheidt, as Honey joined Rudi in being honored for her great support and commitment to CCFA’s programs with an Honorary Doctoral degree. Congratulations Dr. Honey Scheidt.

The Scheidts are one many friends who have helped us over the years, providing the means to help us forever through endowed funds. I hope you will spend a moment looking at the impressive list published on page 4 of the friends who will be with us forever through their generous endowments. I also hope you will think about providing a lasting legacy of your own for the support of our students, faculty and programs.

“DEAN’S MESSAGE

It is not just world class visual art that is on display in CCFA.

As I close, we also close a chapter of the lives of two dear and devoted professors who have retired and joined the emeritus ranks. We wish the very best as Nancy White of the Department of Art and Rick Fisher of the Department of Journalism open the next chapter of their lives. I know that all of us deeply thank them for what they have done to open the world to their students and allow the world through their stellar work to know what great things happen at the University of Memphis.

Richard R. Ranta, Dean
College of Communication and Fine Arts

ccfa.memphis.edu 1
The Importance and Impact of the Arts and Humanities in a Comprehensive Education

Albert Einstein recognized it. Witnessing great theatre, listening to a spellbinding symphony, or being captivated by an intriguing piece of art only reinforces it. The arts are an essential element to a comprehensive and effective educational experience. At a time when higher education faces great challenges and varied forces push us to evaluate impact via metrics and money, we cannot lose sight of the importance of the hard to measure, the impossible to quantify, and the impact of the ephemeral. The American Academy of Arts (AAA) recently released a report confirming what many of us have known for years, that exposure in the arts, humanities and social sciences are closely linked to almost everything that we say we want for our students and demand from our universities: academic achievement, social and emotional development, civic engagement, and equitable opportunity.

Exposure and training in the arts not only challenge and expand our perspectives, but also improve the quality of our lives and the cohesion of our communities. The impact of the arts in any community is broad, deep and profound. Memphis is no exception; there are countless examples locally, and many driven by our own talented faculty, students and alumni. As the AAA report confirmed, students that contribute to society in a productive fashion leave their college experience with the ability to think creatively and flexibly, innovate, problem solve, and critically assess the world around them. The arts and humanities are essential to helping build and nurture these capacities in our students.

Drew Faust, president of Harvard University, and Wynton Marsalis, the great musician, wrote a joint article earlier this year for USA Today about the importance of arts education in our schools that is worth quoting:

“We need education that nurtures judgment as well as mastery, ethics and values as well as analysis. We need learning that will enable students to interpret complexity, to adapt, and to make sense of lives they never anticipated. We need a way of teaching that encourages them to develop understanding of those different from themselves, enabling constructive collaborations across national and cultural origins and identities. In other words, we need learning that incorporates what the arts teach us.

The arts and humanities provoke, challenge, compel and motivate. In short, they help our students dream, think and do, all at the heart of our mission. When art is at its best, in galleries, theatres, recital halls and screening rooms—it transcends our world, and gives us a glimpse of something bigger and better. I believe that the arts and humanities are essential to the heart of this great university.

— Albert Einstein

Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.

— Albert Einstein

M. David Rudd, Ph.D., ABPP
President

Read more about our new president!
memphis.edu/presweb
For more than 40 years, the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation Inc. has supported the University of Memphis. A Memphian, Thomas Winston Briggs, founded the Welcome Wagon Company in 1928. From its modest beginnings in the Mid-South, the company grew to become Welcome Wagon International with its corporate headquarters in Memphis and offices in New York, San Francisco, Toronto, Canada and London, England. The goal of the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation is to ensure the advancement of youth and education and to otherwise serve the community of Memphis.

Prior to creating the Excellence in Teaching Awards, the Foundation sought to assist deserving students with their educational goals by establishing The Eleanor O’Neill Scholarship. Based on academic merit, each year a student in the College of Communication and Fine Arts (CCFA) Journalism Department concentrating in public relations and a Marketing student in the Fogelman College of Business and Economics are selected. The scholarship is named in memory of O’Neill, a long standing Welcome Wagon employee and University of Memphis Trustee.

On May 1, the University of Memphis proudly presented the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation Excellence in Teaching awards to Jacob Allen and Nataliya Doroshenko. This year marked the 18th presentation of this award recognizing outstanding educators for their positive impact on undergraduate teaching. Doroshenko is an instructor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Allen is an assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance and director of the musical theatre program.

A faculty member since 2010, Allen was delighted and honored to receive the award. “I believe that first and foremost an effective teacher must have a passion for teaching in order to inspire students,” he said. “Every education is a uniquely personal endeavor and an instructor must be able to inspire students to push themselves beyond the realm of pre-conceived personal limitations or expectations. It is humbling to be honored for the work I do daily, but more than that it is re-invigorating. It inspires me to know that the time and energy that I invest in the students is not only appreciated, but also effective.”

Allen is the fifth CCFA professor, the second in Theatre, to receive this prestigious honor. A selection committee comprised of University of Memphis faculty, recent alumni and a representative of the Briggs Foundation selected Allen based on his strong nominations, particularly from students. CCFA is particularly pleased to see Allen receive this honor for his dedication to the new musical theatre program, the only bachelor’s degree in musical theatre in the State of Tennessee.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Thank you

Each year, the College is honored to award a range of scholarships to assist deserving students with successfully achieving their degrees through the generosity of our alumni and friends. The College of Communication and Fine Arts wishes to thank those who have given, continue to give and those with estate plans to support our students, faculty and programs.

