

ccfa

WINTER 2011

VOICES

THE MAGAZINE OF THE COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND FINE ARTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music Celebrates 10th Anniversary

CCFA BRINGS
CONTEMPORARY
DANCE COMPANIES
TO U OF M

OTIS SANFORD
TAKES HARDIN
CHAIR OF
EXCELLENCE
IN JOURNALISM

NICK CAVE BRINGS
SOUNDSUITS TO AMUM



ccfa VOICES

WINTER 2011



A Message from the Dean

As the cover of this issue of *CCFA Voices* indicates, we recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music and honored Rudi and Honey Scheidt and their family. The highlight of the evening was the performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*, by nearly one-third of the Scheidt School's students under the direction of Dr. Pu-Qi Jiang. The stage of Harris Concert Hall was stuffed to overflowing with student performers, visually demonstrating one reason why the Scheidt School needs a new building. Rudi Scheidt was so impressed with the performance that he shared it with a few hundred friends during his birthday celebration at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre on January 29. The even more

splendid performance in a space meant to accommodate such a large ensemble was his gift to his friends and a wonderful way to present the amazing musical talent of the Scheidt School.

The University of Memphis will also celebrate an anniversary—its 100th birthday in 2012. The celebrations, however, will begin this fall with another grand musical and historical program at the Cannon Center in downtown Memphis. Again our orchestra and many of the Scheidt School's ensembles will perform in a major concert hall off campus, offering their talents to the community. The 100th anniversary celebration is also a time to remember the gifts that are needed by the College of Communication and Fine Arts to help our students succeed and continue to show off their talents in many different ways. Those needs range from a new music building and endowed professorships to a visiting artist fund (to which the university no longer contributes) and student travel and scholarship funds. In February 2012, the Department of Theatre & Dance, in collaboration with the Scheidt School of Music, will bring us the region's first college production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the University's centennial year and showcase the newly established program in musical theatre within our BFA degree in theatre. This new program has been significantly enriched by the generous contribution of Mr. Seth McGaughran, who established the Mary S. McGaughran Musical Theatre Scholarship Fund in memory of his wife. Additionally, for a limited time he has agreed to match contributions to the Mary S. McGaughran Fund on a 2:1 basis. I urge you to take advantage of this offer and help us multiply his generous gift.

In spite of the state's budget cuts, we continue to provide our students with outstanding instruction from award-winning professors, such as Sarah Brown (Theatre & Dance) and David Evans (Music), both Fulbright Award recipients, or Copeland Woodruff (Music), a three-time winner of the National Opera Association Best Opera Production Competition. We continue to be recognized locally, regionally and nationally including Architecture's platinum rating for its TERRA sustainable design house, Craig Leake and David Appleby's latest Emmy award for their 2010 documentary *Beyond Babylond*, and the Center for Multimedia Arts' SHELBY Child Impact Assessment, a web-based software application that gives emphasis to the needs of children and families in policy planning and evaluation.

I will close this note with both good and sad midyear news. First, the very good news is that the recent opinion page editor of *The Commercial Appeal*, Otis Sanford, has joined the Department of Journalism as Hardin Chair of Excellence. Sanford brings not only his vast knowledge of contemporary journalism to our students, but also a very public face to the journalism department, as he will continue to write his weekly Sunday Viewpoint column for *The Commercial Appeal* and just recently joined WREG-TV News Channel 3 as the station's daily commentator, succeeding his longtime friend and mentor, Norm Brewer.

Now the sad news; recently we lost two dear friends with the deaths of Richard Knowles, professor emeritus of the department of Art, and John Dye, nationally known actor and an alumnus of the Department of Theatre & Dance. We will very much miss both men who were so giving and deeply loved by so many. Plans are already underway for an exhibition of Knowles' work and that of the late professor Steve Langdon at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) in the fall. The exhibition will be curated by Larry Edwards, professor emeritus of art, with the assistance of many, including Carol Knowles. We hope to see you at the opening reception as well as at many of the performances, concerts, and premiers that are a vital part of our college throughout the year.

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

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Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.



The Department of Theatre & Dance together with the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music will present *The Phantom of the Opera* February 16-25, 2012 as part of the University's Centennial Celebration. Tickets will go on sale this November. "The University challenged us to 'dream big' for its 100th birthday," said Bob Hetherington, chair of the Department Theatre & Dance, "and there is no bigger undertaking than *Phantom*. We are very proud to have been granted the rights to produce this special event, which we hope will show Memphis the very best that the University of Memphis has to offer." *The Phantom of the Opera* is the most successful work of entertainment of all time, produced in any media, and its success is continuing all over the world. It recently celebrated its 10,000th performance in London. It is estimated that *Phantom* has been seen by more than 100 million people worldwide in 149 cities and in more than 25 countries around the world.

CCFA 2
Playwright Catherine Ladnier Visits the University of Memphis

Architecture 5
Department of Architecture Opens Downtown Design Studio

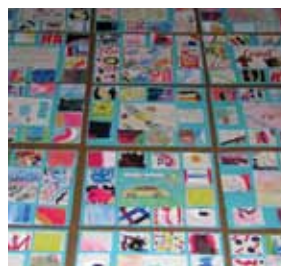
Art 6 >
Community Art Academy Brings Art Program to Neighborhood School

Communication 7
Department Will Host 13th Biennial Public Address Conference in 2012

Journalism 8
Otis Sanford Takes Position as New Hardin Chair of Excellence

Music 9 >
Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Theatre & Dance 11
Department Launches Musical Theatre Program This Fall



< **12 AMUM**
Art Museum Collaborates with Performance Artist Nick Cave

13 CMA
Center for Multimedia Arts is Among Leading Innovators

14 Advancing the Creative Process

15 Friends of the College

19 News & Notes

Visit ccfa.memphis.edu for even more CCFA news.

On the cover: Ten years ago, a multimillion dollar gift to the University of Memphis from Rudi E. Scheidt and his wife, Honey Hohenberg Scheidt, transformed the Department of Music into the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music. The school now offers degrees in 29 areas of concentration such as music performance, music education, and music industry, and is home to Tennessee's only music doctoral degree-granting program. Illustration by A. Christopher Drown.

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Kallen Esperian.

Enthusiastic Crowd Gives Standing Ovations to Kallen Esperian During College's 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award

The University Club of Memphis served as an appropriate setting for the 2010 luncheon celebrating noted soprano Kallen Esperian as recipient of CCFA's Distinguished Achievement Award in the Creative and Performing Arts. The Club's ballroom was literally filled to overflowing with fans, friends and opera lovers paying homage to a true star of the world's most distinguished opera stages from La Scala to the Metropolitan Opera.

The Distinguished Achievement Award was established in 1979 in memory of Elvis Presley and has a long and stellar list of honorees. It is given to artists associated with Memphis and the Mid-South in recognition of their outstanding career achievements. Esperian, a native of Illinois who has made Memphis her home, was an early and immediate stand-out in the Metropolitan Opera's regional auditions and a winner, in her early twenties, of the Pavarotti Vocal Competition. She made her debut in Philadelphia in 1986. Since that time she has performed in most of the world's important opera houses and is especially recognized for her Verdi roles. Esperian was one of *The Three Sopranos* produced by Tibor Rudas Theatrical Productions as counterpart to *The Three Tenors*, and is the only one of the soprano trio who has performed individually with each of the tenors.

The luncheon audience stood to applaud long and enthusiastically following the video documentary produced by Eric Wilson of the College's Center for Multimedia Arts, which included compelling highlights from many of the rich and memorable roles of the lauded honoree's illustrious career. The program also featured a University of Memphis student jazz ensemble under the direction of professor Tim Goodwin. Instrumentalists Evan Nicholson, Jeremy Warren and Chris

Dabbo, and vocalist Amy Smith provided guests with an outstanding performance exemplifying the high quality and wide repertoire produced at the University's Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music. Many guests remained after the award ceremony, expressing great admiration for Esperian and praising the gifted and engaging young talents.

CCFA advisory board member Charlotte Neal chaired this year's very successful event. Other board members on the committee included Dean Deyo, Mike Palazola, Ward Archer, Judy McCown and Steve Pacheco. Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, and Randal Rushing, director of the Scheidt School of Music, also served on the committee along with Patty Bladon, CCFA director of development, and Todd Stricklin, until recently the Scheidt School's director of development.

The 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award was made possible, in part, by the generous support of Carol and Mike Palazola, The Scheidt Family Foundation, Inc., Sam Phillips Recording /Knox Music Inc., Elvis Presley Charitable Foundation, FedEx Corporation and The Memphis Music Foundation.

Point your QR code reader here or visit www.memphis.edu/uofm/videos to watch a video tribute to Kallen Esperian.





Above and right: Scenes from *Love in a Time of War*, performed at the University of Memphis in October. Photos by Curt Hart.

Love in a Time of War **Playwright Catherine Ladnier** **Visits University of Memphis**

The College of Communication and Fine Arts was honored to welcome playwright Catherine Ladnier for the opening of *Love in a Time of War* at the U of M's Studio Theatre this past October. The local premier included a playwright lecture during which Ladnier offered a rare glimpse of the play's origin and its backstory.

Love in a Time of War is based on letters written by servicemen and their loved ones during World War II and was co-written with Paul Janensch. The letters and other correspondence were saved by Ladnier's mother, Eva Lee Brown of Easley, South Carolina, and discovered after Brown passed away in 2001. The narrative reveals stories of hardship, involving love and romance during the war by ordinary men and women who met extraordinary challenges during this time. The written exchanges are candid, sad and sometimes funny. Men were facing the draft or were already in uniform; many saw action on the frontlines. Women, left behind at home, were lonely and dealing with shortages. The play paints poignant portraits of the personal side of war.





Dayton Contemporary Dance Company presented *Highest Praise* at the U of M's Michael D. Rose Theatre on November 10.



CCFA Brings Groundbreaking and Influential Contemporary Dance Companies to the University of Memphis

The College of Communication and Fine Arts presented Ohio-based Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) in November as part of a three-year Dance Touring Initiative grant. The College received the grant from South Arts, a regional arts partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

“This is an exceptional opportunity to bring world-class modern dance to the U of M,” says Moira Logan, associate dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts.

Preserving and performing the choreography of African-American dance artists, DCDC has achieved wide recognition for its ability to present contemporary dance of the highest caliber to the broadest possible audience. DCDC is one of the largest companies of its kind between Chicago and New York. Its performances seek to reach beyond borders uniting diverse audiences and providing a common ground for empathy, imagination, and the will to carry through.

