

SIGHTS and SOUNDS

MARCH 2025



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

— NEWSLETTER —

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Can't Miss This!

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 of 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.

We hope this newsletter illuminates all of the possibilities that our College provides. We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support of our surrounding community, which generously provides funding for scholarships, new equipment, and invaluable learning opportunities. Thank you!

“THE BEST KEPT SECRET...”



Golden Wright
College of Fine Arts & Communication, Dean



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Department of Art & Design



The Auction is **SET**(zer)!

The Department of Art & Design is excited to announce that the Le Grand Bal Art Auction is moving from the Dishman Art Museum to the Setzer Student Center.

The Art Auction was a long-standing tradition before it was integrated into the Le Grand Bal Celebration, and the Department is excited to add a new spin to this tradition. What was previously limited to a one-hour event has now transformed into a more elaborate and lengthened experience, with the new auction times running from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

"We are excited to move the auction to the Setzer Student Center to move it closer to the main event. This allows a smoother evening for our guests and ensures we can keep the bidding open longer!" shares, Dr. Chadwick, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Art History.

Visiting Professor, Eric Johnston, has assisted with organizing the auction for the past two years and is excited for the move. *"Placing the auction so close to the main event means that patrons have more time to spend with the art in a dynamic and social atmosphere,"* explains Eric, *"This should lead to a higher number of bids, which, ultimately, will help bolster the arts and culture here in Southeast Texas."*

In preparation for the move, staff members Audra LaCour and Emily Lewis-Zazzaro have worked to procure all the necessary equipment needed for such a large, logistical move.

"We spent a lot of time researching the wire racks. We needed grid walls that were sturdy, portable and easily assembled. I believe the walls that were chosen fit the criteria, helping to streamline the process and reduce the time needed for hanging the artwork," says Audra.

The staff at the Setzer Student Center has been extremely accommodating and helpful while discussing the move. As Emily explains, *"We have worked closely with Setzer staff to ensure that artwork will be safe and will be as aesthetically pleasing in the ballroom as it was in the Dishman Art Museum."*

The Le Grand Bal Art Auction will be held in the Setzer Student Center Ballroom on March 22nd from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Online pre-sales will take place from March 17th through midnight on March 21st.

We hope you will join us at Le Grand Bal 2025, "We Are Family." Tickets are available at lamar.edu/legrandbal.



Reeling in Memories: LU Film Professor Shares His Past

Professors are a huge part of the college experience, and each one teaches something unique. Lamar University's communication department is filled with

knowledgeable professors who are passionate about their classes — and no one is more passionate than O'Brien Stanley.

The film professor has worked at Lamar since 1997. He was originally the TV studio supervisor.

"I was running a program that we still have where we videotape government meetings and the set cast program," Stanley said. "Then, after about two years, our department chair, to his everlasting credit, wanted to start a film program. I had a terminal degree in film production, which I really love. And when he said, 'O'Brien, would you like to start a class in the summer of 1998?' it was more like, 'Would you like to have Christmas every day?'"

Since then, he's taught classes such as film production, film appreciation, genre studies, pop culture theory, film directors, and many more. Stanley's love for movies started when he was 12 with the film "Airport," he said.

"At that point, in early junior high, you're starting to realize what you might like," he said. "I saw ('Airport') six times in the movie theater in Nacogdoches. The first one's actually a good movie, and I fell in love with movies."

"I had to get a camera and started making movies when I was in the eighth grade and just never stopped."

After graduating high school, Stanley went to Stephen F. Austin for his undergraduate degree, then Ohio University for graduate school.

He taught high school in Houston for seven years but was looking for a chance to use his film degree, he said. Then, the job with Lamar popped up and the rest is history.

Stanley said the technological advancements in film he has seen are unbelievable in a beautiful way. He said he loves when films still use Super 8, a type of motion picture film format, as opposed to everything being digital.

