

SIGHTS and SOUNDS

March 2024



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

—NEWSLETTER—

Hello!

I am Golden Wright, privileged to serve as the Dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communication at Lamar University. Our college is a dynamic hub housing an array of talented individuals, including students, staff, and faculty. Through this monthly newsletter, we aim to shine a spotlight on the exceptional achievements of these individuals across various disciplines within the fine arts and communication fields.

At the heart of our college is the profound connectivity we foster among students, faculty, and staff through the common thread of communication. Each distinct area within our college relies on communication in its own unique way. Communication serves as the cornerstone of each departments' success within the college.

From the multifaceted realm of communication and media, utilizing mediums such as television, radio, social media, and newspapers to disseminate information, to the evocative storytelling of music majors who convey emotions and narratives through voice or instruments. From the invaluable contributions of speech and hearing sciences, enhancing our ability to communicate effectively, and improving our quality of life, to the empowering field of deaf studies, which enables individuals to serve as vital mediators in communication. The immersive experiences offered by theatre and dance provide an escape from reality through the interplay of movement and text. And lastly, the visual eloquence of art captures moments and places, transporting us to new dimensions and inspiring our imagination.

I am confident that this newsletter will offer fresh insights into our vibrant community and the exceptional individuals who contribute to its brilliance. Our college boasts an exceptional student body, each pursuing their passions in fields ranging from artistry to speech language pathology, interpretation, and performance. We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support of our surrounding community, which generously provides funding for scholarships, new equipment, and invaluable learning opportunities.

“The Best Kept Secret...”



Golden Wright
Dean, College of Fine Arts & Communication



A KALEIDOSCOPE OF THE ARTS

LE GRAND BAL 2024 • LAMAR UNIVERSITY.

March 23, 2024 | 6:00 P.M. | DISHMAN ART MUSEUM | 7:00 P.M. | SETZER STUDENT CENTER

Established in 1973, the Friends of the Arts staged its first ball in 1975. Activities, décor and entertainment are designed to reflect the talents of Lamar University's art, theater, music and dance faculty and students. Since 1975, the event has raised more than \$3 million dollars for the College of Fine Arts & Communication. These funds enable the Friends of the Arts to contribute to scholarships and educational enhancements such as master classes, visiting artists and trips to clinics and workshops that expand learning opportunities for students. This year, we will be honoring Sherrie and the Honorable Judge Jeff Branick and Dr. Russ Schultz. Over the years, our honorees have not only been avid connoisseurs of the arts, but have been active participants through their charitable donations and dedication to the community and Lamar University.



SHERRIE AND JUDGE JEFF BRANICK

The Branicks are long-time supporters of the arts at Lamar University. With Sherrie as an alumna of Lamar with a degree in Art, the Branicks have helped establish two scholarships in the Department of Art & Design. They have been Friends of the Arts Board members since 2018 and long-time Le Grand Bal supporters. Their contributions to Lamar University and the Southeast Texas community include support of Young Life, the Red Cross, Boy Scouts and the YMCA to name just a few.



DR. RUSS SCHULTZ

Dean Emeritus, Dr. Russ Schultz led the College of Fine Arts & Communication at Lamar University for 16 years before retiring in 2015. A trombone player, Dean Schultz has a strong love for music and not only served as music department chair at Central Washington, but is also active with the Accreditation Commission for the National Association of Schools of Music. He served on the boards of the Symphony of Southeast Texas, AMSET and Young Audiences while in Beaumont.

To purchase tables or individual tickets, or
to make a charitable donation, please visit

www.lamar.edu/legrandbal

OR

Scan the QR code.

Thank you!



in this issue...

PAGE
1

Department of Art & Design
From Fire to Form

PAGE
2

Department of Communication & Media
Alumni in Action

PAGES
3-4

Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education
Awarding Excellence

PAGE
5

Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music
Taking on TMEA

PAGE
6

Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences
Partnership and Progress

PAGE
7

Department of Theatre & Dance
UIL Meets LU

PAGE
8

Dishman Art Museum
Going Once... Going Twice...

PAGE
9

KVLU
KVLU: Rewind...

PAGE
10

Can't Miss This!
Upcoming Events



from **FIRE** to **FORM**

Every Spring, Professor Kurt Dyrhaug prepares his sculpture and design students for the annual Iron Pour. His students create sculptures out of plasticine clay, or through different methods of 3D printing, and are then used to create sand molds for the molten iron to be poured into. After the iron sets, the mold is then broken away to reveal the iron form. A perfect example of combining technology with tradition.