During DCDC's residency at the University of Memphis, company members taught community master classes, engaged with students from the Stax Music Academy, students from CCFA's adopted schools Overton High and Colonial Middle, as well as students from University of Memphis Dance. *Highest Praise*, the one-night only performance at the

University's Michael D. Rose Theatre, drew a crowd of more than 800 people and included a live gospel choir from Memphis' New Olivet Baptist Church and the University of Memphis Gospel Singers, directed by Allen F. Todd (DMA '09), as well as dancers from the University. Earnestine Jenkins, U of M associate professor of art history, presented a pre-performance lecture about the work of Jacob Lawrence linking to one of the concert's choreographies, which was based on a series of Jacob Lawrence paintings. “It was great to witness how the performances and workshops enlivened the cultural climate and exposed students and the community to the vital art form of contemporary dance,” Logan notes.

This November, CCFA will feature David Dorfman Dance, considered one of the most influential American contemporary dance companies of the past two decades. Since its founding in 1985, David Dorfman Dance has performed extensively in New York City and throughout North and South America, Great Britain, and Europe, most recently in St. Petersburg and Krasnoyarsk in Russia and Bytom and Cracow in Poland. The company has been in residence at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut since 2007. David Dorfman and the company's dancers and artistic collaborators have been honored with eight “Bessies,” the New York Dance

and Performance Awards, as well as several fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, an American Choreographer's Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Prophets of Funk – Dance to the Music, the company's newest project, will be featured during its fall residency at the University of Memphis. *Prophets of Funk* is a dynamic engagement of movement driven by the popular—and populist—funk sounds of Sly and the Family Stone, an American rock, funk, and soul band from San Francisco that was essential in the development of soul, funk, and psychedelic music. Headed by singer, songwriter, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist Sly Stone, and including several of his family members and friends, the band was the first major American rock band to have an “integrated, multi-gender” lineup.

Prophets of Funk was previewed at Vanderbilt University in September 2010 and will be performed at venues across the country, including the Carpenter Performing Arts Center at California State University, Bates Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

The events at the University of Memphis are made possible in part by the Tennessee Arts Commission, South Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, and the U of M Student Event Allocation Committee.

Department of Architecture Opens Downtown Design Studio

In August, the Department of Architecture opened its Downtown Design Studio in Memphis' Uptown Neighborhood. The studio is a key element in the department's community engagement efforts. During fall 2010, fourth-year architecture students in two sections of the Architectural Design 5 Studio, taught by adjunct professors Andy Kitsinger and Jimmie Tucker, worked out of the new space. The department is working with the Memphis Center City Commission on a multi-year planning and design project. The studio space is provided by Henry Turley, local real estate developer and long-time supporter of the University of Memphis.

Students spent the first part of the fall semester preparing an urban design master plan for the Pinch and Uptown area including the identification of more than 20 potential development projects based on site context and market needs. The next phase was to develop an architectural design project that responded to one of the identified needs. Among the



The Department of Architecture's Downtown Design Studio in Memphis' Uptown Neighborhood.

development projects presented to the design jury were a hotel, two mixed-use projects including residential and commercial, a mixed-use transit-oriented development, a waterfront park, a mosque and community center complex, and an environmentally-focused charter school.

During the spring 2011 semester, graduate students in the Advanced Architectural Design Studio 2 taught by Michael Chisamore, director of the Center for Sustainable Design, and undergraduate architecture students in the Architectural Design 2 Studio taught by Michael Hagge,

chair of the Department of Architecture, will work on their assignments in the Downtown Studio. The graduate students will focus on continuing the work the department initiated with the Front Street Memphis Art Park and the undergraduate students will focus on the design of affordable, sustainable housing using data gathered from the TERRA residence and additional "green" structures. The work also builds on the "Ordinary to Extraordinary: Learning and Leading Green" project developed through a partnership with BRIDGES USA.



Platinum buildings are highly energy and resource efficient, provide superior indoor comfort for the building's occupants, and dramatically reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which is commonly thought to be a primary cause of global climate change. TERRA is the first residence in West Tennessee to receive the platinum rating.

TERRA House Receives LEED Platinum Rating

The TERRA (Technologically + Environmentally Responsible Residential Architecture) sustainable demonstration house received the LEED Platinum rating from the U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The LEED green-building rating system has four levels of certification: certified, silver, gold and platinum.

Located in downtown Memphis, TERRA was developed through the University of Memphis' Center for Sustainable Design by students from the Department of Architecture under faculty supervision and in partnership with Davis, Patrikios and Criswell Inc., the project's general contractor, as well as more than 55 businesses, such as Varco Pruden Buildings, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Other partners in the TERRA project include CowanHouse, LEED consultant; Steelcase Corp.; and the Uptown Partnership, which includes Belz Enterprises Inc., Henry Turley Realtors, the City of Memphis, and MLGW EcoBUILD. Key students involved in the project (Alžběta Bowden, LEED AP, Mario Walker, Mary Carroll, and Kate Bidwell, LEED AP) were recently recognized when the Department of Architecture received a national award from the Construction Specifications Institute for the amount of student involvement in the project. Michael Chisamore, RA, LEED AP, assistant professor of architecture and director of the Center for Sustainable Design, along with several students will continue to monitor the post-occupancy energy savings of TERRA for the next several years.

Community Art Academy Brings After-School Art Program to Neighborhood School

Three years ago, Donlayn Heise, associate professor of art education, several of her colleagues in the Department of Art, and the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM), collaborated on a four-month pilot project—a Saturday art academy for middle and high school students—at the Charles Powell Community Center in Southwest Memphis. Funded by an Access and Diversity grant from the Tennessee Board of Regents, Heise envisioned the project to become a permanent community art program. Now part of the undergraduate art education curriculum, the Community Art Academy is in its third year and just recently moved from the University Neighborhood District’s Davis Community Center to Lester School.

“We are excited to offer the Academy at Lester School this semester,” says Bryna Bobick, assistant professor of art education, who supervises the Academy with Heise. This first year at Lester, graduate and undergraduate art education students will be working with two of the school’s art teachers, University of Memphis alumni Jamin Carter and Jennifer Stone and co-teach with Bobick and Melody Weintraub, U of M instructor of art education. The Academy will be part of the school’s extra-curricular activities for fourth through eighth graders.

“This class is very much different than any of the required practices during which our students spend a whole semester with the art teacher at their placement and teach one lesson at the end of the term,” Bobick says. “For the Academy, we only set the broad theme, like “Sense of Place” for this spring. The students have to develop their own lesson plans and even though we are there to co-teach with them, we are really following their lead and their plans.”



Work created by Community Art Academy students.

Both Bobick and Heise know that especially their undergraduate students are very nervous about teaching during their junior year. However both professors feel strongly about getting students from theory to praxis as early as possible and say that no matter how hesitant students are at first, the experience is often transformative and makes the students more aware of what goes into teaching.

“One of my students admitted that she didn’t plan to apply for a job with Memphis City Schools,” Heise remembers. “After she taught in the Community Art Academy, she felt confident and competent to teach in any setting, which is exactly what we want to prepare our students for. Teaching is not about teaching at a great school, it’s about creating great schools.”

There are very few art education programs in the country that offer a similar opportunity to students. The U of M’s program is unique in that it provides reciprocal mentoring where art education faculty, undergraduate and graduate students work collaboratively and learn from each other.

“Through teaching in community settings, teachers and pre-service teachers are able to learn with youth,” Heise says. “In the process, they learn about their lives and therefore create meaningful learning opportunities, and possibly discover that these children teach us much more than we teach them.”



Richard Knowles in front of one of his paintings.

The faculty, students, alumni and staff of the College of Communication and Fine Arts acknowledge with great respect the passing of Richard Knowles, professor emeritus of art. Knowles died on December 7, after a long battle with heart disease and cancer. He taught painting in the Department of Art from 1966 to 1999.

Sketches and photographs of Greece, Borneo, Canadian coastlines, the bayous of the Deep South and mountains of Utah and New Mexico inspired many of his landscapes and abstract paintings. His aim as an artist was “to record the dynamic forces of the deserts, mountains, canyons, forests, and seas” he often visited. Water and rock in Knowles’ acrylics, water colors and charcoal drawings crash in all directions, spill over the edges and suggest powerful, complex emotions as well geologic rift and upheaval.

“The primary level of meaning in my landscapes is the existential experience of ‘being’—both on site and in the physical act of painting—engagement,” Knowles wrote in his *Thoughts About Landscape Painting* in 2003.

“He grew up amid the ‘power of now’ existentialists and beatniks, learning—and making sure his students learned—“thinking on your own,”” says his wife, Carol Knowles, an art critic for *The Memphis Flyer*. He took pride in bonding with his students and often invited them to his home for dinner or took them to art museums in his hometown Chicago, where tourists would frequently trail him as he spoke about the artwork.

An exhibition of Knowles’ work and that of the late professor Steve Langdon is planned for Fall 2011 at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis.



Otis Sanford.

Otis Sanford Takes Position of Hardin Chair of Excellence in Journalism

Otis Sanford, a veteran editor with *The Commercial Appeal*, is the new Helen and Jabie Hardin Chair of Excellence in Economics/Managerial Journalism. He began his appointment in January 2011. "I am very pleased that a senior journalist and community leader of Otis Sanford's experience and stature will occupy the Hardin Chair in Journalism," says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts.

Prior to joining the Department of Journalism, Sanford was editor of opinions and editorials for *The Commercial Appeal*, a position he has held since 2007. He previously served as the newspaper's managing editor from 2002 to 2007 and deputy managing editor from 1994 to 2002. From 1977 to 1987, Sanford worked as reporter and assistant metro editor for *The Commercial Appeal*. He also worked with *The Pittsburgh Press* as assistant city editor from 1987 to 1992 and with *The Detroit Free Press* as deputy city editor from 1992 to 1994.

He is nationally recognized as a speaker on journalism ethics, education, and the First Amendment and has lectured at colleges such as Vanderbilt, Indiana University, Florida A&M, and Hampton University.

"I am thrilled to be joining the faculty at the U of M, one of the major pillars in this community," Sanford says of his appointment. "Journalism education has always been one of my passions, and I have had a longstanding relationship with the U of M's journalism department. I see this as an opportunity to have a significant impact on the study and discussion of journalism in an urban setting."



(from left) John Koski, Candace "Candy" Justice, and Jess Bunn.

Journalism Honorees Credit U of M for Successful Careers

John Koski, Candace "Candy" Justice, and Jess Bunn, the three honorees recognized by the Journalism Alumni Club on November 4 at the annual awards event, have one thing in common: Each credited the University of Memphis as critical to their success.