"Super 8 is still being made," he said. "I saw a film that used a lot of it, a great film called 'I'm Still Here.' It's fascinating. The technology is still here. People are falling in love with analog again, but I also love the new stuff. I mean, our cameras that we have for the film program are just fantastic and digital cinema cameras are fantastic."

Stanley said he cannot imagine life without film.

"It frames the way you live," he said. "Almost every example of something you go through in your life, or in a day, my brain will frame it in a movie. I'll remember a movie that connects to whatever this is, and it drives my wife crazy."

"There was a documentary about Roger Ebert, the great movie critic, and it's called 'Life Itself.' I think that's what he viewed film as."

It is clear to anyone who has ever sat in one of Stanley's classes that he is a movie fanatic. And his passion makes fanatics of us all.

Guest Writer — Maddie Sims



LAMAR LEADERSHIP

The 2025-2026 ACE-DHH (The Association for College Education Deaf Hard of Hearing) Board has been announced! ACE-DHH is a unified body of colleagues who prepare future professionals in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) education field and strive to improve the academic outcomes and educational experiences of D/HH students worldwide. This year, 53% of the Board is comprised of Lamar University alumni, faculty and students. Read more about them below!

Ashley Greene — Lamar University Alumni and Adjunct Professor
Past President

Dr. Ashley Greene's research area is in language assessment, with a robust portfolio of publications in the field. As someone who has taught pre-k all the way to PhD students, Dr. Greene has a strong commitment to inclusive education. She began her academic career at Lamar University and now serves as an Assistant Professor at Gallaudet University while keeping her ties to Lamar University as an adjunct professor. Her work is recognized for its impact on language assessment practices, contributing valuable insights to both her students and the broader academic community.



Adele Ann Eberwein — Lamar University Student
Assistant Secretary

Adele Ann Eberwein is currently pursuing her doctorate in Deaf Education and Deaf Studies at Lamar University. She earned her Education Specialist certification in Change Leadership from Gallaudet University in 2006 and a Master's in Special Education from San Francisco State University in 2002. With over 20 years of experience in Multilingual Deaf Education, she has worked extensively with diverse groups of deaf children, families, and educators.

Eberwein's professional journey includes roles as an adjunct instructor in Teacher Preparation Programs, a bilingual language arts teacher, a K-12 mathematics specialist, an elementary classroom teacher, and a principal at both middle and elementary school levels. She has also served as an ASL and English bilingual mentor and researcher, contributing to the advancement of Multilingual Deaf Education.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Adele Ann finds joy in reading, hiking, quilt-sewing, traveling, baking, gardening, and embracing new adventures with her family.

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Pauline Ballentine — Lamar University Alumni

Treasurer

Pauline Ballentine is a Certified Deaf Interpreter and a seasoned educator and advocate within the Deaf community. She earned her Ed.D. in Deaf Studies, with her dissertation focusing on the barriers faced by Deaf interpreters and their resilience in navigating systemic challenges. Pauline has extensive experience teaching Interpreting Training Programs and working as a contractor in language and interpretation assessments and presentations.

Her career spans research, development, teaching, and advocacy, reflecting her deep commitment to empowering the Deaf community and advancing the interpreting profession. As a second-generation Deaf individual from a proud Deaf family, Pauline continues her legacy with three adult children, all Deaf and carrying the family's traditions forward.

Outside her professional life, Pauline enjoys hiking, swimming, and caring for her seven chickens, two cats, and one dog. Her diverse experiences and expertise make her a passionate and dedicated contributor to the field of interpreting and Deaf community advocacy.



Brad Cohen — Lamar University Student

Assistant Treasurer

Brad Cohen is from San Diego California. He has been an instructor in the field of American Sign Language (ASL) education for 18 years. Currently, he works as an ASL instructor at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and as a curriculum specialist at San Diego State University (SDSU). His professional contributions include several published studies that focus on ASL as a second language (L2) in higher education and as a first language (L1) in K-12 education. His primary research interests include student motivation, ASL literacy, second language acquisition (L2), and second language and second modality (L2M2). Through his work, he strives to advance the fields of ASL education and research.