The Iron Pour is always an impeccable example of teamwork. Students get the chance to suit up and collaborate with their peers, Professor Kurt Dyrhaug, and visiting artists. Visiting artists often come to guide our students and sprinkle their knowledge. This year Professor Michael Williams from Nicholls State University, will be giving a lecture over his work and practice on Thursday, March 21st and will provide expertise during the iron pour on Friday, March 22nd.

The Iron Pour will take place in the Foundry, located in the back of the Art Building at the loading docks from 11:00AM to 2:00PM. Don't miss this blazing marvel!





ALUMNI IN ACTION

MARION PHILLIPS III VISITS WITH STUDENTS

The Department of Communication and Media was happy to welcome Marion Phillips III (Class of '84) back to campus. He is the Senior Vice President for Community Development and Diversity Equity and Inclusion with US News and World Report and came to Beaumont to participate in the Alumni Affairs Office's Dinner and a Conversation event on February 6th. This event brought alumni to campus to meet with current students over a formal dinner on the 8th floor of the Mary and John Gray Library. During the dinner, Phillips talked with students about the importance of being able to talk with potential employers about themselves in a way that emphasizes their strengths, interests, and unique perspectives. He pointed out that you only get a couple minutes to make an impression, so you need to make the most of that time.

He also answered questions about his career which included earning a Masters of Divinity and becoming a pastor, serving as the Senior Vice President of Community Relations at New York State's Empire State Development managing over \$14 billion in development projects, including serving as the Chair of Queens West Development Corporation, President of the Atlantic Yards Community Development Corporation, Chief Administrative Officer of the New York Empowerment Zone Corporation and overseeing Harlem Community Development Corporation as well as community and government affairs department. Shepherding the community engagement efforts on large scale projects such as, the Jacob Javits Convention Center expansion, National Urban League HQ, Penn Station expansion, and construction of the UBS arena and development of over 5,000 units of housing. In addition, Mr. Phillips was central to the drafting and adoption of the New York State Charter School legislation and has worked at several different levels of government. One of the student attendees did a summer internship in the Houston zoning office, and he was able to provide insight about how the zoning process works and guidance about the necessity of working with governmental agencies.

Mr. Phillips was exceedingly generous with his time while on campus. He had a session with the LUTV class down in the television studio. He met with the editor of the University Press for an interview that will be appearing in the next issue. He also took a trip up to KVLU and did another interview there. The department hosted a session open to all students. At all of these events, he repeatedly made the point that networking is of the key to success. The contacts that students make during their time at LU will prove valuable, and he used the examples of his relationships with DeWitte Holland and Mary Alice Baker to illustrate the point. He gave students his contact information and said he wanted to hear from them. Marion Phillips III provided our current students with a valuable experience that will benefit them for years to come.





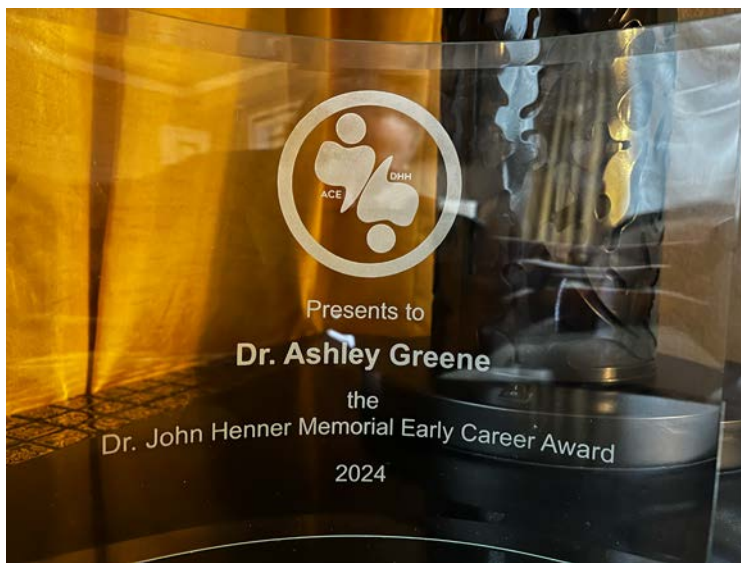
AWARDING EXCELLENCE

TWO LAMAR FACULTY AWARDED AT ACE-DHH

In February, the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education set out to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend the Association of College Educators – Deaf & Hard of Hearing’s (ACE-DHH) annual conference. Each year the conference has a different theme. This year, the theme was Elevate, Empower, and Engage; a theme that Dr. Diane Clark and Dr. Ashley Greene embody in their day to day lives, teaching strategies, and dedication to our students. Because of this, that they were both honored award recipients at the ACE-DHH conference this year.