"They shared in common the belief that the U of M journalism department went above and beyond the call of duty in preparing them for their outstanding careers in the field," says Dan Hope, board president for the journalism alumni club and senior communications specialist at Memphis Light Gas & Water. "They also credited time spent on journalism school-related activities such as working at *The Daily Helmsman*, working on projects with fellow students, internships at area media, and the overall nurturing atmosphere and encouragement they experienced," he notes.

Bunn and Koski received the Charles E. Thornton Outstanding Alumni Award, while Justice was honored with the Herbert Lee Williams Award. "We had three very deserving honorees this year," Hope says. "Their distinguished careers only serve to confirm that the University of Memphis delivers on its promises of quality education."

Bunn graduated in 1974 and is now manager of financial and corporate communications for investor relations for FedEx, where he has worked for the past 14 years. Prior to joining investor relations, Bunn specialized in media relations and reputation management. His teams won numerous public relations awards, including the Silver Anvil, Bronze Anvil and Big Apple. He also received the prestigious FedEx Five Star Award.

Koski graduated from the University of Memphis in 1988 and has served as vice president and general manager of FOX13 WHBQ-TV and *MyFOXMemphis.com* since 2000. He began his career as an intern at WHBQ while still at the U of M, eventually becoming a member of the station's sports team and then moving to promotions and programming. A 2010 graduate of Leadership Memphis, Koski was inducted into Shelby County Schools Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009.

Justice, who graduated from the Department of Journalism with a master's degree in 1992, began her career at the *Press-Scimitar*, where she worked as a reporter covering everything from crime to fashion. She began teaching at the U of M as an adjunct instructor in 1985, and in 1992 became an assistant professor of journalism and general manager of *The Daily Helmsman*. She still holds those positions.

— by Tom Hrach



Professors Pu-Qi Jiang and Lawrence Edwards and their orchestra receive standing ovations after the Music School's 10th anniversary performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 2.

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Mahler's Symphony No. 2

Every seat was filled in Harris Concert Hall on November 1 and not a mite of space left on stage. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Scheidt School of Music, Pu-Qi Jiang, professor of orchestral studies and maestro of the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra, had chosen Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*, considered one of the Bohemian-Austrian composer's greatest works. The performance featured the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra, the University Singers, and soloists Trisha Phillips Huntley and Kristin Vienneau, all on stage at the same time. "More than 130 of our students who are from at least 30 states and 14 different countries performed together that night," Jiang notes.

The evening was a genuine showcase of the School's growth during the past ten years, celebrating the "resurrection" of the Department of Music into a School of Music thanks to a multimillion-dollar gift from Rudi E. Scheidt and his wife Honey Hohenberg Scheidt in 2000. "We are extremely grateful to Honey and Rudi Scheidt for their support and their involvement with the School of Music," says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. "So many of the School's programs and students have benefitted from the Scheidt's naming gift and continued generosity."

When Scheidt took the floor that evening, he had hoped to find R.C. Johnson, University of Memphis athletic director, in the audience. "Just like his team, our team needs a bigger, state-of-the-art court to play. His player's locker rooms are our player's practice rooms. I wish he would come and watch us play some time," Scheidt remarked good-humoredly, indicating the School's need for more space and a larger auditorium, plans for which have been delayed due to the nation's current economic situation.

The Scheidts' passion for the arts is obvious. He is former president of Opera Memphis and has served on the boards of the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, the Memphis Arts Council, New York's Metropolitan Opera, and the Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission, as well as the College of Communication and Fine Arts Advisory Board and University of Memphis Board of Visitors. Honey Scheidt was instrumental in establishing the University's Institute

of Egyptian Art & Archaeology and the Dorothy Kayser Hohenberg Chair of Excellence in Art History. She also helped bring the *Ramessees the Great* exhibition to Memphis in 1987, which led to the creation of Memphis' Wonders™ exhibitions. In 2001, the state of Tennessee awarded the Scheidts the Governor's Award for Arts Leadership, the highest honor given to supporters of the arts. Rudi Scheidt was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Memphis in 2007.

"The Scheidts are true advocates for the arts and their involvement is a great and rewarding experience for all of us," says Randal Rushing, director of the Scheidt School of Music. "We value their support and presence, and they know that they are always welcome. Both Rudi and Honey are known to frequently attend rehearsals and student recitals without any sort of special invitation. Our doors are always open for them."

According to Jiang, there are not many Schools of Music who would attempt to perform Mahler's Symphony No. 2. "I came to the University of Memphis in 2000, when the Department of Music became the School of Music," Jiang says. "Back then we couldn't have attempted to stage this symphony." To celebrate the School's inception ten years ago, Jiang presented Howard Hanson's Symphony No. 2, *Romantic*. For the performance, he filled the same stage at Harris Concert Hall with 60 musicians, a mix of students and "borrowed" talent from the community. The Department and now the School of Music has been in the same building since the 1960s. Since then, its faculty and students have more than doubled, degrees are offered in 29 areas of concentration, such as music performance (voice and instrument), music education, and music industry. It is Tennessee's only doctoral degree-granting program in music.

"Of course, a new building, included in the University's master plan as a state-of-the-art music center, will be a major accomplishment and mark a new beginning for the School of Music, but the delay is not slowing down our development in other areas," Rushing notes. "We have become very creative in adapting the current space to our needs, staging world-class performances in an auditorium that we have clearly outgrown, and creating a wonderfully vibrant environment for our stu-

dents and faculty as well as for our audience and the community.”

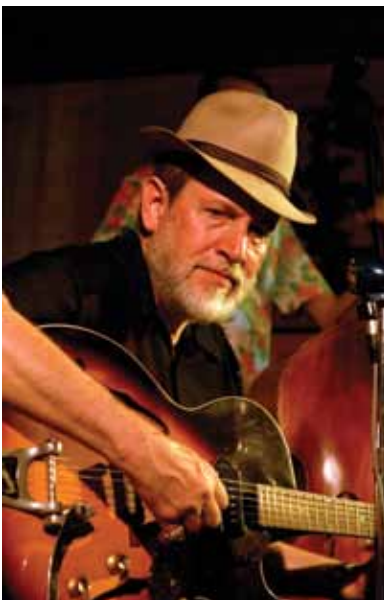
The study of music at the University of Memphis dates back to 1912, when it was recognized as a “specialized area of study” at then West Tennessee Normal School. A music department was established in 1947 and by 1962 both the bachelor of music and master of music degrees were offered. The doctorate in music was established in 1970 and the commercial music program in 1980.

Rushing points out that the School of Music’s mission is two-fold. The goal is not only to turn students into top-notch musicians, but to also provide an education that will land them a job after they graduate.

“Our students have a track record of winning prestigious competitions, which speaks to their musical excellence in performance. However, these same students may also focus on music education or music business and recording technology in their studies, which will help provide greater job opportunities once they graduate,” Rushing states.

Community involvement and arts advocacy is another aspect that Rushing emphasizes with students and faculty. “The Scheidts are a great example when it comes to arts advocacy and our students and faculty are a vital part of the Greater Memphis arts community as well. Practically every day during the semester we invite the community on campus for our performances, but we also step out into the community for guest performances, teaching, lectures, and concerts.”

The impact of the Scheidts’ gift on the School of Music hasn’t changed during the past decade. When the transformation of the Department of Music was announced more than a decade ago, then doctorate student Rachel Tucker said: “The most important thing that Honey and Rudi Scheidt have done for the University of Memphis is to believe in us. From the young artist’s standpoint, to have a man like Rudi Scheidt—who obviously knows how to make a good investment—invest in us, not only with his time and his heart, but now with this incredible gift—well, actually, I don’t have words for that.”



David Evans. Photo by Michel Verlinden.

Fulbright Grant Allows David Evans to Connect Ethiopian and African-American Music

He’d travel across the world to share his love of music, and thanks to a Fulbright Specialist grant, now he can. After more than a year of preparation, David Evans, professor of ethnomusicology, will travel to Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia to boost its music program and lecture on U.S. folk music, concentrating on African-American music and its ties to traditional African music.

During the seven-week trip, which began in early February, Evans plans to “bring more of an international perspective to their study of folklore and music.” Current programs at Bahir Dar examine Ethiopian material, but not necessarily international influences on music.

“They do a lot of research, study and teaching about Ethiopian folklore and music, but the students need, of course, also a broad, international perspective and that’s what I hope I can promote over there,” Evans says. “In other words, expand the horizons of the project to make it more visible on the world’s scene.”

Understanding the relationship between music and a culture is fascinating to Evans, and if not for his curiosity about music, he would have taken a different path in life.

“You could say that [when] you are drawn to something, and you want to know as much as you can about it in addition to just pure appreciation of it, you become a scholar,” he notes.

Lately, he has listened and learned about Ethiopian music and the local language, Amharic, to prepare for his trip and to craft his lectures.

Evans will work as a consultant to improve the University’s Amhara Region Culture and Development Research Center, by growing programs in ethnomusicology and the study of music and its relation to a region’s culture.

Since 1946, the Fulbright Specialist program has linked U.S. scholars and professionals with post-secondary international academic institutions in more than 155 countries.

Each year, approximately 2,500 people are on the specialist roster, but only 350 grants are awarded per year. — by *Laura Fenton*

Point your QR code reader here or visit www.memphis.edu/uofmvideos to see a portion of the November 1 performance of Gustav Mahler’s *Symphony No.2, Resurrection* by the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Pu-Qi Jiang.



Department of Theatre & Dance Launches Musical Theatre Program this Fall

“To be clear, musical theatre has been done at the University of Memphis since Keith Kennedy’s legendary production of *Hair* in 1970,” says Robert Hetherington, chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance. “What’s new is that we will offer a musical theatre curriculum that includes intensive studies in dance, theatre, music and musical theatre. Students will have to audition to be admitted into the program, which accepts its first 15 undergraduate students this fall.”

Hetherington clearly wants to set new standards for musical theatre at the University of Memphis, which just recently secured the rights to stage *The Phantom of the Opera*, the longest running musical of all time as part of its 2011/12 season. The department has steadily increased its training in musical theatre and a full production season of musicals and plays is mounted every year. Since the celebrated staging of *Sweeney Todd* in 2000, the department has collaborated with the University’s Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music every other year on a major musical theatre project. In alternate years, the department has produced smaller musicals, many of which have won Ostrander Awards, the Memphis theatre award, which is given annually to honor excellence in the Greater Memphis theatre community.

“For us, offering a program in musical theatre makes sense from a heritage point of view as well as a professional point of view,” Hetherington notes. “Memphis is known for its vibrant music scene and the University’s Scheidt School of Music has a reputation for excellence, which makes the program a great fit. Professionally, we want to maximize the employment opportunities for our students. A performer who can act, sing, and dance tremendously increases his chances of finding a job right out of college.”