Latoya Dixon — Lamar University Student

Assistant Membership & Elections Chair

Latoya Dixon is a dedicated disability rights advocate and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) critic, committed to promoting inclusive access. Originally from the East Coast, she has called Texas home since 2010. Her extensive experience includes providing accommodations for college students with disabilities in higher education and supporting transition-age youth. Latoya holds dual B.A. degrees in Early Childhood Education and Spanish from Gallaudet University and an M.A. in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Texas. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in Deaf Studies/Deaf Education at Lamar University, where her research focuses on the ADA and disparities affecting the deaf community.



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Jessica Beaty — Lamar University Student

Publications Chair

Jessica Beaty is an experienced deaf education/special education teacher. She is a second year Doctoral student pursuing her Ed. D. in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education from Lamar University. Jessica's research area includes investigating hearing parents' experiences with making educational placement decisions for their deaf children. She earned her M.S. in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from Missouri State University and her B.S. in Communication Disorders from Murray State University. She currently holds a Council on Education of the Deaf Professional Certification and is a Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) certified interpreter. Along with ACE-DHH, Jessica is a member of the American Educational Research Association- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Intersectionalities and Perspectives Special Interest Group and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Jessica currently works at Texas A&M University as a Research Associate.



Scott Cohen — Lamar University Faculty

Conference Chair

Scott is deeply committed to expanding science learning opportunities for deaf children and the deaf community. With a background as a former K-12 student with a disability who taught high school science to students who are deaf and hard of hearing, Scott brings unique insights and perspectives to his research and scholarship on inclusion and accessibility in science and STEM education.

Through his dedication and expertise, Scott is making significant strides toward creating more inclusive and effective science education environments for deaf individuals, ensuring they can gain a deep understanding and appreciation of science. He has presented his research at various local, national, and international conferences, covering topics such as science learning for deaf students in and out of the classroom and the preparation and professional development for their teachers to expand their ability to orchestrate meaningful science teaching and learning with their deaf students.

David Meek — Lamar University Alumni

Assistant Conference Chair

Dr. David Meek is a Visiting Assistant Professor of the Department of Deaf Education at Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf. He received his Ed. D. in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education from Lamar University, his M.A. in Special Education: Mild Intervention, and his B.S. in Deaf Education from Ball State University. He has experience as an educator in Higher Education, Deaf Education, and Special Education (working with students with various degrees of disabilities). His current focus is on deaf learners with multiple disabilities. David's doctoral research focused on the experiences of dinner table conversations among Deaf individuals.





WELCOMING JOSÉ VALENTINO

campus for a two-day artist residency, featuring a series of workshops about succeeding in the Music industry and culminating with an energetic concert performance featuring the Lamar Flute Ensemble.

José Valentino, a renowned multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, and entrepreneur, has built a versatile career. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Florida where he is Founder & Director of the UF Music Business & Entrepreneurship Program and teaches courses such as Strategic Music Entrepreneurship Development, Social Impact of Music Entrepreneurs, Multimedia Production for the Music Industry, Music Industry Research & Entrepreneurial Innovations, and Music Production in Commercial Media.

This residency is supported by a grant awarded to Dr. Brielle Frost, Associate Professor of Flute, and Stephan Malick, Instructor in the Department of Communication & Media, from the Lamar Center for Resiliency. The project, titled "Building Resiliency by Empowering Future Musicians, Innovators, and Entrepreneurs" has not only resulted in the organization of this exciting residency, but has also launched the Southeast Texas Musicians Collective, a social media group aimed at connecting and supporting local creatives.

Dr. Frost and Stephan Malick would like to recognize and thank Karen Figueroa, a Lamar student majoring in Communication with an emphasis in Film Studies for her outstanding work creating the promotional materials for the residency.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn from and be inspired by a world-class musician!