Accademia Dell’Arte International Study Fund
Lily Afshar Guitar Scholarship
The Frank R. Ahlgren Endowment Fund
Emerson A. Alburty Enrichment Fund for the College of Communication and Fine Arts
Art Alumni/Mary Margaret Ross Scholarship
Art Directors Club of Memphis Scholarship Fund
Frances Falls Austin Scholarship Fund
John Bakke Communication Endowment Fund
L.M. Ballew Theatre Scholarship
Thomas Inman (Pete) and Dorothy Griffin (Dod) Bourne Band Scholarship
The J. W. Brittan Egyptology Scholarship Fund
The Saul Brown/Memphis Press -Scimitar Award Fund
Bill E. Burk Endowed Journalism Student Travel Fund
Valerie Calhoun Elkington Endowed Scholarship
Albert R. Capley Journalism Enrichment Endowed Fund
Paul R. Coppock Scholarship in History and Journalism
John DeCleux Memorial Scholarship
CSI Memphis Dempse B. Morrison Scholarship Fund, Inc.
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Robert H. Eoff Communication Enrichment Fund
William R. Eubanks Distinguished Lecture Series
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Craig R. Garrett Memorial Scholarship for Photography
James and Christopher Cholson Scholarship Fund
Noel A. Gilbert Violin Scholarship
Edward F. Greaney Communication Endowment Fund
Michael David Greene Memorial Scholarship
Elina Grusin-Journalism Alumni Endowment Fund
Helen and Jabie Hardin Chair of Economics/Managerial Journalism
The Josie Helming Alumni Scholarship
Dr. Herbert Hermann Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Hohenberg Foundation Dance Scholarship
Dorothy Kayser Hohenberg Chair of Excellence
Margaret and Charles Hubbert Travel Fund
John G. Hughes Music Scholarship
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Dr. R. Eugene Jackson Theatre Scholarship
Dana D. Johnson Art Scholarship
Billy M. Jones Scholarship
The John Paul Jones Journalism Scholarship Fund
Nathan Josel Memorial Fund
University of Memphis Journalism Alumni Enrichment Fund
Robert Kelley Memorial Scholarship
The Keith Kennedy Theatre and Dance Student Enrichment Fund
George Klein Endowed Scholarship
Kathy Krieger Memorial Scholarship
Douglass Lemmon Memorial Scholarship
Jerry Lee Lewis Endowed Scholarship Fund
Linder Center Urban Journalism
Lionel Linder Memorial Fund
The Maude D. and Thomas C. Littlejohn Memorial Scholars Fund
The L. Dupre Long Journalism Fund
The Looney Ricks Kiss Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Barbara D. Meshburn Choral Music Education Scholarship
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The Mary S. McGaughran Musical Theatre Scholarship Fund
Ethel T. Maxwell Voice Scholarship
Dr. Sidney J. McKay Fellowship
Memphis Advertising Federation Communitographics Scholarship
Memphis Gridiron Show Inc.
Memphis Radio Group KIX-106/Soul Classics 103.5/Star98 Radio Scholarship
The Mentor Scholarship for Film and Video
The Olin F. Morris Fellowship
The Joe and Lila Norton Scholarship in Journalism
Deborah Norton-Dye Scholarship Fund
The Eleanor O’Neill Endowed Scholarship Fund
The Michael and Suzanne Osborn Fellowship in Rhetoric and Public Address
The Osborn Communication Enrichment Fund

The Laurie A. Petrick Academic Achievement Award in Journalism
Sam Phillips Endowed Scholarship
The Sam Phillips Enrichment Fund
The Elvis Presley Endowed Scholarship Fund
Tom Price Memorial Endowed Scholarship for Music
Project Motion: Strawder Scholarship
Dean Richard R. Ranta Bandmasters Championship Senior Class Award
Richard R. Ranta/WREG-TV Scholarship
The Charlie Rich Endowed Scholarship Fund
Charles Riecker Memorial Fund
RP Tracks Theatre Fund
Elizabeth and Harold Robinson Scholarship Fund
The Santi Family Legacy Scholarship
Clement Santi Memorial Scholarship
Les Sego Journalism Scholarship
Chuck Schulz Scholarship Fund
Cybill Shepherd Scholarship Fund
Solar Barque Endowment
Ken Sossaman Memorial Fund
The SunTrust Scholars Program
The Deloss Walker Communication Enrichment Fund
Van W. Walton Memorial Scholarship
Marge Thrasher White Scholarship
Union Planters/Benjamin W. Rawlins Professorship
Variety Club-Robert S. Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donald Keith and Mary Chronister Vaughan Scholarship
The Pearl Wales Professorship
The Wampler Family Scholarship
James Weaver Memorial Scholarship in Interior Design
Dr. Russel Lee and Dr. Joy Brown Wiener Artist Diploma in Violin Fund
DONOR, HONEY SCHEIDT, SHAKES HANDS WITH BRAD MARTIN AS SHE RECEIVES AN HONORARY DOCTORATE DURING THE Spring 2014 Commencement Ceremony held at FedEx Forum in May.

Eleven highly talented student choreographers presented a night of original dance choreography during the Department of Theatre and Dance Spring Dance Concert held at the Michael D. Rose Theatre on the U of M campus. The student choreographers are Hillary Burns, Beatrice Davis, Andrea Fincher, Daly Foncree, Brittany Glover, Trinica Goods, Kenneth Johnson, Justin Mays, Natorria Ross, Amber Schalch and Lauren Stallings.
James F. Williamson, FAIA, a professor in the Department of Architecture, received the 2014 American Institute of Architects Edward S. Frey Award for career contributions to religious architecture and support of the allied arts.

This national honor is given annually by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) / Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art, and Architecture (IFRAA) to an architect who has demonstrated a passion for and dedication to quality worship and sacred spaces, including fostering spiritual values and promoting a cross-denominational community focused on religious arts and architecture.

The Edward S. Frey Memorial Award was established in 1981 by IFRAA, Inc. which later became a part of the AIA. Rev. Dr. Frey dedicated his life to his work as the Executive Director of the Commission on Church Architecture for the Lutheran Church of America. In that role he inspired architects to foster spiritual values in design. There have been only nine other recipients since 1981 (including Robert Durham, FAIA, Edward Larrabee Barnes, FAIA and Michael Crosbie, FAIA). The award was presented to Professor Williamson in June at the AIA National Convention in Chicago.

His professional practice, which focuses on the design of religious architecture, has included both new and restored churches across the country. During some 30 years of practice as a principal in his own firm in Memphis, he received more than 30 architectural design awards at the local, regional and national levels. His work has been published internationally. In addition, his professional activities have included leadership in the Interfaith Forum on Religious Art and Architecture and the American Institute of Architects, as well as articles, lectures, films and presentations on religious architecture for professional and community groups.

At the University of Memphis, Professor Williamson teaches design studio, history, theory, and professional practice at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. He regularly incorporates the study of religious architecture into his teaching through the assignment of religious buildings to the students in his design studios.

Williamson holds two Master of Architecture degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a student of Louis Kahn. He was later an Associate with Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates in Philadelphia. In 2005 he was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in recognition of his notable contributions in architectural design and education.