Musical theatre, a 20th century invention, is considered America’s contribution to world



Top: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* was part of the University’s 2007/08 theatre season. Above: *The Spitfire Grill* was part of the University’s 2008/09 theatre season.

theatre. Artistically, it is America’s most successful and lucrative export. According to the English writer, broadcaster, and musicologist Andrew Lamb, the triumph of American works over European in the first decades of the twentieth century came about against a changing social background. The operatic and theatrical styles of nineteenth-century social structures were replaced by a musical style more aptly suited to twentieth-century society and its style. It was from America that the more direct approach emerged, and in America that it was able to flourish in a developing society less prejudiced by nineteenth-century tradition.

“We are not attempting to be like the programs at the University of Michigan or the University of Cincinnati,” Hetherington says. “Our training compares to similar programs at Elon University or Otterbein University. It will provide undergraduate students with a focus in musical theatre and allow them to be competitive when entering the job market and is of particular interest in Tennessee, where no other bachelor’s degree in musical theatre is currently available.”

Professional employment for musical theatre positions today far exceeds other theatre employment opportunities combined, and training in musical theatre provides a solid foundation upon which students can develop multiple career paths. Furthermore, musicals multiply the collaborative aspect innate to theatre.

“Teamwork is one of the exciting and challenging necessities of theatre,” Hetherington points out. “Musicals add several dimensions to theatre’s natural collaborative spirit with choreography and musical scores. The challenge for both director and performer is that it has to be perfect on every level—dancing, singing and acting all have to be exceptional for a musical to really come together.”

Celebrating the University’s 100th anniversary with Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Phantom of the Opera*, which will open in the Mainstage Theatre on February 16, 2012, is surely destined to be one of the most exciting events in “Big Red” since the University’s production of *Hair*.



Art Museum Collaborates With Performance Artist Nick Cave to Engage Community in *Memphis Heavyweight* Project

Memphis Heavyweight is a collaborative project initiated by the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) and guest artist Nick Cave, a Chicago-based interdisciplinary artist working between sculpture, installation, performance, video, designed objects, and fashion, who is best known for the creation of his signature “Soundsuits.”

Soundsuits, named for the sounds they make when worn, are full-body sculptural performance costumes made of recycled materials such as twigs, buttons, toys, bottle caps, packaging, stray socks, and potholders. Cave’s conceptual modes of expression explore issues of life, ceremony, ritual, myth and identity. Combining the aesthetics of West African spiritual objects with the materiality of Western culture, Soundsuits traverse the fields of contemporary art, fashion, and performance art.

The New York Times described his Soundsuits as “Must Be Seen to Be Believed.”

“Nick Cave conceived *Memphis Heavyweight*, the somewhat provocative title of this very collaborative and unrestrained project,” says Leslie Luebbers, director of the Art Museum. “The project is essentially a shared creative interpretation of this title, for which we invited groups from the University of Memphis as well as the community at large.”

The Art Museum will be workspace for *Memphis Heavyweight* from mid-March to mid-April. Participating groups and community partners will create costumes, develop media, choreograph street dance sequences and create music in the museum’s space while the public can view the progress. Finished artwork, including photographs and videos of performances, will be exhibited at AMUM July 16 through September 28.

“Soundsuits are channels of transformation aimed at connecting people to the earth and everything around them,” Luebbers notes. “*Memphis Heavyweight* shares this spirit, it is aimed at connecting people to Memphis and everything around them.”

Current community partners include Memphis’ Overton High School, The Natural Learning School, Hutchison School, and Art for Life’s Sake.

Soundsuit, 2010, Nick Cave. Photo by James Prinz, Chicago, courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

About Nick Cave

Nick Cave, professor and chair of the fashion department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, was born in Jefferson City, Missouri. He graduated with a BFA from Kansas City Art Institute in 1982 and an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan in 1989, and is a former dancer with the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre.

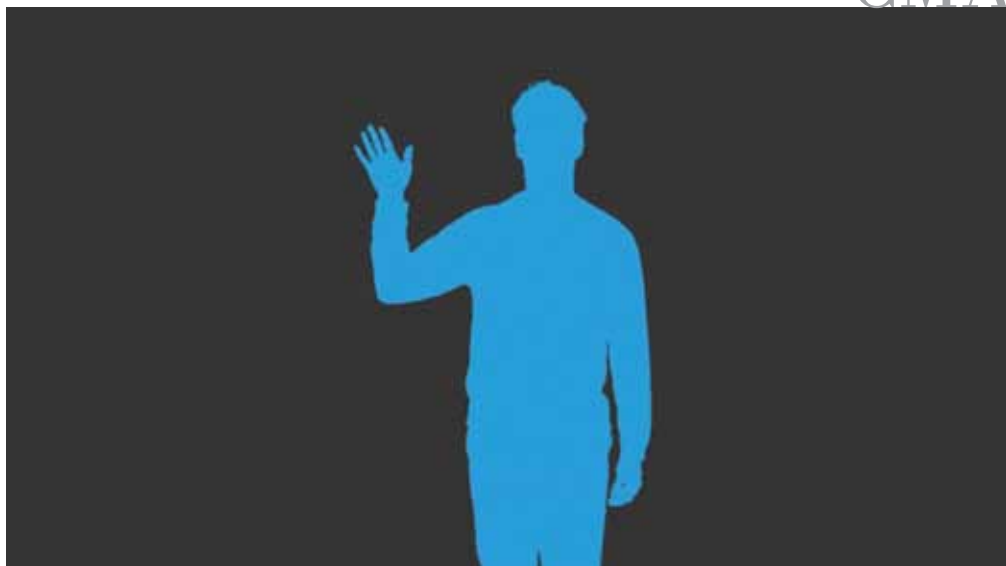
Cave has built a reputation as an educator and a performance artist, especially with his ritualistic Soundsuits. The most recent exhibition of his sculptural costumes, “Meet Me at the Center of the Earth,” is touring the country to great acclaim. Cave is represented by Jack Shainman Gallery in New York City.

Center for Multimedia Arts is Among Leading Innovators with Pioneering Ideas to Improve the Lives of Children

The Center for Multimedia Arts (CMA), in partnership with the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth (OECY), is among a small group of innovators from an international field to outline game-changing proposals to significantly improve the well-being of children. The results are now available in “Big Ideas: Game-Changers for Children,” a compilation of creative solutions to help develop a national agenda for children's rights, published by First Focus, a D.C.-based, bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families a priority in federal policy and budget decisions. First Focus provides copies of “Big Ideas” to all members of Congress, their staffs, candidates for federal office, the media, the children's advocacy community, and state advocates.

In their essay, “Change in Sight: Child Well-Being As a Policy Development Framework,” Michael Schmidt, CMA director and University of Memphis associate professor of art, and Julie Coffey, OECY deputy director, detail a strategy to improve circumstances and opportunities for children in the Mid-South by creating and implementing SHELBY Child Impact Assessment (Safety, Health, Education, and Land-use decisions on Behalf of children and Youth), a web-based software application that gives emphasis to the needs of children and families in policy planning and evaluation. SHELBY is administered by OECY, which partnered with the CMA to design and develop the application.

SHELBY version 2.0 was released to Shelby County users last December and will soon be adopted by Memphis’ city offices and agencies. The latest version is a significant makeover with greater capabilities thanks to the CMA’s new collaborations with EmergeMemphis’ Coroutine, LLC



Screen shots from the SHELBY Child Impact Assessment introductory and instructional video.

and the University of Memphis’ College of Engineering’s Center for Partnerships in GIS (Geographic Information System).

Schmidt and Coffey presented their briefing to Tennessee’s Select Committee on Children & Youth and are invited to present before the Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth and the 2011 Forum of Voices for America’s Children, held in Memphis this June. Visit www.shelbychildimpact.org for more information.

Also in partnership with Shelby County’s OECY, the CMA is producing a documen-

tary on efforts to mitigate infant mortality in Memphis and Shelby County. The project highlights the work of government, non-profit, and faith-based agencies tackling the infant mortality problem with innovative programs, dedicated staff and participants. The documentary, scheduled for release this spring, shows a response to the local infant mortality crisis from several perspectives—from individuals who are directly affected by the problem to professional caregivers, community activists and elected officials.

Point your QR code reader here or visit www.memphis.edu/uofmvideos to watch an overview of how the SHELBY Child Impact Assessment process helps planners and policymakers consider the needs of children in their projects and proposals.



Advancing the Creative Process



The University of Memphis depends a great deal upon the generosity and commitment of friends and alumni to help achieve success in its mission of teaching, research and service to the community. Such support and assistance is of significant value to the College of Communication and Fine Arts and its faculty and student actors, musicians, artists and writers. This issue of *Voices* features a look back at the decade since Memphian Rudi E. Scheidt, Sr. provided a generous endowment to the Department of Music bringing its status to that of School of Music within the College. His gift has elevated the profile and extended the reputation of the School of Music, as well as that of the University itself, across the nation and within music circles worldwide.

During this spring semester alone, there are more than fifty concerts, opera productions, recitals and music festivals to be staged in Harris Concert Hall. For most of these, admission is free, and all are open to the public. From student musicians to faculty ensembles and renowned guest artists, the Scheidt School of Music literally teems with talent. Where else in this “city of music” can one enjoy a duo piano recital featuring an International Chopin Piano Competition winner (Bertrand Giraud) and an acclaimed faculty pianist (Victor Asunción)? Where throughout this entire region can audiences attend a full week of the highest quality jazz concerts every spring, including groups such as the Southwest Horns, featuring five of the top saxophonists in the U. S., and our own Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra, fresh from performing before the National Jazz Educators conference in New Orleans, highlighting incredible guest artist Rahsaan Barber? If you love music—of any genre or time period—you need look no farther than the University of Memphis campus. The Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music has it all—and all is top notch, due in great part to the commitment of Rudi and Honey Scheidt and family.

Top-notch instructional programs attract the attention of high-ability students. These students are looking at colleges and universities across the country for scholarship opportunities that offer the highest quality academic experience. In recent months, Seth McGaughran has established the Mary S. McGaughran Scholarship in Musical Theatre in memory of his late wife. This new fund supports musical theatre studies, a dynamic field that provides the best training for students with career aspirations in the world of stage and screen. Mr. and Mrs. McGaughran took great pleasure in attending musical theatre productions, near their home in Gainesville. Having already created a scholarship in Sociology and History at the University of Memphis in memory of his son Matthew (BA '86), McGaughran determined that the musical theatre program would be an appropriate choice for his new scholarship gift. As a major boost to the scholarship, he thoughtfully established a lucrative second fund, which, for a period of time, is the source of a 2:1 matching gift for every contribution made to the scholarship fund. We hope you will consider a gift today to the Mary S. McGaughran Scholarship—your gift will be doubled, and you will help the fund grow even more rapidly to benefit deserving and talented students.