ACE-DHH recently renamed one of their awards to honor the work of the late Dr. Jon Henner, Lamar University’s Dr. Ashley Greene was the first receipt of this renamed award.

Dr. Diane Clark, Chair of the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education at Lamar University, presented this award to Dr. Greene. Dr. Clark praised Dr. Greene, stating, **“[Dr. Greene] showed great promise from the beginning of her doctoral program. She was highly organized and completed the degree even with having to change her topic twice due to COVID... She has leadership potential and we know that she is and will continue to be a future star in research, leading other Deaf individuals into our profession.”** She goes on to applaud Dr. Greene’s impressive publication history, **“As of this nomination, she had twenty publications, and nine more since that time with at least five more projects in progress. Most of her publications are peer-reviewed; far exceeding the minimum required number of peer-reviewed publications required for tenure.**



She frequently collaborates with others in the publishing process including doctoral students, colleagues, and other program faculty, both internal and external to her university.” In conclusion, Dr. Clark stated, “As colleagues and friends who have watched her career and admirer her work for many years. We can wholeheartedly affirm how deserving she is of the ACE-DHH Jon Henner Young Scholars award.”

Dr. Clark was also an award recipient at the ACE-DHH conference. She was recognized with the Sister Mary Delaney Award, presented by Dr. Jean Andrews, Professor Emerita of Deaf Education at Lamar University. ***“Diane Clark has opened our minds “a little wider” through her work in building a knowledge base in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education. On her watch, she, her faculty, and students have been productive in designing, implementing studies, and disseminating their work at conferences and in publications,”*** she explains. Dr. Andrews goes on to explain the legacy that Dr. Clark is building at Lamar University. ***“At Lamar, she has created a Deaf-friendly environment, hired multiple Deaf faculty and administrative staff, and managed a dynamic research and teaching laboratory where her students and faculty design and conduct research studies. She and her students’ work have profoundly increased the knowledge base in Deaf Studies/Deaf education in areas such as identity and life scripts, language, early childhood education, language planning, family ASL assessment, bilingual education, bimodal education, Deaf and Blind education, mentoring, and language acquisition. She also has conducted numerous specialized writing workshops to assist faculty and students in publishing their work in professional journals. From 2015 to the present, she has graduated 29 doctoral-level leaders, of whom 18 are Deaf.”***

The College of Fine Arts & Communication would like to congratulate Dr. Clark and Dr. Greene for their accomplishments. We are honored to have dedicated and passionate faculty who push our students to be the best versions of themselves.



TAKING ON TMEA

In February the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music faculty, staff, students, and alumni descended upon San Antonio for the annual Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) conference. TMEA is the largest music education conference in the world with over 29,000 attendees, including over 10,000 active music educators.

Lamar University was able to secure quite a few performances at the event. The Cardinal Jazz Orchestra kicked off the performances on the first night, and our own Professor Rick Condit was inducted into the Texas Jazz Educators Association (TJEA) during that performance. We also had a performance from Professor Jared Broussard (trumpet) at the President's Concert with his group The Dallas Winds – America's Premier Windband, a duet performance by Professor Jennifer Shannon (flute) and Ronald White (clarinet) who is a member of the Symphony of Southeast Texas and local band director, along with a presentation of student Faith Singh's McNair Scholar research with Professor Debra Greschner (voice).

To close out the week, the Department hosted an Alumni Reception with close to 200 attendees including alumni, students, faculty and friends. *"It was a really spectacular time,"* says our Associate Dean, Jeannette Fresne.

TMEA is always a wonderful experience for all of our faculty, staff and students and we look forward to seeing what the next conference brings.



partnership *and* progress



Mrs. Carmyn Thompson is currently leading the partnership between Lamar University’s Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences and the Beaumont Independent School District (BISD). ***“It’s a great opportunity for the students to see what they can do within their scope of practice and also what they can do within our local community,”*** she says. Additionally, through this partnership, our students are able to provide screenings and evaluations as well as bilingual evaluations.