Workshop & Concert Schedule:

Thursday, March 27th

12:40 – 1:40 p.m.

"Building a Profitable Artistic Career"

Dishman Auditorium

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

"Music as Communication: Engaging Audiences and Industry"

Galloway Auditorium

Friday, March 28th

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

"Cultural Exploration & Improvisational Music"

Science Auditorium

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

"Entrepreneurial Success in the Creative Arts Economy"

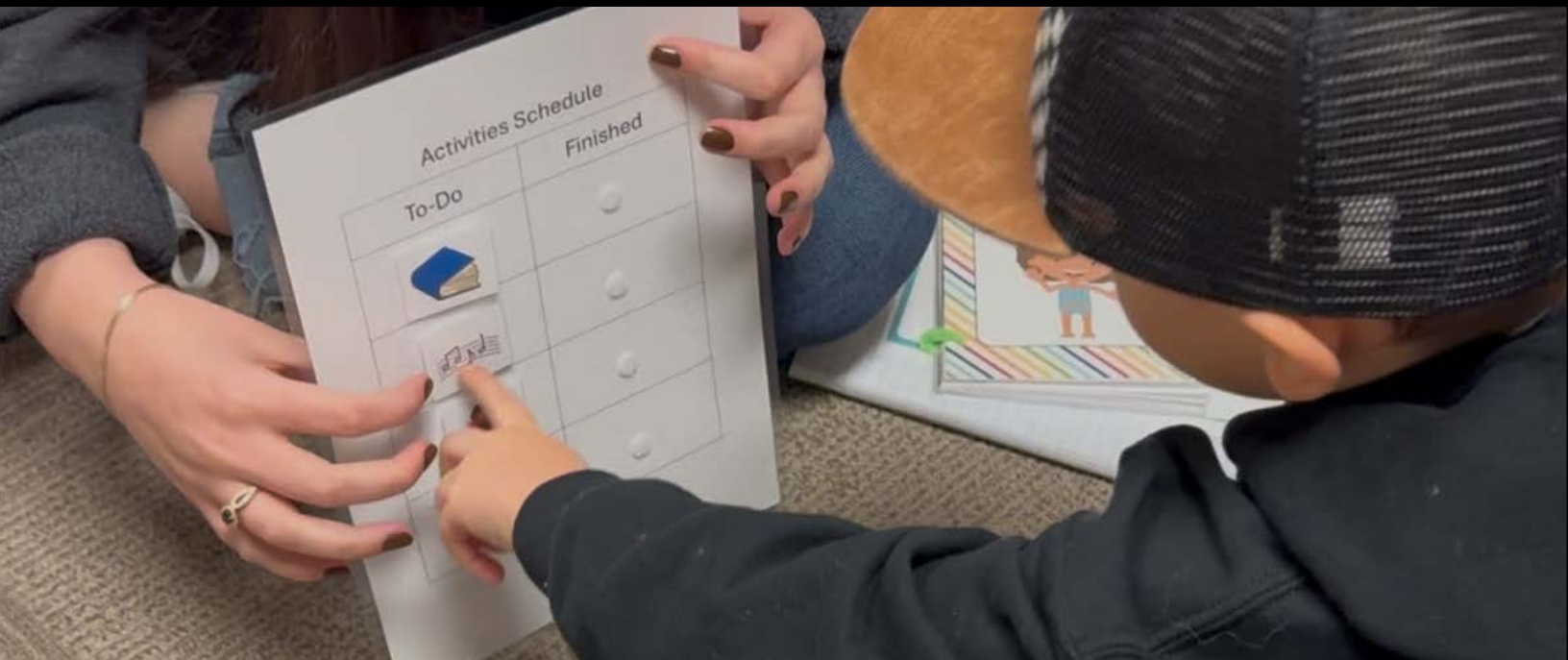
Galloway Auditorium

7:30 p.m.