WILLIAMSON’S NOTABLE RELIGIOUS PROJECTS
St. George’s Episcopal Church
Germantown, TN
Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception Renovation and Additions
Memphis, TN
Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration and Additions
Rochester, NY
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Paducah, KY
Interfaith Chapel, Eielson AFB
Fairbanks, Alaska
Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Restoration
Memphis, TN
St. John’s Episcopal Church Parish Activities Building
Memphis, TN
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Memphis, TN
St. John’s Episcopal Church
Johnson City, TN
"BAR 1-9," a monumental nine-panel, 32-foot-wide, 8-foot-tall installation by New York blood artist Jordan Eagles, was on display in the Martha and Robert Fogelman Galleries of Contemporary Art in the Art and Communication Building at the University of Memphis in spring 2014. Eagles’ largest and most ambitious work to date, "BAR 1-9" was exhibited prior to coming to the U of M at the Museum of Contemporary Religious Arts in St. Louis and traveled to the Boston Center for the Arts after leaving Memphis.

Eagles began using animal blood as an artistic medium 15 years ago in response to a philosophical debate about life after death and the connection between body and spirit. Traditional red paint fell short of expressing the emotional vitality and energy that Eagles sought, so he ventured to local slaughterhouses. The works he created changed shade as the blood oxidized, causing Eagles to develop a technique of suspending, encasing and preserving the blood in Plexiglas and UV resin in a way that permanently retains the organic material’s natural colors, patterns and textures. His innovative technique challenges nature by preventing the works from decomposing.

Eagles’ work both fascinates and challenges audiences. His use of blood evokes reflections on the physical and the spiritual, on the scientific and the mystical, on mortality and regeneration. The very processes by which Eagles prepares his medium reflects a ritualistic sensibility. He uses various mark-making methods, including layering the blood at different densities as well as heating, burning, and aging the blood. In some instances, decomposed blood is ground into dust and tossed into the works as a sign of passing and change.

Eagles received his BA in fine arts/media studies from New York University’s Gallatin School for Individualized Studies in 1999. His work has been profiled in Time, The New York Times, PBS, Frame, Artinfo and The Huffington Post. His exhibitions have been “Critics’ Picks” in New York Magazine and most recently in Artforum for his solo exhibition at The Everson Museum of Art.

Eagles’ work is found in numerous private and museum collections, including the Peabody Essex Museum, the Princeton University Art Museum, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, the Addison Gallery of American Art and the Everson Museum of Art. His work has been shown at venues including the University of Michigan Museum of Art, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, the Elmhurst Art Museum, the Mobile Museum of Art, Trinity Museum at Trinity Church on Wall Street, the International Museum of Surgical Science and The Everson Museum of Art.

The Art Museum at the University of Memphis was recently added to this list thanks to a generous donation by Robert and Lillian Montalto Bohlen, who donated Eagle’s 18 x 24 x 2 inch piece called "FKTS 30" (blood, copper, preserved on Plexiglas, UV resin).
Newspapers decreasingly slap driveways across America and provide rattling accompaniment to the morning coffee. Refrigerator magnets and scrapbooks less frequently hold news snippets of a child’s scholarly or athletic accomplishments, wedding announcements or pertinent cartoons.

On a different scale, historians for centuries have accessed archives of physical newspapers — or more recently microfilm of newspapers — to study social life in its daily immediacy and candor. Today digital news articles are archived online, but the full-page contextual mix of local, national, social, cultural reportage, editorial commentary, letters and ads that offer vivid snapshots of moments in time do not survive. Furthermore, while we classify newspapers as “ephemera,” mutating technologies make digital information even more fugitive.

The Art Museum of the University of Memphis looked at newspapers and other printed matter as documents of personal and collective memories and history during an exhibition “Disappearing Ink” that closed this summer. University and community members were invited to lend clippings to the exhibition, be photographed with the objects, and to relate their significance in an audio recording. The digital photographs and audios were presented online, taking advantage of new media’s unique capabilities for broad dissemination. The exhibition, curated by John Salvest, presented the items as museum artifacts, framed or in cases with appropriate labels.

Salvest also created an installation piece for “Disappearing Ink.” Exhibited throughout the United States and in Europe, Salvest’s art was based on his collections of things most people toss out: coffee filters, chalk nubs, cigarette butts, matches, chewed gum, old business cards, fingernail clippings and the daily newspaper. His inventory included 20 years or approximately 7,000 consecutive issues of The Jonesboro Sun. His installation was a giant flock of startled birds rising, turning and filling the top 40,000 cubic feet of AMUM’s main gallery. Each of the 1,400 birds was a front page from the most recent four years of the Sun (pictured on the cover).

Located in 142 CFA Building, AMUM is free and open to the public: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. It is closed between exhibitions and on University holidays.
AROUND CCFA

Tau Sigma Delta Charter and Second Class Initiated

The Tau Sigma Delta National Architecture Honor Society (TSD) approved the installation of the Kappa Alpha Chapter at the University of Memphis in 2013. Only schools with a professional architecture degree accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board are eligible to have a chapter of TSD. Membership in TSD is limited to students in the top 20 percent of their design studio year who have earned at least a 3.5 overall grade point average.

The members of the charter class, Matt Sihvonen (Second Year Master of Architecture), Megan Hoover (First Year Master of Architecture), and Jeremy Dollar (Fourth Year BFA in Architecture), were initiated at the annual “Halfway Soiree” by faculty advisors professor Michael Hagge and professor Jennifer Barker, both members of TSD. Dr. Richard Ranta also participated in the initiation.

Six students were initiated into the second class of TSD at the annual Department of Architecture Awards Reception. Professors Michael Hagge and Jennifer Barker with Dean Richard Ranta initiated the following students: Rose Pereira (First Year Master of Architecture); Katherine Nelson (Fourth Year BFA in Architecture); James Bowles (Third Year BFA in Architecture); Emily Sinden-Redding (Third Year BFA in Architecture); Leigh Barker (Fourth Year BFA Interior Design); and SooMin Kim (Fourth Year BFA Interior Design).

Design Excellence Awards Presented at Reception

The nominees and winners of the Design Excellence Awards were recognized at the annual Department of Architecture Awards Reception. Each year, every professor teaching a design studio in the fall and spring semesters submits one project from their studio to compete for this award. The submittals are then voted on by faculty and winners selected. Professor Sherry Bryan coordinated the Design Excellence Awards this year.