Mrs. Thompson is also over the Literacy and Language Enrichment Lab along with Dr. Lekeitha Morris and Mrs. Sarah Saldana, which provides services to Pre-K and Kindergarten students at Martin Elementary. ***“We get the opportunity to work with an interdisciplinary team. We are able to interact with the teachers, professional assistants, and the principals. It’s a good collaborative effort.”*** They work with the teachers to provide activities to help with development of the children as it relates to their pre-literacy skills like writing and reading skills. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students, as they can apply their clinical knowledge to real-life scenarios with local children. ***“We strive and thrive to be the best therapists we can by servicing our community.”***



Mrs. Thompson speaks fondly of the programs in the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences and hopes that more students will consider pursuing this field in the future. ***“Not only do you learn about the field, you’re able to learn who you are as a person. Not only can you do something you love, but you’re also someone who can change a life.”***

BISD Partnership

Through our partnership with BISD, faculty and qualified graduate students from the speech- language pathology graduate program and current students enrolled in the Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Program here at Lamar University provide speech-language pathology services in the form of screening, assessment, intervention, and language enrichment to students enrolled in BISD. This partnership allows collaboration and numerous other benefits for the students, the faculty, BISD and the larger Beaumont community. We collaborate with the teachers in their classrooms and provide support and development as it relates to our field. It provides field experience for the graduate and undergraduate students where they benefit from hands on experiences within the school setting; becoming familiar with the schools located in our community.

Literacy and Language Enrichment Lab

The Literacy and Language Enrichment Lab provides young children with a solid foundation in literacy skills such as phonemic awareness, vocabulary development, letter recognition, and comprehension. All these skills are crucial for later reading success. The enrichment lab supports the development of oral language skills, including listening, speaking, and communication. We expose the students to a wide range of vocabulary and language, helping them become effective communicators. The activities created by the undergraduate and graduate students involve collaboration, interaction, and sharing among children. We support parent involvement by providing quick tips to send home with the students that include activities such as reading together, pointing out letters, and engaging in literacy-related games. Overall, our Literacy and Language Enrichment Program has great benefits in providing and creating a strong foundation in literacy skills and language development for lifelong learning and success. We are appreciative of the opportunity to collaborate with our local school and look forward to continuing this partnership.



UIL MEETS LU

THEATRE & DANCE HOSTS UIL ONE ACT PLAY



Little Cyprus Mauriceville, District Champions, 2020 One Act Play, *Anatomy of Gray*.

March in the Department of Theatre & Dance brings many events that the department supports across the campus and throughout the community and the region. One of the most exciting of these is high school One Act Play, supported by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) in the state of Texas public schools.

"This will be our fifth year hosting various One Act Play contests for schools from throughout the region," says Department Chair and former OAP Contest Manager Joel Grothe. *"It has become one of my favorite things we do. I love the enthusiasm the students bring to our spaces and the proud parents who fill the University Theatre on contest day."*

Damon Gengo, a Lamar Alum who passed away in 2023, brought the contests to Beaumont from the Lamar-Port Arthur campus.

"Damon was very generous with us. He showed us how to run a great contest and support the students. It's a huge part of his legacy."

Lamar regularly hosts the 4A competition and the 1A competition for the region. 4A brings students from West Orange-Stark HS, Silsbee HS, Vidor HS, Little Cypress-Mauriceville HS, Bridge City HS, Lumberton HS and Jasper HS. 1A brings students from Zavalla HS, Goodrich HS, Leggatt HS and High Island HS.

"Our regional 4A schools have a great reputation across the state," says Grothe. *"They regularly advance to State or near to state, and many of the teachers are alums of this program. 1A is a lot of fun; often times, because the schools are so small, most of their school is on our campus that day."*

Grothe says the contests build community and a shared artistic vision across the region

"The teachers really support each other. They watch each others' work and learn from it. And our students set an example for them if they want to move forward in the craft of theatre."

Instructor of Costume Design Tanner McAlpin takes over running the contest this year.

4A One Act Play

Saturday March 2nd
11:00 AM to 6:30 PM

Shows run on the hour. Admission is \$5

1A One Act Play

Wednesday, March 6th
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Shows run on the hour. Admission is free

going once...going twice...

THE DISHMAN ART MUSEUM HOSTS THE LE GRAND BAL ART AUCTION



Each year the Dishman hosts the **Le Grand Bal Art Auction**, a ticketed event, where professional, community and student artists are invited to submit work to be auctioned off. The proceeds from the auction support scholarships in the Fine Arts at Lamar University, such as the Jerry Newman Scholarship for Painting, the Jack Shofner Scholarship for Graphic Design, the Lorene David Scholarship for Art Education, and so many more across other disciplines.