Seth McGaughran’s investment in our students surely will be showcased in February, 2012, when the U of M will stage the Mid-South’s first collegiate production of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *The Phantom of the Opera*, the longest running Broadway musical of all time. No doubt that the diligent efforts to secure the rights to produce *Phantom* were bolstered by McGaughran’s generous gift to the musical theatre program.

Make your own investment in the future of the University of Memphis and its students, and please know that every gift, regardless of amount, is valuable and deeply appreciated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Bladon".

Patty Bladon
Director of Development
901.678.4372
pbladon@memphis.edu

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Richard Ranta

Richard Ranta Receives Silver Medal Award

Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, received the 2011 Silver Medal award from the local chapter of the American Advertising Federation (AAF Memphis). Rikki Boyce, past Silver Medal honoree and local marketing and advertising expert, presented the award. "In addition to his many achievements, it's important to remember that his college transforms students into the young professionals we need to advance our advertising world, along with the musicians, actors, singers and artists that we need to thrive. Perhaps that is the most important thing of all," Boyce said during the awards luncheon on January 27.

Journalism Students Help Ford Motor Co. Promote Its Fiesta Automobile

Journalism seniors **Joe Walz, Frank Hanlon, Jeremy Kyle, Tameisha Vaughn, Brittney Block, Allison Boone, Kendyl Mauney, Kevin Keenmonare,** and **Martina Igberaese**, assisted Ford Motor Company in marketing the automaker's new Fiesta automobile. The students are one of three participating groups in the Ford internship program, and are part of an advertising class taught by Sandra Utt, associate professor of journalism. The other groups are from Vanderbilt University and Mississippi State University.

Last year during March Madness 19,000 Tiger basketball fans saw a commercial that the students filmed and produced, when it was played on the Jumbotron at the FedEx Forum. The next step in the campaign was a photo contest in November with the theme, "Where Would You Go With Your Fiesta?" The students

have worked with Retail First, Team Detroit, creating a social media campaign to increase awareness of the new car. They were responsible for research, submitting proposals, managing a budget, and implementing their ideas via social media.

"Nobody involved in the project will get a prize or any compensation from it," Utt says, "but the students are getting wonderful experience in designing and executing an advertising campaign. That experience will prove invaluable when they graduate and enter the 'real world' of advertising."



Master of Architecture students **Mario Walker** (l.) and **Jerry Coleman** (r.) with **James Williamson**, associate professor of architecture.

Master of Architecture Students Win in International Design Competition

First year Master of Architecture students **Jerry Coleman** and **Mario Walker** were among the winners in the Playable10 ART category of the Playable10 International Design Competition for a creative playground in downtown Atlanta. Coleman was the runner-up and Walker received one of two honorable mention awards. The other categories were Playable10 SITE and Playable10 DIY. Both students completed their projects in the graduate architecture design studio taught by **James Williamson**. Students and practicing architects were eligible for the competition. Coleman completed his Bachelor of Environmental Design degree at Texas A+M University where he also earned a Master of Science in Construction Science. Walker completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture degree at the University of Memphis.



David Appleby (left) and **Craig Leake** (right) during the filming of *Beyond Babyland*.

Appleby and Leake Win Regional Emmy for Documentary

Professors **Craig Leake** and **David Appleby** won a regional Emmy for Best Writing for their 2010 documentary *Beyond Babyland*, which explores the complex issue of infant mortality in Memphis. The film also received Emmy nominations for Best Documentary, Directing and Editing.

One of Leake's latest works, *The Nurse*, won an audience award during the 13th annual Indie Memphis Film Festival in 2010. Additionally, Leake and his 17-year-old daughter Mackenzie collaborated on a documentary about Mackenzie's year-long confrontation with her fear of driving. *Don't Make Me Start This Car!* is a charming essay on the need to choose which risks are acceptable in life. The half-hour documentary was broadcast by WKNO-TV and will appear on other public television stations in Tennessee. Both Appleby and Leake have won several prestigious filmmaking awards, including Emmys, George Foster Peabody Awards, and CINE Golden Eagles, among others. Two of Appleby's award-winning films (*At the River I Stand* and *Hoxie: The First Stand*) have also aired on WKNO.

U of M Recording *Blues in Black & White* Benefits Music Maker Relief Foundation

The University of Memphis' blues, jazz and gospel record label **High Water Records** and student-run **Blue T.O.M. Records** have collaborated for a rare blues album benefiting needy local musicians.

Blues in Black & White, which was released in December, features 10 cover songs managed by the University's Music River Publishing company (BMI). It was recorded and produced by Music Industry Program students and local musicians. The CD, which benefits the Music Maker Relief Foundation (MMRF) is also

News & Notes

intended to raise awareness for the High Water catalog and bring attention to the plight of elderly musicians throughout the region.

While the High Water recordings have been distributed for the past 20 years, they didn't always get maximum exposure. Recently the songs have spiked in popularity, appearing in Craig Brewer's *Black Snake Moan* as well as in international films and commercials.

"A few CDs in the catalog were being sold through a third party distributor, but nothing was being done with the rest of the songs," says senior music business major **Nick Black**, who was president of Blue T.O.M. during the project. "Some of the songs are absolutely amazing, too."

"About halfway through the recording of everything, which was done entirely by students, we all realized that this could be something big, and we all agreed to find a cause that our new album of covers could stand behind," Black notes.



Ann Marie Gideon as Bianca with Neal A. Ghant as Lucentio in Georgia Shakespeare's *Shrew: the Musical*, for which professor emeritus Douglas Koertge designed the costumes. Photo by Bill DeLoach.

Ann Marie Gideon Hits Her Stride with Georgia Shakespeare

In just her first season with the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, **Ann Marie Gideon** (BFA '09) has been nominated for a Suzi Bass Award,

the Atlanta professional theatre award. She was nominated for Outstanding Featured Actress for her performance as Bianca in *Shrew: The Musical*. "I'm incredibly honored to be nominated, especially as a new actor in a new city," Gideon says. "Georgia Shakespeare and the Atlanta theatre community are so wonderful. I'm very proud to be part of it." Gideon is currently a member of the company's Will Power Ensemble, the heart of Georgia Shakespeare's "Will on Wheels School Tour." "The Will on Wheels Tour is really inspirational," Gideon notes. "It challenges me daily as an actor and a person. We're able to bring the theatre arts to children as young as 5 and as old as 18." As a member of WPE, Gideon also performed in all three mainstage shows of the Georgia Shakespeare's summer season.



Model funerary boat Middle Kingdom ca. 2,000-2,200 B.C. from the collections of the Institute of Egyptian Art & Archaeology at the University of Memphis. Edward and Suzanne Trezevant Little Fund.

IEAA Part of Exhibition at Tennessee State Museum

The Institute of Egyptian Art & Archaeology is part of an exhibition at the Tennessee State Museum, entitled *Egyptian Relics, Replicas & Revivals: Treasures from Tutankhamun*. The exhibition features ancient artifacts from the Institute of Egyptian Art & Archaeology and beautifully detailed replicas presented in the International Museum Institute of New York (IMINY) traveling exhibition, *Tutankhamun: "Wonderful Things" from the Pharaoh's Tomb*. This is the first collaboration of the University of Memphis with the Tennessee State Museum and the Frank H. McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The three-part exhibition, looking at the art, history, and culture of ancient Egypt and its influence on Tennessee, opened at the Tennessee State Museum on February 27 and continues until September 4, 2011.

Remembering John Dye

The faculty, students, alumni and staff of the College of Communication and Fine Arts acknowledge with great respect the sudden passing of John Dye (BFA '96). Dye, a Mississippi native and alumnus of the Department of Theatre & Dance, died on January 10 in his home in San Francisco. He was best known for his role of Andrew, the helpful white-suited "Angel of Death" in the popular television series *Touched by an Angel*.

"John was one the department's very best friends," says Robert Hetherington, chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance. "The University was always remembered in the many interviews he gave and many of our students were the beneficiaries of his generous, but always anonymous, assistance with tuition bills. His performance of *Love Letters* on our stage with Melissa Gilbert raised scholarship funds for our students. However, what I remember most in our too few hours together is his sincerity and his gift to make other people the center of every conversation."

Dye, oldest brother of Voices of the South Artistic Director Jerre Dye (BFA '93), fell in love with acting while starring in a high school production of *The Sound of Music*. After graduating from high school he enrolled at Mississippi State University certain to become a civil rights lawyer. In 1983, after a year at Mississippi State, he decided to become an actor after all and transferred to the Department of Theatre & Dance at then Memphis State University.

"John served on our Advisory Board and was always willing to help in anyway he could," says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. "Besides his kindness, generosity and wonderful personality, what I really appreciated was John's commitment to his education, pursuing and receiving his BFA degree even while starring in film and television."

While in Memphis, Dye played the role of Skip, in the Judd Nelson film *Making the Grade* (1984), which was filmed at Rhodes College. He left Memphis to pursue other film roles and, in 1986, starred alongside Virginia Madsen and Cynthia Gibb in the comedy *Modern Girls*. In 1987 he played the character of Todd Barrett in *Campus Man*, which was



John Dye with *Touched by an Angel* co-stars Della Reese (middle) and Roma Downey (left). Photo by Cliff Lipson.

his first leading role. The same year, he re-teamed with Nelson in the television mini-series *Billionaire Boys Club*, and in 1989 he starred alongside actors James Earl Jones and Eric Roberts in the martial-arts drama *Best of the Best*. While pursuing his acting career, Dye worked intermittently for more than 10 years on his college degree and, in 1996, graduated from the University of Memphis with a BFA in theatre performance.

In the 1990s Dye made a move towards television. He was cast as Private Francis "Doc Hoc" Hockenbury in the last season of *Tour of Duty*, and played starring roles in *Hotel Malibu* and *Jack's Place* before taking on the role of Andrew the "Angel of Death" in *Touched by an Angel* in 1994. First cast as a recurring

character, Dye became a regular cast member of the show during its third season, which aired in 1996/97. The series was nominated for eleven Primetime Emmy Awards between 1997 and 2000. It was also nominated for three Golden Globe Awards, and won Outstanding Drama Series in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Throughout his career, Dye maintained strong ties to the University of Memphis and his family, parents Jim and Lynn who live in Mississippi and younger brothers Jamey and Jerre who live in Tennessee. In 2001, Dye was honored with the College of Communication and Fine Arts' Distinguished Achievement Award in the Creative and Performing Arts.