The Design Excellence Award for Graduate Architecture was presented to first year M.Arch student Megan Hoover by professor Bryan. Megan received the award for the Water Lilies Pavilion at Dixon Gardens project. Because of a tie vote, the Design Excellence Honorable Mention Award for Graduate Architecture was presented to Matt Sihvonen for the Administration Building Competition Entry and Rose Pereira for the White Station High School – Classroom and Library Addition project.

Fourth year architecture student Katherine Nelson received the Design Excellence Award for architecture majors for the Chucalissa Archaeological Museum project. Third year architecture student Matt Pate received the Design Excellence Honorable Mention for the Writers Retreat project.

Fourth year interior design student Claire Greene received the Design Excellence Award for interior design majors for the Patterson Market and Bike Shop. Second year architecture and interior design dual major Antonio Tirado received the Design Excellence Honorable Mention for the 21st Century Residence project.
Jerre Dye

Cicada, a play by Jerre Dye (BFA 93’), writer, director, actor and designer, premiered this year in Chicago at the Route 66 Theatre Company this year.

A coming of age ghost story deeply rooted in the life of a small southern family on the verge of transformation, Cicada is set in rural Mississippi and tells the story of 17-year-old Ace and his mother Lily, who attempt to dig their way out of the past. Poetic, dynamic, lyrical and hard-hitting, this unique piece of theater sheds light on the enduring southern spirit and the ties that bind. Originally developed through Voices of the South Theatre Company in Memphis, TN, this play sings with the longing, the loss and the poetry inherent in the South. Among the amazing cast of Cicada was Robert Breuler (Broadway: The Grapes of Wrath, Carousel, Death of a Salesman; NBC’s Chicago Fire) and Josh Bywater (NBC’s upcoming Crisis; ABC’s Betrayal).

While in Chicago rehearsing for Cicada, Dye’s first libretto was being performed in Memphis. The Ghosts of Crosstown premiered as part of the Second Annual Midtown Opera Festival and performed at the Sears Crosstown Building. The building, which was a vibrant shopping hub for more than 50 years, fell into disuse and decay in 1993. It is being revitalized and, as part of this effort, Opera Memphis commissioned Dye and a group of acclaimed composers to create five short operas inspired by the lives of people who lived or worked near it. In collaboration with Opera Memphis and Opera America, the result of this project was the libretto, The Ghosts of Crosstown.

Dye is the former artistic director of Voices of the South Theatre Company and spent the last 20 years focusing on the development of new works in various artistic capacities. As a playwright, he is the recipient of The Bryan Family Foundation Award for Dramatic Literature from The Fellowship of Southern Writers. Dye has adapted and directed Stravinsky’s A Soldier’s Tale for Iris Orchestra and written several award-winning children’s plays that have toured the United States.

His latest play, Threads, will premiere in Memphis this fall. Dye recently relocated to Chicago where he has directed for Pine Box Theatre and served twice as scenic designer for About Face Theatre.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
Department of Theatre & Dance

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Matthew Schwartz

For Matthew Schwartz, May 2014 recipient of a BA in Broadcast Journalism, preparing for a career took more than going to class and making the grade. In his field, internships and experience are the best way to land a job after college.

Schwartz, 22, spent much of his college career trying to gain as much experience as possible. He interned at both radio and TV stations and worked at the University’s campus radio station, WUMR the Jazz Lover, for the last three years of his college career.

“Experience is important because places are less likely to hire you without it,” Schwartz said. “Experience also helps you to become better at your craft.”

Now that he has graduated, Schwartz wants to work as a news and sports anchor, reporter or sports broadcaster, but knew that he couldn’t reach his goals unless he worked hard in — and out — of the classroom.

At WUMR, Schwartz worked as a host, co-host and producer of the Sports Desk, a sports radio show that airs from 8:35 a.m. to 9 a.m. every morning. He also worked as part of the WUMR broadcast team, producing play-by-play and color commentary for the University of Memphis football and men's basketball games.

“WUMR is the place that I have to really give credit for my beginning,” Schwartz said. “Without it, I probably wouldn’t have had some of the opportunities that I’ve had or been able to meet some of the great people in the business that I have thus far.”

During the summer before his senior year of college, Schwartz started an internship with WHBQ Sports 56 radio station. While he worked off the air, learning how to run the soundboard and program the computer along with answering phone calls from listeners, he did get to record himself at the station and get a feel behind the microphone.

“It was a good opportunity for me to learn how sports talk radio works, from both behind the microphone and the production aspects,” he said.

John Hardin, host, producer and production director at Sports 56 WHBQ AM in Memphis, said that internships are not only good for the interns, but good for the stations, as well.

“WHRM is the place that I have to really give credit for my beginning,” Schwartz said. “Without it, I probably wouldn’t have had some of the opportunities that I’ve had or been able to meet some of the great people in the business that I have thus far.”

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John Hardin, host, producer and production director at Sports 56 WHBQ AM in Memphis, said that internships are not only good for the interns but good for the stations, as well.

“You get talented young people into the station and, if they learn their craft, you might have someone to fill a position if it opens up after they graduate from college,” he said.

In fall 2013, Schwartz started working as a sports intern at WREG News Channel 3. It was this internship that allowed him to gain experience covering high school football games, the Memphis Grizzlies and Memphis Tigers football games.

At the games, he attended and asked questions at press conferences. On occasion, Schwartz interviewed players and coaches, including Oklahoma City Thunder's head coach Scott Brooks. He also was able to record his own video reel for his résumé.

“Interning at the TV station was my favorite, because I got to go to a lot of events, meet other TV personalities in the area and learn from them,” Schwartz said. “I got to learn how a TV studio runs on a daily basis.”

Schwartz is aware of the challenge he faces of landing a job in his field after graduating, but he is not afraid to take his experiences across the country to find a job.

“I’m not limiting myself to one place or another,” Schwartz said. "I'm willing to move wherever the best opportunity is for myself."

In Schwartz’s opinion, if a student interested in broadcast journalism is only going to class, they are not doing enough. It’s getting hands on experience that matters most, and he encourages all aspiring journalists to seek out internships.

