

SIGHTS and SOUNDS

STAFF SPOTLIGHT EDITION
JANUARY 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.

Our staff members work tirelessly to ensure student success by encouraging them to follow their passions or by offering a helping hand. In this issue, we would like to take the opportunity to introduce you to all of our wonderful and dedicated staff.

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.

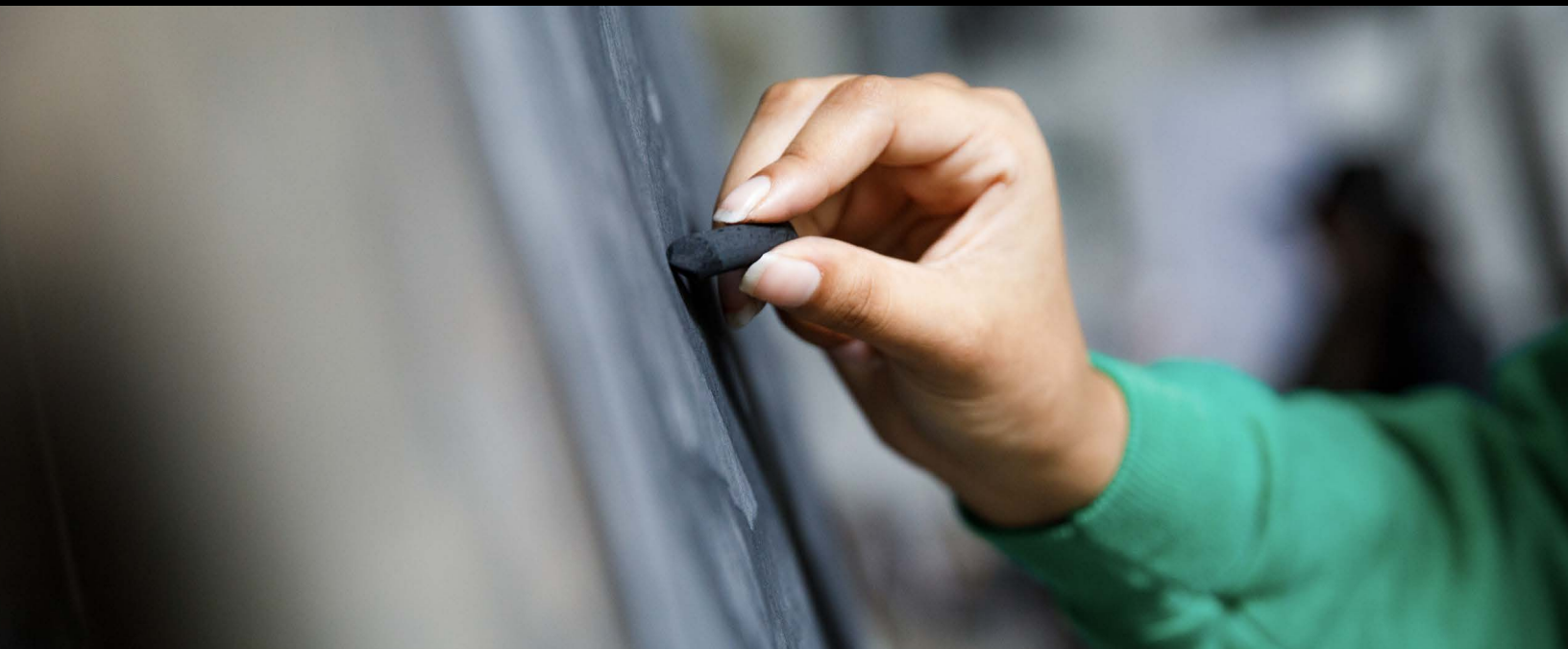
From the multifaceted realm of communication and media, utilizing mediums such as television, radio, social media, and newspapers to disseminate information, to the evocative storytelling of music majors who convey emotions and narratives through voice or instruments. From the invaluable contributions 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.