Point your QR code reader here or visit
www.commercialappeal.com to read a story from
The Commercial Appeal about the late John Dye.



Faculty, Staff, Students & Alumni

Faculty News

ARCHITECTURE

Jennifer Barker, adjunct professor of architecture, and **Michael Chisamore**, assistant professor of architecture, each presented a paper at the Design Communication Association Bi-Annual Conference hosted by Montana State University. Michael Chisamore was also named Intern Development Coordinator for the Department of Architecture. In addition, he will work with students in the Interior Design Experience Program.

Jennifer Barker (MArch, University of Memphis, BArch, University of Tennessee), **Josh Jackson** (MArch, University of Texas, MArch and BArch, Tulane University), **Andy Kitsinger** (MCRP University of Memphis, BArch University of Arkansas), **Joe Moore** (MArch, University of Tennessee), and **Jenna Thompson** (MArch, University of Memphis, BArch and BInterior Architecture, Auburn University), have joined the adjunct faculty of the Department of Architecture.

Sherry Bryan, associate professor of architecture, and **Michael Chisamore**, assistant professor of architecture, along with adjunct professors **Jenna Thompson** and **Jennifer Barker** received a grant from the University of Memphis "Green Fee" to design and build a recycling center on the main campus. The center, to be located just west of Jones Hall, will serve as a prototype for other locations on and off campus. It will include recycled steel donated by the Office of the Shelby County Trustee, Xeriscaping, and other sustainable features. Architecture honors students **Megan Hoover**, **Colby Mitchell**, and **Ben Vega** are also working on the project. Sherry Bryan, Jenna Thompson and Jennifer Barker, along with Megan Hoover also presented their collaborative work at the **Creative-Making Forum** at the University of Oklahoma.

Michael Hage, chair of the Department of Architecture, and **Sherry Bryan** participated in the annual Leadership Conference of the

Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) in Washington, D.C. Among the areas of discussion were the new accreditation regulations and procedures of the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) and changes in the various state requirements relative to architectural registration.

Tom Mason, assistant professor of architecture, and **Tim Michael**, instructor of architecture, and research associate **Holly Hendrix** (BFA '10) completed *Old Town New Life* under a Strengthening Communities Grant. The project focuses on the revitalization of Old Town Millington, Tennessee, and is the culmination of a two-year planning and design process. The project involved undergraduate students in the studio taught by professor Michael in addition to several graduate students. The team collaborated with Millington Community Court Services and the City of Millington.

The Department of Architecture and the Office of Student Disability Services at the University of Memphis co-sponsored **Portrait of Spirit: One Story at a Time** an exhibition of black and white photographs highlighting the individuality of twenty-five individuals with disabilities, banishing common perceptions about those who live with disabilities. The exhibition in the U of M's University Center is part of the Southern Arts + Culture Traveling Exhibits Program and was coordinated by **Chere Doiron**, assistant professor of interior design.

ART

Mariam Ayad, associate professor of art (Egyptology), along with graduate students **Rachel Benkowski** and **Sarah Krueger**, traveled to Egypt, to work with the Italian Mission on the Theban Tomb of Hawra (TT 37) located in the Asasif cemetery on the Theban Western bank. Both graduate students were awarded scholarships from the Study Abroad Office to help support their work.

Bryna Bobick, assistant professor of art (art education), had work included in the Knoxville Arts & Culture Alliance's National Juried Exhibi-

tion of 2010. She chaired and presented at the Art Education Forum at the Southeastern College Art Association Conference in Richmond, Virginia, and together with her father, Bruce Bobick, exhibited work in the Roush Family Gallery at the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center in Georgia.

David Horan, instructor of photography, together with his collaborative partner, **Petr Lysacek**, installed two exhibitions in Prague last October. "2x8x16" was a mini retrospective of their collaborations during the past 16 years was installed at The American Center of the US Embassy. "Who's Holy," a new collaborative work was installed at the Brooks Galerie in Prague. Horan presented a gallery talk at The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, during its William Christenberry exhibition. Together with **Chris Fitzgerald**, undergraduate student in art, he took photographs of American architect's Paul R. Williams's buildings for the exhibition "Paul Revere Williams, American Architect" at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis.

Richard Lou, chair of the Department of Art, visited Chinle High School for a two-day installation art project with some of the school's students. Chinle High School is located in an unincorporated area of Apache County, Arizona. The school is the only high school in the Chinle Unified School District and serves several unincorporated areas in Apache County, including Chinle, Lukachukai, Many Farms, Rough Rock, Tsaile, and some areas considered to be Nazlini. The areas the school serves are within the Navajo Nation. Lou arranged the trip to Dinéah after two young musicians from Chinle stayed with his family over the summer while attending the Stax Records Music Academy in Memphis. Lou also had work exhibited in The University of Mississippi's Gallery 130. "Richard Lou - Stories On My Back" was a mixed media installation that is based on the stories Lou's father would share with his family. The exhibition included photographs, video and ceremonial columns covered in cornhusks.

Greely Myatt, professor of art (sculpture), had his work included in *Americanana*, a group

exhibition at the Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery at Hunter College. In a review by *The New York Times*, the exhibition is described as a “smart group show, with its spit-and-polish ‘Antiques Roadshow’ look, coming at an apt moment, as various constituencies across the political spectrum, out of hope, anger or nostalgia, claim something called America as their own. The artists in the exhibition make no such claim, but they clearly understand that the very concept is a loaded one.”

Melody Weintraub, adjunct professor of art (art education), gave a lecture at the University of Memphis about her experience of being in the film *The Blind Side*, which starred academy award winner Sandra Bullock.

COMMUNICATION

Marina Levina joined the faculty of the Department of Communication as assistant professor. She has received a PhD in communication from the Institute of Communication Research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2006. Before coming to Memphis, she was a faculty member in the Media Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on critical studies of science, technology and medicine, network and new media theory, visual culture, and media studies. Recently, Levina was interviewed by *nature*, the international weekly journal of science, for an article on advances in personal genomics and citizen bioscience.

Sandra Sarkela, interim chair of the Department of Communication and associate professor of communication, received the 2010 Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award from the Tennessee Communication Association (TCA). Sarkela’s essay “Mercy Otis Warren’s Contribution to the Rhetorical Tradition” was recently published in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*, 10th Ed. (Kendall Hunt).

Elizabeth Stephens joined the faculty of the Department of Communication as assistant professor. She received her PhD from the University of Memphis in December 2010. Her recent research focused on messages about substance abuse teen members of a drug prevention club and their peers. She is also

interested in the use of entertainment-education as strategy for spreading health information.

Craig Stewart, assistant professor of communication, and two colleagues at Old Dominion University, recently published a paper in the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*. In two studies, Stewart and his co-authors use Diction 5.0 software and critical discourse analysis to investigate how “illegal immigrants” are represented in a daily newspaper in southeastern Virginia.

JOURNALISM

Joe Hayden, associate professor of journalism, has been named as the new associate director for the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities (MOCH). MOCH is dedicated to interdisciplinary dialogue, research, and teaching. Committed to serving the Mid-South community as a catalyst for critical thought, ethical and personal reflection, it serves as a link between the academic and public communities.

At the 2010 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference in Denver, five journalism faculty members presented. **Carrie Brown**, assistant professor of journalism, and two colleagues presented the research paper, “Curated Creativity: Motivations and Agendas Influencing the Relationship between Twitter Use and Blog Productivity.” **Tom Hrach**, assistant professor of journalism, presented his paper, “An Incitement to Riot: Television’s Role in the Civil Disorders of the Summer of ‘67.” **Jin Yang**, associate professor of journalism, presented “Procedural Justice Matters More than Distributive Justice: How the Saddam Hussein Trial Became a Show Trial.” **Joe Hayden** and **Sandra Utt**, both associate professors of journalism, served as discussants for research paper panels.

MUSIC

Victor Santiago Asunción, associate professor of music (piano), performed his debut solo recital in Sao Paulo, Brazil as well as several other solo and chamber music performances at the II Virtuosi International Winter Music Festival in Gravata and Garanhuns. In the US, he gave the premiere of Bright Sheng’s *Northern Lights*,

a piece for cello and piano written for Asunción and cellist Lynn Harrell, at the La Jolla Chamber Music Festival. Other recent festival appearances included the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, where he performed with the Cleveland Orchestra’s concert master William Preucil, and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. His performances at these festivals will be broadcast on National Public Radio’s Performance Today, BBC-4 and WFMT-Chicago.

Jack Cooper, associate professor of music (jazz studies), had his most recent release, *The Chamber Music of Jack Cooper*, reviewed by *Fanfare Magazine*. The review praise’s Cooper’s work, noting that “the purpose of this program is to broaden the stylistic range of concert chamber music; a breaking-down of barriers.” The review concludes by stating that “collectors wishing to savor jazz served in classical mugs will find this an interesting release.” Jack Cooper and the Big Band Jazz Orchestra of the Delta, which features percussionist Michael Waldrop (MM ‘94), joined international recording artist and award-winning composer Kathy Kosins for *Rhapsody in Boop* at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre in January. Kosins along with the orchestra presented new arrangements from the life and times of the American icon Betty Boop.

Nicholas Holland, assistant professor of music and director of bands, presented *Noise Doses and Temporary Threshold Shifts in a University Concert Band*, (a refereed-research paper) to the Georgia Music Educators Association conference in Savannah. He also presented *The Lost Battalion: Your Army of Percussionists*, (an invited refereed-research paper) at the Texas Music Educators Association annual conference in San Antonio. He has been selected as Guest Conductor for the annual Christian Brothers High School Honor Band in March.

Kamran Ince, professor of music (composition), has released three digital CDs on the Naxos label: *Music for a Lost Earth*; *Curve/Hammers and Whistlers*, *Istathenople*, *Strange Stone*; *Symphony No. 5*, “*Galatasaray*”, *Hot, Red, Cold, Vibrant*, *Requiem Without Words*, *Before Infrared*, and *Constantinople*. *Galatasaray* will also be released in hard CD in April and *Hammers and Whistlers* will have a limited hard

Faculty, Staff, Students & Alumni

CD release. *Constantinople* will be released in hard CD version in July.

Evan Jones joined the faculty of the Scheidt School of Music as assistant professor. Originally from Buffalo, New York, he received both his bachelor's and master's degree in vocal performance from The Florida State University. He is currently finishing his doctorate in music performance and literature at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Jones previously served as the Director of Vocal Activities at the University of North Alabama and has an active performing career having appeared with several opera companies and symphony orchestra through the United States.