“This career path is all about experience,” Schwartz said. “The more experience you have the better off you'll be, when you apply for those jobs at radio and TV stations.” — by J. T. Mullen, student reporter. Originally published in a February edition of The Daily Helmsman.
Afshar Takes New Approach With Bach on Fire

Professor Lily Afshar is an artist known for expanding the classical guitar repertoire with numerous world premieres on her last six albums. Her latest recording, *Bach on Fire*, continues that tradition by introducing new and innovative guitar arrangements of J.S. Bach's Cello Suites, “Prelude,” “Fugue & Allegro,” “Lute Suites” and “Ave Maria.” *Bach on Fire* draws its title from Afshar’s innovative arrangements, which allow for more interpretive phrasing and dynamic nuance and, ultimately, a more exciting performance.

These new arrangements are the result of many years of experimentation and watching students struggle to play Bach. Knowing that the amount of bass notes and poor fingerings posed a technical challenge for most players, Afshar employed techniques like cross-string fingerings to make the music sound as if it were written for the guitar.

"After years of using whiteout, pencil and eraser to adapt other Bach guitar arrangements, I decided to make my own editions from scratch," she says. Afshar arranged 42 Bach movements, which were published by Mel Bay in 2013 as “Essential Bach: Arranged for the guitar by Lily Afshar.”

"This recording offers a fresh approach to playing Bach," Afshar writes in the album’s liner notes. "My purpose is to make Bach accessible to a wider audience and encourage guitarists to play them more. Many others have arranged Bach pieces for the guitar, but my arrangements are quite different."

Featuring compositions for lute, cello and piano, *Bach on Fire* is brimming with familiar, beloved melodies with a twist — the timbre of the classical guitar, the tempo, and the innovation of Afshar’s arrangements. *Bach on Fire* is available through Archer Records. It is available for purchase online at lilyafshar.com/cds.

Undergraduate art education majors taught fourth and fifth grade students studio art activities weekly during Spring 2014 at Willow Oaks Elementary School. It was a collaborative service-learning program providing teacher preparation prior to graduation. University of Memphis alum Jami Hooper is the art specialist at Willow Oaks Elementary School and Dr. Bryna Bobick coordinated the 2014 Community Art Academy.
Art Chair Participates in Two-Person Show

In a thought-provoking exhibition, Department of Art Chair Richard Lou is one of two artists who examined the complexities of cultural identity at San Diego Mesa College’s Art Gallery in San Diego, Calif., this spring.

His “Stories on My Back” installation explored his mixed Chinese and Mexican heritage by speaking of his connections across the Pacific and in the Americas, both ancient and modern. Lou’s work connected autobiographical memory with geography and history. It continued a narrative from earlier work referencing issues of power, immigration, racism and assimilation.

In the gallery the visitor entered a ceremonial nine-foot post and lintel structure clad in golden cornhusks and illuminated from within. The columns were studded with images and quotes from the artist’s Chinese father, his Mexican mother and his grandparents. The cornhusks represented the scales on the Aztec plumed serpent Quetzalcoatl but also referenced Chinese dragons. Audio and video components added layers, additional voices and iconography.

Also featured in Lou’s installation was a piece by Louisiana artist Chere Labbe Doiron, who five years ago took on the task of breathing new life into Lou’s father’s Lazy Boy chair. The chair assumed the role of illustrated historian and part talisman as it protected and convened the stories of the Lou family. The installation has been on exhibition throughout the US.

Film And Video Production Class Honing Their Skills in the Community

Under the direction of Communication Professor Craig Leake, students in the Spring 2013 Film and Video Production workshop (COMM 4892/7892) produced a video that was appeared on WKNO in May 2014.

The video will be submitted by the Department of Communication to the annual documentary film competition at the University Film and Video Association annual conference this year in Bozeman, Montana.

Filmed at the Shelby County Detention Center in Memphis, Tenn., the production starred Elaine Blanchard, volunteer storyteller and women’s rights advocate, who teaches women in prison how to write their own true stories about their lives before incarceration in a program she created called Prison Stories. The result was a half-hour documentary that captured a moving plea for social justice and understanding from both sides of the razor wire.

The Department of Communication is often asked to provide students to produce work promoting the activities of various individuals, companies and organizations off campus. At times, these requests provide students with valuable learning experiences. For more information, call the department at 901.678.2565.

The second artist, James Luna preserved performance actions through photography in his “1 CON” exhibition. Luna is internationally renowned for powerful work that transforms gallery spaces into battlefields, confronting the audience with the nature of cultural identity.

From his unique indigenous perspective as a resident of the La Jolla Indian Reservation in North County, Calif., Luna has given voice to Native American cultural issues with more than 30 years of exhibition and performance experience.
Pu-Qi Jiang Enriches the Study of Conducting in China

Dr. Pu-Qi Jiang, director of Orchestral Activities and conductor of the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra, reached into the past to deepen the education of young conductors in China. His 500 page translation of “The Grammar of Conducting,” published in 1950 (with the latest edition in 1993) by renowned conductor and educator Max Rudolf, was published in China this year.

Rudolf’s book is the most respected and widely-used text in the field of conducting. Born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, he studied cello, piano, organ, trumpet and composition, but his greatest talent was conducting. He moved to the United States in 1940, but did not initially find a job as a conductor, because he did not have an academic degree in the discipline.

In 1946, he became associate music director at the Metropolitan Opera and from 1950-1958, he served as the organization’s artistic administrator. At that time, the Met did not have a permanent music director, using guest conductors from around the world instead. Rudolf engrossed himself in their performances as he had those of European conductors during his childhood.

In 1958, Rudolf became conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and served there for 13 years. After his tenure there, he was head of the opera and conducting department at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where many of today’s leading conductors studied under him.

When Pu-Qi Jiang arrived in Memphis in 2000, he mentioned the book to conductor Michael Stern, who was in the process of organizing the IRIS Orchestra. Jiang discovered that not only had Stern been a student of Rudolf, he also had assisted in publishing the third edition of the book in English.

A few years later, Jiang was invited to give lectures in China, and he used the book to teach conductors and conducting students there. The Chinese musicians wanted to continue studying the text, but it was only available in English. Jiang realized the need for a translation. With permission from William Rudolf, the author’s son and copyright holder, Jiang traveled to China to meet with the Shanghai Music Publishing House. The company enthusiastically agreed to publish the book and stated they had never before had a conducting text of such importance in China.

“It makes the world smaller. It is a subject we can all share,” Jiang said.
University of Memphis Jazz Ensemble II
Monday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m.
Come hear the jazz repertoire of large ensembles.

Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra
Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m.
$15 General Admission; $10 Non-U of M students and seniors, free to U of M students, faculty and staff with ID.
Come hear the jazz repertoire of large ensembles.