The dedicated Dishman staff and Department of Art & Design Faculty and Staff work diligently to ensure the auction is properly curated and hung in the Dishman Art Museum's Gallery. The Dishman Art Museum will be hosting a preview and presale of the Le Grand Bal Art Auction from March 18th through the 22nd to allow the bidders the opportunity to peruse or purchase the art prior to the auction on March 23rd.

At the event, patrons have the opportunity to meet with the artists, enjoy food and beverage, and purchase one-of-a-kind works.

The Le Grand Bal Art Auction is also a wonderful opportunity for students to present their work to the public, often for the first time! Current McNair Scholar, Olivia Cobb, first participated in the auction last year and is excited to participate this year as well. *"The Le Grand Bal Art Auction is not only a wonderful opportunity to display your work, but an even better opportunity to network with fellow artists and art connoisseurs,"* she says.

If you would like to attend the Le Grand Bal and Art Auction, please visit www.lamar.edu/legrandbal to purchase tickets.

If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation to support the Fine Arts at Lamar University.



KVLU: *rewind...*

Throughout the year, KVLU will be airing special anniversary programming to celebrate 50 years on the air.

Check out the schedule for March!

MAR 22

Friday, March 22 at 2:00 P.M.
Needledrop (Pilot) from October 2000

Originally hosted by Jason Miller and Troy Harper. This show is still on the air hosted by Jason Miller. The show was the first program on KVLU to present alternative rock mixed into an overall eclectic format from many related and unrelated genres.

Friday, March 22 at 7:00 P.M.
Classic episode of Make-Believe Ballroom
Hosted by the late John Stevens, longtime beloved KVLU volunteer host

Make-Believe Ballroom featured classic American popular music from the "Big Band Era" of the 1930s and 1940s.

MAR 25

Monday, March 25 at 9:00 P.M.
KVLU 10th Anniversary, April of 1984

The KVLU 10th Anniversary was broadcast on April 30th 1984 from KVLU's master control room the first year KVLU was in its current location. The Anniversary includes a speech from former Lamar President, the late John Gray, who also spoke at KVLU's inaugural broadcast.

MAR 29

Friday, March 29 at 2:00 P.M.
KVLU 10th Anniversary, April of 1984
(Encore Presentation)



For more information and to stream KVLU, visit kvlu.org.

CAN'T MISS THIS!

MAR 4

John Alexander Lecture

Dishman Art Museum
12:45 - 1:45 PM

MAR 18 — MAR 22

Le Grand Bal Art Auction Preview

Dishman Art Museum

MAR 22

Iron Pour

Department of Art & Design
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MAR 23

Le Grand Bal

Dishman Art Museum and Setzer Center
6:00 PM

MAR 27

Jazz Concert

Rothwell
7:30 PM

APR 11 — APR 14

Dangerous Corner

University Theatre
April 11-13 – 7:30 PM, April 14 – 2:00 PM

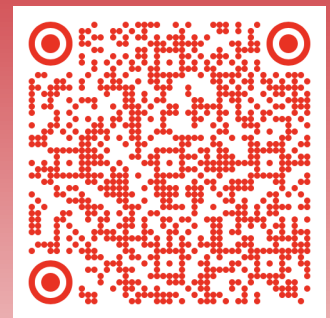
APR 26 — APR 27

Dance Unleashed

University Theatre
April 26 – 7:30 PM, April 27 – 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOR MORE EVENTS IN THE
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW!



A PSYCHOLOGICAL MURDER MYSTERY
Dangerous
CORNER
A PLAY BY
J.B. Priestley

Dangerous CORNER

April 11-13 — 7:30 PM, April 14 — 2:00 PM

At a seemingly innocent dinner party, the guests are rapidly thrust into a series of increasingly damning revelations related to the death of a brother of one of the group. Made into films in 1934 and 1965, this play is a murder mystery that keeps you guessing and second guessing as more secrets are revealed.

Tickets are available at lamar.edu/lutdtix or 409.880.2250

APRIL 11-13 – 7:30 PM
APRIL 14 – 2:00 PM



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

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P.O. Box 10077

Beaumont, TX 77710



COLLABORATE - INNOVATE - CREATE

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