Kevin Sanders assistant professor of music (tuba), presented a clinic at the International Tuba-Euphonium Conference in Tucson, Arizona and was named a B&S Perantucci artist and clinician.

David Spencer, associate professor of music (trumpet), performed at the International Carlos Gomes Festival in Campinas, Brazil.

Lecolion Washington, associate professor of music (oboe), was invited by Fox Products to represent the company in performance at the International Double Reed Conference in Norman, Oklahoma. Following his performance he was invited to be a Fox artist and represent the company at the 2011 International Double Reed Society Conference in Tempe, Arizona this June. Washington also performed chamber music at the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival in South Africa and was a featured soloist on the *Mozart Sinfonia Concertante for Winds and Orchestra*.

Copeland Woodruff, assistant professor of music, directed the critically acclaimed *Heart of a Dog* by Rudolf Rojahn for Guerilla Opera, an ensemble-in-residence at Boston Conservatory. His re-envisioning of the groundbreaking company's first opera led to sold-out performances and his placement on its advisory board. The opera, $3 \times 3 = \infty$, which Woodruff directed in May 2010, won first place for Best Production in the 2011 National Opera Association's

Production Competition. It was the American premier and only the second production of this German opera by award-winning composers Carola Obermüller and Peter Gilbert. The opera delivers a hard-hitting look at polarization during the Holocaust and its mark on the collective memory of society. At the National Opera Association Convention in January, Woodruff delivered collaborative workshops on acting techniques for the singing actor, representing non-traditional acting methods. He also received a presidential appointment to the organization's board of directors.

THEATRE

Jacob Allen joined the faculty of the Department of Theatre & Dance as assistant professor. He received his MMus in 2009 from the Eastman School of Music. His teaching specialties are in the field of musical theatre. As a director and performer, Allen has worked extensively throughout the Midwest and New England. Productions include *Les Mamelles de Tiresias*, *El Capitan*, *Helen of Troy*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Children of Eden*, and *The Winter's Tale*. As an artist Jacob is an advocate for American Lyric Theatre and Art Song. He has recently performed in the premiere of Lee Hoiby's *This is the Rill Speaking* and directed the first staged production of Jake Heggie's *For a Look or a Touch*.

Lawrence Blackwell joined the faculty of the Department of Theatre & Dance as assistant professor. He is a PhD candidate at Bowling Green State University. He received his MFA in 2000 at the University of Louisville. His teaching specialties are in the areas of acting and African-American theatre. As an actor, his credits include Eilert Lovborg in *Hedda Gabler*, Pretty Eddie in *Every Night*, Young Blood in *Jitney* and Frank Stanley in *Kentucky Colonel*. As a performing artist, Lawrence has created, directed, and performed in numerous performance pieces that explore diverse contemporary American social issues including race and identity in the U. S. Marines, voting awareness and practices among college students, and stereotypes of

African American fathers created by African-American media and art. His PhD studies and research focused on African-American theatre history, specifically the use Africanisms and Neo-Africanisms such as Yoruba-based religions and mythologies throughout African-American theatre's history. He is a member of the Actors Equity Association and the Society of American Fight Directors.

Stephen Huff joined the faculty of the Department of Theatre & Dance as assistant professor. He is a PhD candidate at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. A Memphis native, Huff spent more than 15 years in New York City acting, directing, writing, studying, and teaching. He performed with the National Shakespeare Company and also served as its tour director. He was a founding member of NativeAliens Theatre Company and served as a teaching artist for the Lark Theatre Company's Shakespeare Residency Program. He studied acting with Austin Pendleton. In 2007, he received a grant from the Society for Theatre Research to study in London, and in 2010 he received an American Theatre Research Award supporting his dissertation research. Stephen has taught Introduction to Theatre, Theatre History, World Theatre, American Drama, Southern Theatre and Drama, Acting, Voice and Diction, Shakespeare, and Script Theatre, American Drama, Southern Theatre and Drama, Acting, Voice and Diction, Shakespeare, and Script Analysis at schools and theatres throughout New York City and the Memphis area. Most recently he has been seen on Memphis stages in *The History Boys* at Circuit Playhouse and *Romeo and Juliet* at Playhouse on the Square.

Douglas Koertge, University of Memphis professor emeritus of theatre, won a 2010 Suzi Bass Theatre Award for Costume Design. Winners of the 6th Annual Suzi Bass Awards were announced at the awards ceremony in Atlanta on November 8. Koertge won for his costume designs for Georgia Shakespeare's *Shrew: The Musical*. Founded in 2003, the Suzi Bass Awards celebrate excellence in Metro Atlanta's

professional theatre community, awarding honors in 25 performance categories every fall.

The following faculty members were among the winners of the 2010 Memphis Theatre Awards (Ostrander Awards):

Best Direction of a Drama: **Bob Hetherington**, chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance, for the *The Seafarer* (Circuit Playhouse)

Leading Actor, Drama: **Michael Gravois**, instructor of theatre for the *The Seafarer* (Circuit Playhouse)

Choreography/Movement: **Holly Lau**, professor of theatre and dance for *Dark of the Moon* (U of M)

Costume Design: **Janice Lacek**, assistant professor of theatre design for *Hay Fever* (U of M).

Staff News

Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, received the 2011 Silver Medal award from the local chapter of the American Advertising Federation (AAF Memphis). Rikki Boyce, past Silver Medal honoree and local marketing and advertising expert, presented the award. "In addition to his many achievements, it's important to remember that his college transforms students into the young professionals we need to advance our advertising world, along with the musicians, actors, singers and artists that we need to thrive. Perhaps that is the most important thing of all," Boyce said during the awards luncheon on January 27.

Hugh Busby, local support provider II, received the 2010 Information Technology Division Local Support Provider (LSP) of the Year Award for the College of Communication and Fine Arts. He served as a juror for the U of M's Campus School Junior Optimist's Club "Feed the Need" Poster Competition, the Memphis City Schools Exhibition of Student Work, and the Homecoming Banner Competition for the University of Memphis Student Activities Council.

Danielle Hillman has been appointed business officer for the School of Music. She holds a B.B.A. in management and a M.B.A. in finance, both from the University of Memphis. In her position at the School of Music, she oversees all

financial matters including budgets, contracts, personnel and scholarships. Prior to joining the School of Music, she worked for 10 years in the U of M's Bursar's Office.

Student News

ARCHITECTURE

A chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMA-S) was formed at the University of Memphis. **Tom Mason**, assistant professor of architecture, and **Jimmie Tucker**, adjunct professor of architecture, serve as faculty advisors. NOMA-S joins the other registered student organizations in the Department of Architecture: American Institute of Architecture Students, Alpha Rho Chi, Construction Specifications Institute Student Affiliate, International Interior Design Association Campus Center.

The Department of Architecture had an exhibition of student work entitled **City Building: Community Engagement in Architecture** in the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) last fall. The exhibit showcased selected studio projects representing fifteen community-based partnerships completed within the past year. Projects from the MARCH, the BFA in Architecture, and the BFA in Interior Design degree programs were represented. Much of the work had been nominated for design excellence awards in April 2010. The exhibition was a part of AMUM's Paul Revere Williams Exhibition. **James Williamson**, associate professor of architecture and Jimmie Tucker, co-founded Self Tucker Architects and instructor of architecture, served on the Paul Revere Williams project committee.

The Department of Architecture's annual **Halfway Soiree**, which marks the halfway point in the academic year, was held at the offices of Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects and was sponsored by the University of Memphis chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) and the two Architecture + Design Living-Learning Houses. Attended by more than 100 students, faculty, and local architects and designers, the Soiree is one of two major annual social events of the Department of Architecture. It included an exhibition

of student work featuring projects nominated for and receiving design awards as well as community partnership projects. The event was coordinated by the AIAS faculty advisors, **Sherry Bryan**, and **Jeanne Myers**, and officers including **Roberta McDaniel**, **Megan Hoover**, and **Roy Beauchamp**.

ART

Kelly Smith, undergraduate student in art (art education), was selected for the University of Memphis Green Internship for the spring 2011 semester.

COMMUNICATION

Drew Fleming, senior film and video major, was featured in the University of Memphis' *Daily Helmsman*, which reported that Memphis-based Cellardoor Cinema is producing a short film based on Fleming's award-winning screenplay, *Special*.

Milton Howery III, a senior communication major, has added BET marketing representative intern to his burgeoning media and broadcasting resume. The Black Entertainment Network (BET) has selected Howery as the BET marketing representative intern for Memphis. He is one of 26 college students serving in similar internships across the country. Howery has been working in the media and broadcasting industry for almost six years and is also employed as a visitor counselor for the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau. In 2005, he worked as an intern for Bott Radio Network on WCRV AM640 and was hired later that year. He became the morning show producer for the "Mike and Mandy Show" on WRVR 104.5 FM in 2007. He has also worked the radio control board at Memphis City School's radio station WQOX 88.5 FM and hosted a weekly radio broadcast on WUMR U92-FM.

Students from the Department of Communication will present their research at conferences across the country this spring. In February, **Cicely Wilson** presented on a panel entitled "Return of the 'Fro: The New Black Consciousness" at the National Association of African American Studies annual conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In March, four graduate students will

present at the **Southern States Communication Association** (SSCA) convention in Little Rock. **Kristen Hungerford** will present "Reproductive Rights in Medical Dramas: A Feminist Analysis of Portrayals of Gender roles on the Topic of Abortion on Television," and in May she will present "Discussions of Religio-Moral Objections to Abortion: A Feminist Perspective" at the **International Communication Association Convention** in Boston. At SSCA, **Brandon Chase Goldsmith** will present "To Whom It May Concern: A Rhetoric Concerning Moral Judgment;" and **Morgan Ginther** and **Melody Lehn** will present on a panel entitled, "Taking the Performative Humanities into the Digital Age." Additionally, **Kristen Howell's** paper "Mother Jones as a Rhetorical Figure: Through the Lens of August 1, 1912 Coal Strike in West Virginia" was selected as a Top Paper of the **Theodore Clevenger, Jr. Undergraduate Honors Conference** at SSCA. In April, Lehn will present "From the 'Mother of Our Country' to the 'Mom-in-Chief': First Lady Nicknames and their Rhetorical Power" at the Eastern Communication Association convention in Arlington, Virginia.

JOURNALISM

Chelsea Boozer, senior journalism major and reporter for *The Daily Helmsman*, took third place in the In-Depth Competition in the Hearst Journalism Awards Program. Boozer won this prestigious award with her November *Helmsman* story about officers of the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Student Activities Council (SAC) who receive scholarships that are funded in part by tuition money, noting that "SGA allots 15.2% of its \$265,000 budget to four of the officer's tuition, which includes parking and monthly stipends. SAC uses 5% of its \$400,000 budget on monthly stipends for five committee chairs, with tuition for two officers' tuition and stipends included." *Helmsman* editor-in-chief **Megan Harris** and managing editor **Scott Carroll**, worked closely with Boozer on the controversial story.