Sound Fuzion
Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m.
$15 General Admission; $10 Non-U of M students and seniors, free to U of M students, faculty and staff with ID.
This is the 26th edition of the University of Memphis' Sound Fuzion. An opportunity to experience this very popular group that has been performing for high school audiences throughout the mid-south. This high energy ensemble of nine vocalists and five instrumentalists combines with the team of audio engineers to present the very best of what's popular in today's musical scene.

University of Memphis Symphonic Band, University Band and Tiger Youth Wind Ensemble
Rose Theatre, U of M
Sunday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m.
$15 General Admission; $10 Non-U of M students and seniors, free to U of M students, faculty and staff with ID.
"Music from behind the Iron Curtain" - Russian band music of the twentieth century, including the composers Kojevnikov, Tschnekel, and Prokofiev. In this concert the Symphonic Band will combine with the Tiger Youth Wind Ensemble for a dramatic closer by the Russian composer Reinhold Gliere.

University Singers and Chamber Choir
Sunday, Nov. 16 at 3:30 p.m.
Location TBA
Spend your Sunday afternoon at the annual Fall Concert of the University of Memphis Singers and Chamber Choir. This year’s ensemble of young choral musicians presents the finest in both the historic and the finest compositions from the best of today’s choral composers. The University Chamber Choir continues to impress audiences with its mastery of the challenging chamber choir literature.

University of Memphis Opera - Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro
Harris Concert Hall
Friday, Nov. 21 at TBA and Sunday, Nov. 23 at 3 p.m.
$20 general admission; $15 non-U of M students and seniors; free to U of M students, faculty and staff with ID.
University of Memphis Jazz Combos
Monday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Small student jazz groups for the University of Memphis will play the music of jazz greats as well as originally composed works.

New Sounds
Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Listen to new music written by University of Memphis student composers.

University of Memphis Jazz Singers
Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music Holiday Concert
Harris Concert Hall
Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 12:30 p.m.
The holiday will be filled with music and memories as the School of Music ushers in the season. Performances by student ensembles will include old favorites and some new, original works written for this group.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Productions are held Mainstage in the Theatre Building, 3745 Central Ave, unless otherwise noted. The Box Office is located in the Theatre Building on Central Avenue. Fall box office hours are Monday, 1-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For ticket information, call the Box Office at 901.678.2576.

The Physicists
by Friedrich Durrenmatt
Studio Theatre
Oct 3-4, 6-11, 2014
Directed by Bob Hetherington

The Wedding Singer
Music by Matthew Sklar, Lyrics by Chad Beguelin, and Book by Beguelin and Tim Herlihy.
Nov 6-8, 13-15, 2014
Directed by Teddy Eck

New Voices - Student concert
Rose Theatre
Nov. 21-22 at 7:30 p.m., Nov 23 at 2 p.m.

The Little Prince
by Antoine de Saint Exupéry
In Rep in the Studio Theatre
Nov 21-22, 2014
Directed by Swaine Kaui
A classic fable for children and adults.

How I Learned to Drive
by Paula Vogel
In Rep in the Studio Theatre
Nov 22-23, 2014
Directed by Meredith Meville

Visit memphis.edu/ccfa for even more news and events.
Jazz Singers
Ami Kavafian, violin, André-Michel Schub, piano, and David Shifrin, clarinet, individually have performed with nearly every major orchestra around the world and in recital at major concert halls.

Opening Oct. 17
University of Memphis| Concerts International
present:
Jazz Singers
Ami Kavafian, violin, André-Michel Schub, piano, and David Shifrin, clarinet
Come hear the jazz repertoire of members of the University of Memphis Opera in conjunction with Opera Memphis' "30 Days of Opera."

Monday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m.
University of Memphis| University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra
with
Kevin Sanders, soloist.
The orchestra will perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Opus 30 and Prokofieff's Symphony No.5. The University Band and Jazz Ensemble II will present an abundance of photographs and concert literature from Memphis 1968: Civil Rights Photography. Visit www.brooksmemphis.org or call 901.678.2224. Find us on Facebook at /umemphisartalleries.
Professor Creates Unique Event in Turkey

Department of Theatre and Dance Professor Sarah Brown co-created a one-of-a-kind artistic event in Turkey with Adam Yakin, an international site-specific show artist, physical theatre and object theatre performer, puppet maker, director and head of carnival artists at Holon-Tel Aviv’s School of Puppetry in Israel, to create “Angels of the Chimney.”

This site-specific puppet show premiered at the prestigious Ismir International Puppet Theatre Festival and staged in Ismir’s Historical Town Coal Gas Factory, one of the most important historical sites of Izmir, in cooperation with Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, E.E.U. Fine Arts Faculty, State Arts Department and Izmir International.

Puppet Days, is a site-specific show, an art concept that started in the 1960s with the idea of taking modern art out of exhibition halls, museums and galleries and performing it in different environments. A first of its kind in Izmir, the show was one of the most unforgettable shows in Izmir art history with the giant puppets, unique staging techniques and the story referring to the touching history of the site. A documentary was made in Turkey about the puppet festival and “Angels of the Chimney” was featured in it—filming the process of creating the puppets and rehearsing the piece on site.

Brown received her MFA in Acting from Yale School of Drama in 1994. She joined the University of Memphis faculty as a Assistant Professor of Theatre where she’s currently teaching various levels of acting and audition preparation. She is a published songwriter and her plays, published and unpublished, have been performed or presented by invitation in various venues in New York. She has also performed her one-person shows at venues in L.A. and abroad in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London.