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



Meet Emily! Emily Lewis-Zazzaro is the Administrative Coordinator for the Department of Art & Design and the Dishman Art Museum. Emily began her journey at Lamar University as an undergraduate student in the Department of Art & Design. She worked as the Museum Assistant for the Dishman Art Museum in 2022 after volunteering for the Le Grand Bal art auction. In 2023, she was offered a full-time administration position. "It was an excellent opportunity to stay within my field and continue to network with other artists!" says Emily. In addition to continuing her artistic pursuits, Emily also enjoys voice acting. She recently lent her voice to the Crumbling Cube Youtube Channel. Emily believes the most rewarding part of her job is interacting with the students and fostering an environment of growth and creativity.



Meet Audra! Audra LaCour serves as the 2D Technician for the Department of Art & Design. She has worked for Lamar University for about five and a half years after a position opened up in Art & Design. Audra is also an alumni of the department and received her BFA in Drawing. She enjoys the work she does for the department.



COMMUNICATION

Meet Kaylea! Kaylea Daigle is the Administrative Coordinator for the Department of Communication & Media. She has worked at Lamar University for 3 years. By working for the Department of Communication & Media, Kaylea has been able to strengthen her 'people skills.' She loves getting the chance to have conversations with people from different backgrounds; she also loves seeing our students succeed. "I love seeing the students and faculty have a great time working on projects," says Kaylea. In her personal time, Kaylea also works as a travel agent and seamstress.



Meet Andy! Andy Coughlan is the Director of Student Publications in the Department of Communication & Media. After a successful 12-year career in publications and newspapers, Andy took his skills and knowledge into his position at the University Press, where he has worked for the past 31 years. He loves watching his students challenge themselves and evolve their skills. "Seeing the students move seamlessly into jobs after building a professional portfolio at the University Press student newspaper is the most rewarding part of my job," says Andy. Something you may not know about Andy is that he got the chance to talk to Yoko Ono at a press preview for her retrospective art show.

Meet Gordon! Gordon Williams is the Television Studio Operations Manager. He was offered a job at the University in 1999 after graduating from the Department of Communication & Media and has just celebrated his twenty-fifth year of service. "The most rewarding part of working at the television studio is watching students' journey from aspiring professionals to working professionals, no matter what career field they decided to venture into after graduation. For those that continue in broadcasting and media, it is amazing to hear from alumni when they are nominated for and win major awards such as Emmys and to see them on air at television stations across the country," says Gordon.





Meet Lynn! Lynn Boswell is the Administrative Coordinator for the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education. Lynn grew up in Beaumont and has been working for the University for the past five years. Lynn loves furry creatures and remembers her beloved dog, Tigger fondly. He passed away in 2016 after 19 and a half years of memories with him. One day, after Lynn got home from work, she took her hearing aids off and put them on the nightstand before taking a shower. After getting out of the shower, she saw Tigger chewing on something small and plastic. "I finally realized what he had in those sweet little puppy paws," explains Lynn, "My hearing aids!" The hearing aids needed some small repairs, but she was able to get them fixed.



Meet Autumn! Autumn Barker is a designated interpreter in the department of deaf studies and deaf education. She grew up in a very small town south of Houston, where she had many animals, including a snake and a small flock of peacocks. She now lives in Beaumont with her wife and just five cats and one turtle. She has been an interpreter for 7 years, the last 5 of which have been here at Lamar. Her other passion is DeafBlind interpreting, and she has traveled the country as a designated Protactile interpreter for a DeafBlind professional.

Meet Barbara! Barbara Johnson is the Senior Interpreter for the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education. She has worked as an American Sign Language/English interpreter for more than 45 years. She came to Lamar in 2010 and earned a Bachelor's Degree in American Sign Language (ASL) in 2012. She began her journey at Lamar working in the Accessibility Resource Center. She is also an active volunteer, serving in various positions with the Deaf Blind Camp of Texas and the Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf.





COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music



Meet Nikki! Nikki Steele is the Administrative Coordinator for the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music. She has worked for the University for just over a year after her and her husband, Brian Steele (Technical Director for the Department of Theatre & Dance) moved back to the area to be closer to family. Nikki and Brian are both fans of Disney, they even play a game called "Name that Song: Disney Edition" on long road trips, where Nikki is the undefeated champion. Nikki believes the most rewarding part of her job is getting the chance to interact with all her coworkers. If Nikki could switch jobs with anyone else in the college for a day, she would switch with Tabitha Holcomb, Communication and Events Coordinator for the College of Fine Arts & Communication. "I would just want to see what it's like to work in her position!" she says.