Martina Igberaese (B.F.A. '09) currently a senior in the Department of Journalism with a concentration in advertising, was chosen as one

of 2011's Most Promising Minority Students by the American Advertising Federation. The program is the premier advertising industry award program to recognize and recruit outstanding minority college graduates in the areas of advertising, marketing, media, and communications.

MUSIC

The **Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra** (SCJO) performed at Second Annual Jazz Educators Network Conference (JEN) in New Orleans. The Orchestra was one of approximately 15 schools chosen to perform during the Conference at the historic Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans in January. SCJO premiered a set of newly commissioned works from current student composers and alumni and feature special guest saxophonist Larry Panella, director of Jazz Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi. Among the other groups with university ties are the University of North Texas' One O'Clock Lab Band and the University of Miami Concert Jazz Orchestra. "This is very big honor for school/college jazz orchestras," says Jack Cooper, U of M director of Jazz and Studio Music.

Scheidt School of Music students were praised for their performances by *The Wall Street Journal* in its review of the Opera Memphis' premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. **Jennifer Goode Cooper** (DMA candidate) "a lustrous soprano," **Jeremiah Johnson** (Artist Diploma student) "the solid, accomplished baritone," and **Kristin Vienneau** (Artist Diploma student) "brought sparkle."

Henry Dorn, undergraduate student in music composition, has been named a winner in the Dallas Wind Symphony Fanfare competition for composition. The competition drew eighty-two entries from an international array of composers. Dorn's work, *Shadows*, will be the opener for one of the Symphony's concerts this season.

Nadezda Potemkina, doctoral student in music, was awarded the "Young Conductor of the Year" citation from the 2010 American Prize competition, for U of M Symphony Orchestra performances of works by Debussy, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev. The award recognizes and

rewards the best orchestral, choral, opera and musical theater conductors in America.

THEATRE

During the 2010 Memphis Theatre Awards (Ostrander Awards), University of Memphis faculty, staff, students and recent alumni won 22 of the 43 categories of nominations. The Department's production of *12 Angry Jurors* won the Best Dramatic Production in the University division among other awards for the ensemble and artistic team. Students and productions from the Department of Theatre & Dance recognized at the 2010 Ostrander Awards were:

12 Angry Jurors (UofM): **Brandon Lawrence**, Direction of a Drama; **U of M Ensemble Acting**.

Blood Brothers (UofM): **Bruce Huffman**, Leading Actor, Musical, **Christopher McCollum**, Supporting Actor, Musical; Brennan Villines, Music Direction.

Dark of the Moon (UofM): **Christopher McCollum**, Supporting Actor, Drama; **Jason Gerhard**, Cameo Role; Daniel Mueller, Lighting Design; Jennifer Northup, Sound Design.

La Cage aux Folles (Theatre Memphis): Daniel Mathews, Makeup.

Hay Fever (U of M): David Galloway, Set Design; David Galloway and Jay Innerarity, Set Dressing.

Joshua Teal, theatre performance senior, will spend his final semester at Kingston University in London. Teal, who will graduate with a BFA in theatre performance this spring, will take theatre and dance classes at Kingston University and audition for three dance conservatories for an opportunity to complete his graduate studies in dance in Europe.

Alumni News

ART

Meghan Strong (MA '09) now works in Egypt as assistant to Zahi Hawass, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. She took photographs of the recently discovered tomb of ancient Egyptian priest Rudj-Ka at Giza that went around the world as news of the

discovery spread. Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouk Hosny, said the ancient Egyptian tomb was unearthed during routine excavations supervised by the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) near the pyramid builder's necropolis. The tomb is dated to the 5th Dynasty, between 2465 and 2323 BC. Hawass said that Rudj-Ka had several titles and would have been an important member of the ancient Egyptian court.

COMMUNICATION

The Department of Communication was well represented at the 2010 Indie Memphis Film Festival in both fiction and non-fiction. *The Nurse*, a film by **Craig Leake**, assistant professor of communication (film and video production), was on the same shorts program as **Imaginary Enemy** by **Elizabeth Daggett** (BA '04). Daggett, who received her M.F.A. at the University of North Texas, is now assistant professor of art and director for the Center for Outreach and Development of the Art (CODA) at Rhodes College. She teaches courses in digital photography and digital art, documentary filmmaking, and experimental filmmaking.

Renee Robinson (PhD '04) is department chair and associate professor of communication in the Department of Communication at Saint Xavier University in Chicago.

Rev. Frank A. Thomas (Ph. D. '08), senior pastor at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, received a lot of positive press for the recently published anthology, *Preaching with Sacred Fire: An Anthology of African American Sermons, 1750 to the Present*, which he co-edited with Martha Simmons. Reviews call it "a groundbreaking anthology that is a unique and powerful work. It captures the stunning diversity of the cultural and historical legacy of African American preaching more than three hundred years in the making. Each sermon is a work of art and a lesson in unmatched rhetoric. The journey through this anthology—which includes selections from Jarena Lee, Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Gardner C. Taylor, Vashti McKenzie, and many others offers a rare view of the unheralded role of the African American preacher in American history."

JOURNALISM

Marcus Matthews (BA '03), a doctoral candidate in higher and adult education at the University of Memphis and coordinator of *The Teen Appeal* newspaper, recently published his book, *I Am Not the Father: Narratives of Men Falsely Accused of Paternity*.

MUSIC

Carole Choate Blankenship (DMA '03) presented a paper at the International Paul Bowles Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. The conference at the University of Lisbon celebrated Bowles' 100th birthday. Blankenship's paper is titled *The Musical Styles of the Early Songs of Paul Bowles*. She also performed songs by Bowles at the conference.

David Dick (DMA '09) was appointed principal trombone of the Regina Symphony Orchestra in Saskatchewan, Canada. He is also an adjunct faculty member at University of Regina. He had previously been principal trombone in the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.

Christopher Myles Jackson (M.M. '08) was chosen to perform in a master class with retired New York Philharmonic bassoonist, Leonard Hindell, at the International Double Reed Conference. He also attended the Imani Winds Chamber Music Institute in New York City and the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival in South Africa. Chris is currently a DMA candidate at the University of Memphis, and he was recently offered a position in the United States Air Force Band in Bonaire, Georgia.

Garrett McQueen (BM '10) was accepted into the master's program at the University of Southern California with a full graduate assistantship.

Mikah Meyer (BM '09) made his professional international debut as the alto soloist for l'Orchestre Symphonique de Longueuil, Montreal, in its production of Handel's *Messiah*.

School of Music alumna **Lisa Terry** ('79), member of the Parthenia, a Consort for Viols, appeared with the quartet in December on the nationally syndicated radio program, "Sunday Baroque." The program featured Parthenia's new CD, *As it Fell on a Holie Eve, Music for an*

Elizabethan Christmas. The group has been hailed by The New Yorker as "one of the brightest lights in New York's early music scene."

Anthony Williams (DMA candidate), has been appointed assistant professor of low brass and jazz studies at Mary University in Bismarck, North Dakota.

THEATRE

2010's Big Red Reunion Celebrated Recently Retired Theatre & Dance professors **Gloria Baxter** and **Susan Chrietzberg**. The overwhelming turnout of former students for the 2010 reunion showed how much Gloria Baxter and Susan Chrietzberg have meant to the Department of Theatre & Dance and its students over the years. Many alumni came from across the country and brought recreations of pieces they had done with Baxter and Chrietzberg in the past. Others created new theatre/dance pieces in their honor, which were performed at the two-day event.

The department recently established the Gloria Baxter Enrichment Fund in honor of the long-time professor. Donations may be made by sending a check to:

**The U of M Foundation
Department 238
P.O. Box 1000
Memphis, TN 38148-0001**

Please make checks payable to The U of M Foundation and include Gloria's name in the memo line.

The following alumni were among the winners of the 2010 Memphis Theatre Awards (Ostrander Awards): **Voices of the South**, Best Production of an Original Script, *Cicada*. Jerre Dye, Props, *Cicada*. David Newsome, Sound Design, *Cicada*. **Renee Kemper**, Featured Role in a Musical, *Jacques Brel is Alive* (Circuit Playhouse). **Dianne Kinkennon**, Lighting Design, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* (Theatre Memphis).

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Boston's Guerilla Opera Stages Rudolf Rojhan's *Heart of a Dog* at Scheidt School of Music

Under the direction of Copeland Woodruff, opera stage director for the University of Memphis, Guerilla Opera, the chamber opera ensemble in residence at the Boston Conservatory, revisited its initial 2007 production of *Heart of a Dog* this past September. "It was an amazing experience to direct the opera in Boston last year, but I'm even more excited that we were able to bring the ensemble to the University of Memphis as part of the School of Music's visiting artist series," Woodruff says.

The opera is loosely based on the 1925 novel by Mikhail Bulgakov, satirizing the Communist Party's ideological archetypal ideal of a Soviet citizen. In the book, a scientist transplants the pituitary gland and testicles of a man into a dog, thereby transforming the canine into a satirical man/bad houseguest. Guerilla Opera's interpretation departs from the source material, turning the dog-man into a promiscuous dog-soprano. This contemporary production with minimal orchestration is a long way from the abundance of 19th century opera—intentionally. *The Boston Globe* described the music (saxophone, viola, cello, and percussion) as "a cross between Alban Berg's 'Wozzeck' and extremely progressive jazz." The audience had to stand during the 40-minute show, jostled around by one of the opera's characters in a small space, changing perspectives and places with the four performers and four musicians. "The ensemble has a reputation for tackling complex contemporary stories to brilliant effect,



Guerilla Opera revisited its 2007 production of *Heart of a Dog* under the direction of Copeland Woodruff at The Boston Conservatory's Zack Box Theater in September.

and it is a great example of how to make art in these economic times," Woodruff states. "It is important to expose students to opportunities that are different than the stereotypical career path of an opera singer or any musician."

Guerilla Opera presents Rudolf Rojahn's *Heart of a Dog* at Harris Concert Hall on February 26 at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Copeland Woodruff is a three-time winner of the National Opera Association Best Opera Production Competition, most recently for his 2010 adaptation of the American premier of Peter Gilbert & Karola Obermüller's opera, $3 \times 3 = \infty$ (*Dreimaldrei gleich unendlich*), an arresting exploration of victim and violator in the Holocaust, for the Juventas Opera Project in Boston.