The University of Memphis has launched a campaign to raise $40 million toward the construction of a new Music Center. The proposed location on Central Avenue, near the U of M Holiday Inn, will align the Center with existing arts facilities, allowing students and visitors to easily enjoy the visual and performing arts offerings on campus, and reinforces the U of M as a destination for the arts. At more than 40,000 square feet, the Center will more than double the space in the 50-year-old building where the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music is currently housed. The Center will feature a performance hall seating up to 1,200, an expansive stage and significant advancements in technology. It will enhance the U of M’s ability to compete for the highest caliber students, faculty and guest artists. The private fundraising goal is $10 million. Every dollar raised will be matched on a three-to-one basis by government funds. “The new Music Center will add importantly to the cultural vitality of the Memphis community, and we greatly look forward to exploring ways that the Memphis Symphony may be a participant,” said Roland Valliere, president and CEO of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Ned Canty, general director of Opera Memphis, said, “This new venue will open up significant new opportunities for collaborating and performing, not only for Opera Memphis but also for a full spectrum of other arts organizations.” For more information, call Katherine Goliver at 901.678.4372.
NEWS & NOTES

Faculty

ARCHITECTURE

Professor Michael Chisamore, director of Interior Design and director of the Center for Sustainable Design, received a Strengthening Communities Grant. Chisamore and students in the Architecture Department will work with the Normal Station Neighborhood Association to envision the restoration of the Madison-Eckles Family Cemetery and a meditative greenspace for the property located in the neighborhood. The team will also work with faculty in the Department of Earth Sciences to involve archaeology students to assist in identifying and mapping unmarked gravesites using remote sensing techniques. This project is also linked to research Chisamore is conducting in architectural representation.

Professor Jenna Thompson, Department of Architecture Sustainability coordinator, received a Strengthening Communities Grant. Jenna and students in the Department will work with United Housing, Inc. (UHI) to design and construct a NeighborScape Demonstration Garden. UHI is a non-profit organization that focuses on access to homeownership for low and moderate income homebuyers. One of its main programs is Homebuyer Education. This project builds on this educational component by providing participants the opportunity to take an optional module on lawn maintenance and vegetable gardening. The project is closely linked to Jenna’s research on sustainability and sustainable design.

Department Chair Michael Hagge was appointed to the U of M Living Learning Community Advisory Board and the U of M Green Fee Committee.

Professors Sherry Bryan and Andrew Parks and M.Arch student Megan Hoover collaborated on the design of the new Department of Architecture recruiting banner on the national AIA homepage. An image of a studio project by M.Arch student Matt Silvonen was used in the design. Chris Whitehead handled the logistics.

ART

Bryna Bobick, assistant professor of art education had a piece of art selected for the 19th Annual National Juried Art Exhibition at Southworks Art Foundation in Watkinsville, Ga. She wrote a chapter in “Practice Theory: Seeing the Power of Art Teacher Researchers,” a book recently published by the National Art Education Association.

David Horan (BLS ‘94), instructor/coordinator of Photography, received the Alumni Association Distinguished Advising Award.

In April, Dr. Earnestine Jenkins participated in “Black, White & Beauty,” an art event and lectures series confronting race and feminine identity in the south at the Cotton Museum in Memphis.

Donalyn Heise had an article published in Art Education, the Journal of the National Art Education Association, called “Steeling and Resilience.” The article talks about her project involving art educators who play an important role in preventing devastating effects of trauma by fostering resilience through art, by asking students to focus on their strengths.

Associate Professor of Ceramics Nancy White retired spring ’14 after 40 years of teaching at the U of M.

COMMUNICATION

Craig Stewart, assistant professor, received the 2014-15 CCFA Dean’s Outstanding Research Award.

Leroy G. Dorsey, professor and chair, was named editor of the Southern Communication Journal for 2015-2017.

A high definition digital restoration for the 30th Anniversary showing of “The Old Forest,” a film directed by Steve Ross, was shown at the Malco Studio on the Square in April and July 2014. The film was produced by professors Steve Ross and David Appleby and Professor Roxie Gee was the film’s production manager.

A documentary produced by Craig Leake with students from his COMM Film and Video Production course, aired on WKNO-TV in May 2014. The film is about Elaine Blanchard, creator of a volunteer program called Prison Stories at the Shelby County Detention Center that teaches inmates how to write their life stories from before they were incarcerated.

JOURNALISM

To honor retiring Professor Rick Fischer for his years of service and dedication, the Department of Journalism has named the student PR organization The Dr. Rick Fischer Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

MUSIC

Lecolion Washington received a grant through Sphinx, an inaugural MPower Artist Grant given to alumni of various Sphinx programs to reach career objectives in classical music through competitive scholarships. His $27,000 grant will send him on an international concert tour to include South Africa, Portugal, Austria and Sweden. He was also a featured soloist with the Arkansas Symphony in a performance of “Dead Elvis for Bassoon and Chamber Ensemble” by Michael Daugherty.

Dr. Randal Rushing, director of the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Schools of Music and was recently elected chair of Region B, which comprises Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

In the Commercial Appeal review of a performance of Brahms’ German Requiem, the University Singers, under the direction of Dr. Larry Edwards, received high praise for their performance with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. “The orchestra and chorus soared… Edwards imbues the singers with a deep sense of finesse and artistry, and their work was as thrilling as the orchestra’s performance.”

The PRIZM Ensemble, with faculty participants Lecolion Washington and Dan Phillips, has
received funds from several granting sources. The New South Fund chose the 2014 PRIZM Chamber Music Festival as the final recipient of its grant, and the Shelby County Schools is once again funding the PRIZM in the Schools program.

Dr. Robyn Jones was a guest clinician at the Arkansas Clarinet Day at Arkansas Tech University and guest artist at the University of Maryland Clarinet Day, where she performed Dr. Jack Cooper’s “Sonata for Clarinet and Piano.”

Dr. Kevin Sanders performed with the Eugene (Oregon) Symphony, the Detroit Symphony and in recitals at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, University of New Mexico, University of Oregon, Drake University, University of Northern Iowa, Illinois State University and the University of Illinois. He also performed in recital at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference in May.

Dr. Kevin Richmond’s article, “Non-Traditional Notation And Techniques In Student Piano Repertoire,” appeared in the February 2013 issue of the Music Teachers National Association e-Journal and has been selected as the 2014 MTNA e-Journal Article of the Year. He was recognized with a plaque and a cash award at the MTNA National Conference in Chicago.

THEATRE & DANCE
Jacob Allen received the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award.

Janice Lacek, associate professor, received the 2014-15 CCFA Dean’s Creative Achievement Award.

Alum
ART
Ephraim Urevbu’s (MFA ’87, BFA ’83) artwork was featured in “Out of Africa,” a show billed as an emergency of works from contemporary Africa.

JOURNALISM
D. Mike Pennington (BA ’72) won the Silver Medal in Magazine Writing in the Column-Series Category for his column, Service & Support, published in Fleet Equipment magazine. The magazine is one of the premier trucking industry publications, from Babcox Publishing in Akron, Ohio.

Keisha Whitaker (BA ’01) was featured in a May 2014 issue of Memphis Daily News.