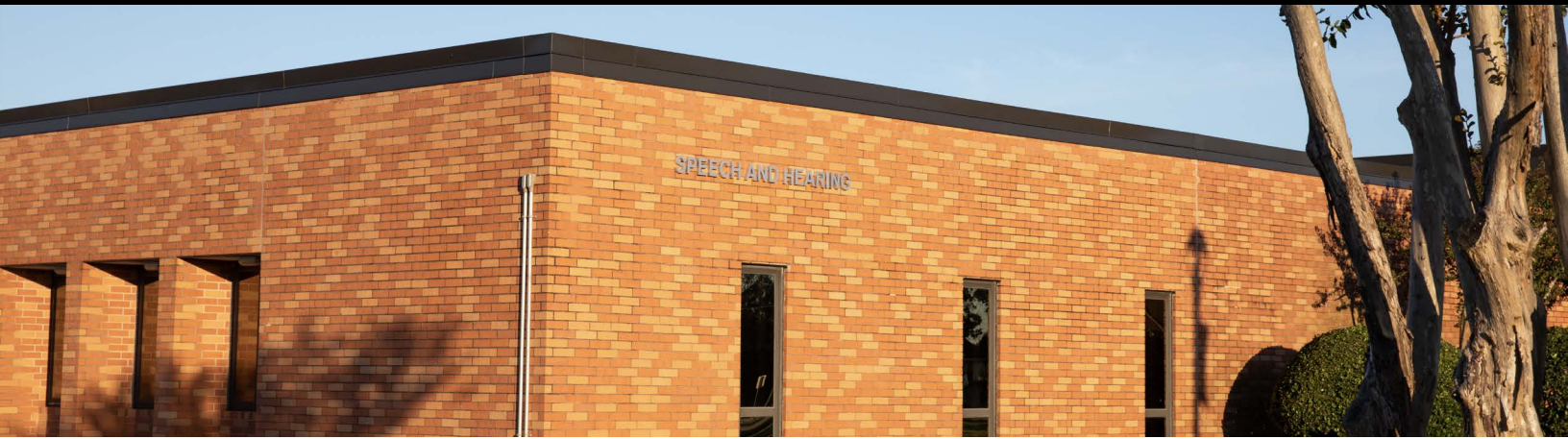




COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences



Meet Alex! Alexandra Simeonides-Bernard is the Administrative Coordinator for the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences. She has been employed with the University for over twenty years. She was nominated for a Distinguished Staff Award in 2022. Alex also loves taking care of her cats and chickens and going on cruises.



Meet Tammy! Tammy Frederick is the Administrative Specialist for the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences. She has worked for the university for over thirteen years after working in the stock market for ten years. The most rewarding parts of Tammy's job are getting to work with the clinic patients and watching the graduate students grow and challenge themselves. If Tammy could switch jobs with anyone for a day, she would either choose Dr. Lilian Felipe to see what a full day with research and students looks like, or Chelsea Lyles because of the specialized groups she works with.

Meet Erin! Erin Burns is the Staff Audiologist for the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences. Erin began their journey at Lamar University as an undergraduate pursuing a Degree in Deaf Education. After some deliberation, Erin decided to switch to the field of Audiology and earned their Doctor of Audiology degree in 2008. "I probably have the best job on campus," says Erin. Erin loves being able to use their skills to help the broader community. "Despite the fact that I purposefully chose a very front-facing and people-centered career, I am about the most introverted person imaginable," they explain, "but it's rewarding to help our Lamar University and the wider Southeast Texas community hear and communicate better."





Meet Ashley! Ashley Dennison is the Production & Audience Services Manager for the Department of Theatre & Dance. Ashley has been with the University for a year and a half. "Coming from public education, it was time for me to adjust and make a better career choice for my family and myself," says Ashley. Ashley has always had a passion for theatre; musical theatre in particular. "I love to sing! Terrified of karaoke though..." jokes Ashley. Ashley recently highlighted her directing skills with faculty member, Tanner McAlpin in this fall's production of Peter Pan. "I like the ability to help behind the scenes and watch a show evolve from the ground up," says Ashley. Ashley believes the most rewarding part of her job is serving the faculty and students. "Every single person is so integral to our success as a college," she explains.