"José Valentino in Concert with the Lamar Flute Ensemble"

Rothwell Recital Hall

All events are free and open to the public!



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

The Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences is excited to share information about its new partnership with Hamshire-Fannett ISD. This collaboration provides essential speech-language services to students while offering Lamar graduate clinicians hands-on experience in a school setting.

Beth Byers, Clinical Supervisor and Instructor, is an alumnus of both Lamar University and the Hamshire-Fannett Independent School District making her the perfect person to lead this partnership. This partnership grew from research she conducted at Hamshire-Fannett in 2019, which examined service delivery models for articulation disorders. This research was published in LSHSS (Language, Speech, and Hearing Research in Schools) and is also featured on two platforms for SLPs to earn continuing education hours.

This research was fueled by her strong passion for pediatric speech and language disorders and inspired her to find innovative approaches through therapy.

"There is never a dull moment when working with kids! Their

honesty is both refreshing and humbling," Beth shares.

Beth aims to instill this passion in our graduate students so they can best serve the students of Hamshire-Fannett ISD. Currently, graduate clinicians serve students from ages 3-18 across all Hamshire-Fannett campuses by addressing articulation disorders, stuttering, pragmatic deficits, and reading comprehension challenges.

A key feature of the program is the implementation of "drill burst" therapy—short, intensive speech therapy sessions shown to be highly effective.

"It has been great to see this model play out and give the clinicians an opportunity to try something new. Our next goal will be to implement Response to Intervention (RTI) for speech sound errors," explains Beth.

Collaboration with teachers and parents is a priority for this partnership.

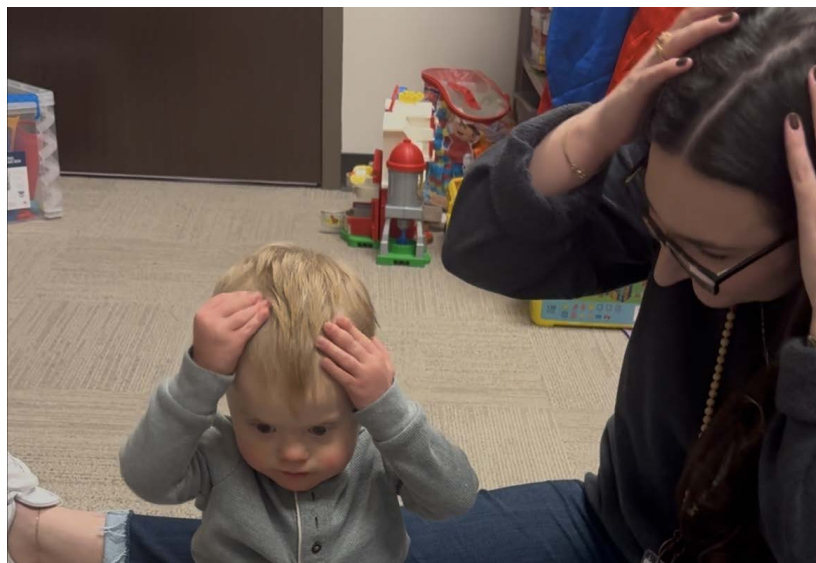
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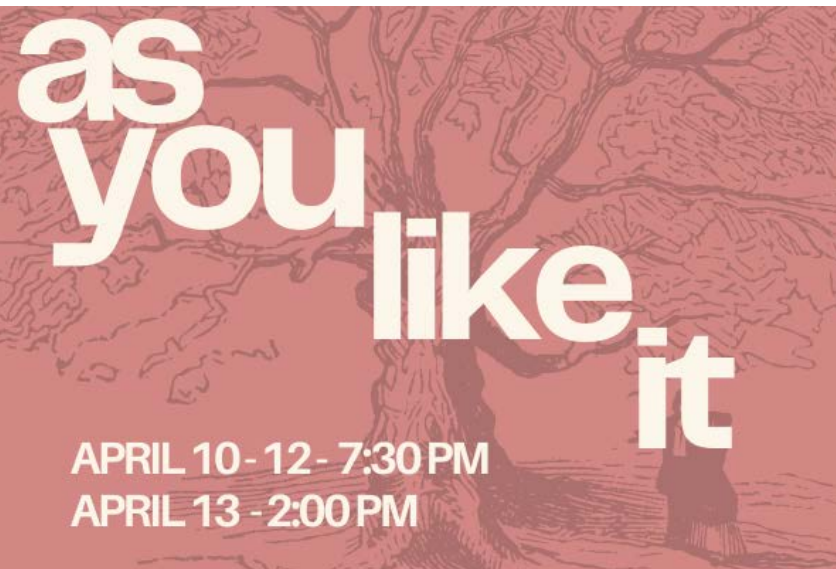
"It can sometimes be tricky pulling students from classrooms where teachers feel the pressure to meet classroom objectives while the SLP is feeling the pressure to meet speech objectives. Flexibility, open communication, mutual respect, and creative scheduling are key to making these relationships successful," says Beth.