Terry Hollahan (BA ’90) was named editor of the Memphis Business Journal.

MUSIC
Thomas Rimes (MM, Orchestral Conducting, ’04) has been appointed Second Kapellmeister at the Musiktheater in Revier in the German city of Gelsenkirchen. With this senior conducting position, he is responsible for the preparation and performances of numerous opera, ballet and musical productions in addition to symphony concerts. He has also worked in Germany as a conductor at the Staatstheater Kassel. As a masters student, Thomas studied with Pu-Qi Jiang. He was a GA in the opera area, under the supervision of Mark Ensley.

Garrett McQueen (BM, bassoon, ’10) completed his bassoon fellowship with the Detroit Symphony orchestra and recently won the second bassoon position in the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

D. Wilson Ochoa (MM, ’89) won the position of Principal Librarian with the Boston Symphony and will begin work with them in June 2014.

Mikah Meyer (BM, voice, ’09) gave the world premiere of his original lecture-recital “Dr. Mezzo and Mr. High.” The cabaret-style revue explores the unique voices of the mezzo-soprano and countertenor in a humorous battle between the singers.

Students
ARCHITECTURE
BFA in Architecture and BFA in Interior Design student Yasmine Jafari won the CSI Memphis Products Display Show Poster Competition.

The AIA Henry Adams Medal and Certificate and AIA Henry Adams Certificate are awarded to the graduating students in the professional Master of Architecture degree with the highest overall grade point average. Matt Sihvonen received the AIA Medal + Certificate and Linda Šuhajdová received the AIA Certificate.

The Alpha Rho Chi Medal is awarded to a graduating BFA student who best represents leadership, academics, and service. The student is nominated by and voted on by the faculty. Architecture student Jeremy Dollar received the medal from 2004 medal winner Duke Walker (BFA-Arch 2004).

The ARCC Jonathan King Medal is presented to the student in the M.Arch or BFA program who has exhibited exemplary research in architecture and environmental design. The student is nominated by and voted on by the faculty. First Year Master of Architecture student Megan Hoover was presented the award by two-time medal winner Mario Walker (M.Arch 2012, BFA-Arch 2007).

The Department of Architecture Graduate Creative Achievement Award was won by first year M.Arch student Megan Hoover, who also received the Graduate Achievement Award from the CCFA.

The Department of Architecture Creative Achievement Award was presented to fourth year architecture student Jeremy Dollar. Jeremy also won the Dean’s Creative Achievement Award from the CCFA.

The Department of Architecture Academic Achievement Award, presented to the graduating BFA student with the highest overall grade point average, was won by architecture student Katherine Nelson.

Each of the five students who received the Award of Distinction from President Brad Martin in January for their entries in the “A Vision for a Twenty-First Century University: Rethinking the Entry to the Administration Building” design competition was presented a check for $500 by competition coordinator professor Michael Hagge. The award recipients are Matt Sihvonen, second year M.Arch; Megan Hoover, first year M.Arch; Rose Pereira, first year M.Arch; Jacob Vaughn, fourth year Architecture; and Jacquelyn Sappenfield, fourth year Interior Design.

ART
MA in Art History students Leila Hamdan and Jody Stokes-Casey recently accepted positions at the National Civil Rights Museum.
Leila is registrar and Jody is the education coordinator.

**Jody Stokes-Casey** and **Merrileigh Rutherford**, Art History majors, traveled to Ghana with Dr. **Earnestine Jenkins** for the African and African American Institute Ghana Travel Abroad program this summer.

**Kimberly Bradshaw** (BA ‘12) was recently named Collections and Curatorial assistant at the Metal Museum in Memphis. She is currently completing her masters in Art History.

**COMMUNICATION**

**Tracy Manning Schaffer**, doctoral student, won the departmental 2014 Graduate Student Communication Research Award. Tracy also won the University of Memphis Morton Dissertation Award. Each year, the Graduate School awards about 100 doctorate degrees. Two Morton Award winners are selected by faculty across the university.

**Brian Heslop**, doctoral student, won the departmental John Angus Campbell Excellence in Teaching Award for 2014. He also earned second place in the Liberal and Fine Arts Division of the Graduate Research Forum for his project, “Deciphering Symbols and Identity in an Ambiguous Online World: The Case of the Innocence of Muslims.”

The new chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Honor Society, inducted six members in a ceremony in April 2014—**Lindsey Randall**, **Kantana Buchanan**, **Danielle Steele**, **Ryan Barton**, **Brittney Lee** and **Brittany M. Cleggins**.

**JOURNALISM**

**Taylor Smith** won second place in the Liberal and Fine Arts Division of the Undergraduate Research Forum for her project “The Relationship Between College Students and News in the Digital Era.”

**MUSIC**

**Jesse Kasinger**, violin performance major, won the state division of the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Performance.

**Dane Suarez**, tenor artist diploma student, won first place in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Mid-South Region Auditions. Dane studies with Dr. **Randal Rushing**.

**Nathan Cottrell**, master’s student in cello, won first prize in the Delta Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition in Arkansas. He also won first prize in the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition in Georgia. Judges there praised his performance of Ernest Bloch’s “Schelomo” as powerful, rich and passionate. As first-place winner, Cottrell will receive $1,500 and perform as a featured soloist with the LaGrange Symphony. Nathan studies with **Leonardo Altino**.

**Kevin Suetterlin**, doctoral student in conducting, has been named a finalist in the Orchestral Division of The American Prize in Conducting 2013. For his application, he submitted videos of performances of himself conducting the U of M Symphony Orchestra for the school year 2012/2013. Kevin is a student of Dr. **Pu-Qi Jiang**.

The University of Memphis student tuba quartet, iTuba, has been named a semifinalist in the International Tuba Euphonium Conference, which will be hosted at Indiana University this summer. They will compete against nine other semifinalist chamber groups from around the world. The quartet comprises **Will Hammer**, **Zack Corpus**, **Mark Bonner** and **Kevin McKenzie**.

Senior tuba student **Jeremy Morris** was accepted and will be attending the Royal College of Music in London for his graduate studies.

**THEATRE & DANCE**

**David Couter** and **Jon Castro** receive great local reviews for their performances in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* at the U of M. Their performances were said to be “superior” and “worthy of London’s West End.”

**CCFA**

CCFA donor, **Honey Scheidt**, received an honorary doctorate degree during the Spring 2014 commencement ceremony held at FedEx Forum in May.

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