Parents are also part of this communication triangle. The graduate clinicians use an app called ClassDojo to ensure that parents are receiving the most up-to date information about their child's progress.

"We can send videos of progress, updates, and/or cues for elicitation techniques. We have received great feedback from parents regarding video updates of their children as this is the first time this has been implemented here," Beth shares.

By bridging the gap between higher education and public schools, Lamar University and Hamshire-Fannett are not only enhancing speech-language services to students in need but are also shaping the future of the profession by ensuring our graduate clinicians receive the most cutting-edge, on-the-job training.





Into the **FOREST**

AN OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE OF "AS YOU LIKE IT"

'No sooner met but they looked; no sooner looked but they loved.'

Cupid takes aim at Rosalind and Orlando, but family feuds send them running in different directions. A forest, several disguises, and a lot of love poetry later, will they find their way back to each other? Love at first sight isn't quite as straightforward as you might think...

Excitement buzzes through the halls as the Department of Theatre & Dance prepares for their production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

"I've been encouraged by the enthusiasm the students have shown for the show," states Alan Brincks, Associate Professor and Director of the production, *"This is the first time many of the students have worked on Shakespeare, and they are very eager to tackle the challenge."*

Not only will this be the first time most of the students have performed Shakespeare, it will also be the first time

a lot of them have performed in an outdoor setting. Alan excitedly discusses the choice to move the production outdoors on the Lamar University Campus.

"A large part of the play takes place in nature. The characters in As You Like It find community, love, knowledge, healing, and other things by spending time outside in the Forest of Arden either by will or necessity. By moving this production from inside a theater to outside, under the trees, the experience is expanded for all involved," explains Alan.

An exciting new challenge for the Department of Theatre & Dance; like the characters in the play, what can we discover about ourselves and our fellow humans by venturing outdoors into the unknown?

To make your evening comfortable and enjoyable, the theatre kindly asks patrons to bring their own seating—blankets, lawn chairs, or cushions all are welcome! Limited seating, including chairs, will also be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Accessible seating is available to ensure everyone can enjoy the performance. Parking for this production and Will Call are available at the Studio Theatre (located between the Dishman Art Museum and the Jimmy Simmons Music Building on Lamar University's campus).

*And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.
-As You Like It (Act 2, Scene 1, lines 15-17)*

As You Like It runs from April 10th through the 12th at 7:30 p.m. and April 13th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available at lamar.edu/lutdtix

**...CHECK OUT SOME
BEHIND THE SCENES PHOTOS ON PAGE 12**





KVLU covers all things Lamar University with four shows dedicated to highlighting campus news, events, students, faculty and staff. Make sure you tune into 91.3 KVLU to catch all these wonderful programs and learn more about what Lamar University has to offer!

"LU Update" airs Monday through Friday at 6:50 a.m.

"LU Update" is your best way to stay current on Lamar University events. The weekly show features a breakdown of events happening on campus, whether they are hosted by the school, fraternities and sororities or any clubs at Lamar. The goal of the show is to inform students of these events and encourage them to take advantage of the different networking and outreach opportunities.

"On Campus @ Lamar University" airs Mondays at 7:50 a.m.

"On Campus @ Lamar University" provides all departments and organizations at Lamar with a platform to converse about events or news within their part of the university. The show features news and views of Lamar University hosted by students speaking with other students, faculty and staff from across the campus.

"Athletics at Lamar" airs Wednesdays at 7:50 p.m.

"Athletics at Lamar," hosted by Victor Albaine, updates listeners on Athletic programs and teams at Lamar University. The show hosts post-game interviews, discussions of the upcoming season or off-season work, and covers recruitment efforts. Victor hopes that this show keeps all Southeast Texans up to date on the current Lamar Athletics news and encourages students, faculty, staff and fans to attend more sporting events so they can cheer on our cardinals!

"The LU Moment" airs Mondays at 2:00 p.m.

"The LU Moment" is the official podcast of Lamar University, hosted by John Rollins. "The LU Moment" showcases all of the great things happening with faculty, staff, students and alumni. This weekly 15-minute talk show shines a light on individuals at the university who are making the most of their moments at LU, as well as alumni who are doing amazing things in the Southeast Texas community and beyond. Potential featured guests could be a student or faculty member working on cutting-edge research, a staff member creating a large-scale marketing campaign, or maybe even an alumni who is making waves globally. The possibilities are endless when it comes to sharing the stories of our LU Cardinals.



EVITA TEZENO: A Piece of My Heart

Don't miss A Piece of My Heart by Evita Tezeno! This wonderful exhibition opened in January, and has provided our students, faculty, staff and community with wonderful opportunities.

Dr. Chadwick, Chair of the Department of Art & Design hosted a talk with the artist where students could come learn about her artistic process and receive advice. The auditorium was reduced to standing room only and received high praise from all attendees.

The exhibition was also featured on Bayoulands on KVLU. Evita Tezeno sat down with Dr. Chadwick to discuss the work, her inspirations, history, memories, and life. You can listen to this episode of Bayoulands on kvl.org.

In addition, local art collectors Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker were so moved by the exhibition that they purchased the piece, "Under the Lavender Sky" and have donated it to the public art collection at Lamar University.

This exhibition brings Tezeno's vibrant and richly textured collage paintings back to Southeast Texas, where her artistic journey began.

LAST CHANCE!

Evita Tezeno is a native of Port Arthur, Texas who graduated from Lamar University in 1984 with a BS degree in graphic design. She uses hand-painted papers and found objects to create folk-art style collages inspired by her South Texas roots, family, and personal experiences.

Tezeno, a recipient of the prestigious 2023 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in Fine Arts and the Elizabeth Catlett Award for The New Power Generation, has exhibited nationally and her work is part of a number of major collections.

This exhibition includes several important works that evoke Tezeno's memories of her hometown. One example is "Summertime and the Livin' is Easy", a new, monumental collage painting that celebrates a day at McFaddin Beach, a hidden gem on the Gulf Coast just east of Port Arthur and, as Tezeno notes, "a place of freedom, away from the hustle and bustle of city life".

A Piece of My Heart is on display until March 8th.

CAN'T MISS THIS!

JAN 8 — MAR 8

Evita Tezeno: Piece of My Heart
Dishman Art Museum

APR 10 — APR 13

As You Like It
Meet at Studio Theatre
lamar.edu/lutdtix

APR 12

Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival
University Theatre
7:30 PM

APR 15

Symphonic Band Concert
Julie Rogers Theatre
7:30 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOR MORE EVENTS IN THE
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