Meet Brian! Brian Steele is the Technical Director for the Department of Theatre & Dance. He has worked for the Department for a little over a year and enjoys working with the students and helping them realize their full potential. "I like seeing them learn that it's okay to make mistakes, then being able to use their critical thinking to come up with a solution," says Brian. If he could switch jobs with anyone in the college for a day, he would switch with Dr. Golden Wright in order to better understand the position of Dean and learn more about how to be an effective leader.

Meet Shannon! Shannon Harris is the Development Director for KVLU. Shannon has a history of working in non-profit development, promotion and project management within the Lamar University system. She believes that her background prepared her for her career at KVLU. Shannon has now been with the University for almost ten years. Part of Shannon's job at KVLU is producing content for KVLU programming, including producing Bayoulands. "I get to speak with some of the most interesting and amazing people," says Shannon. You can catch Bayoulands on 91.3 KVLU every fourth Sunday at 5:00 P.M.



Meet Alicia! Alicia Hargreaves is the Business Coordinator for KVLU. She's worked for the University for 19 years. She has worked in multiple departments across campus including the Dishman Art Museum from 2006 to 2014. "Taking the position at KVLU has allowed me to use both my analytical side and my creative side," says Alicia. The most rewarding part of Alicia's job is helping students learn and refine their skills.

Meet Victor! Victor Albaine is the Production Director for KVLU. He's been working for the radio station for the past eight months after moving to Texas from Minnesota. "When you look for radio jobs, you have to find what is most compatible. KVLU seemed like the best fit for me!" Victor explains. Victor also has big hopes and dreams for the future of KVLU. "I want to make this place inviting for everyone at Lamar, which includes faculty, staff, and students. It is rewarding for me to see KVLU grow in the short time I have been here," says Victor. If given the opportunity to switch places with anyone in COFAC for a day, he would switch places with Professor O'Brien Stanley. "I would love the chance to be able to talk movies and pop culture to a class. Although, he's incredibly more knowledgeable than I am!" says Victor.



Meet Joe! Joseph Elwell is the Music Director for KVLU. He's been working for Lamar University for 39 years and loves to explore different genres of music, like Classical, Jazz, Blues and Folk. Tune into 91.3 FM to hear Joe play all the greats!



EVITA TEZENO: A Piece of My Heart

The Dishman Art Museum proudly presents a selection of works by the acclaimed artist Evita Tezeno. This exhibition brings Tezeno's vibrant and richly textured collage paintings back to Southeast Texas, where her artistic journey began.

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".

"Evita Tezeno: Piece of My Heart" will be on view from January 18 - March 8, 2025, with an opening reception on Sunday, January 26, from 2-5PM. The event will also include a conversation between Evita Tezeno and Dr. Stephanie Chadwick, Chair of the Department of Art & Design at Lamar University, beginning at 3PM in the Dishman Auditorium. The conversation, which is free and open to the public, offers a chance to meet the artist and explore her extraordinary work.

THE MARY MORGAN MOORE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

COLLAGE

AT LAMAR UNIVERSITY®

JANUARY 31, 2025

7:00 P.M.

SUSAN AND JIMMY SIMMONS MUSIC BUILDING

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [LAMAR.EDU/COLLAGES](https://lamar.edu/collage)

Lamar University's Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music is thrilled to present Collage 2025: A Faculty Showcase, a dynamic fundraising concert celebrating the talents of our esteemed music faculty. The concert will offer a rich tapestry of performances, blending solo pieces with unique collaborations across genres and styles. Join us for this inspiring night of music, where faculty artistry shines and community support helps nurture the next generation of musicians.

All proceeds from Collage 2025 will directly benefit our students by supporting music festivals, masterclasses, and educational events throughout the academic year.

SPONSORSHIPS

We invite you to support the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music at Lamar University through sponsorship of our Collage Fundraising Concert. Your partnership helps us expand the depth and quality of our programs, inspiring creativity and excellence in our students while strengthening the role of music in our community. We are deeply grateful for your consideration in supporting the future of the arts at Lamar University.

*To become a sponsor or purchase tickets
scan the QR code below or visit lamar.edu/collage*



CAN'T MISS THIS!

JAN 18 — MAR 8

Evita Tezeno: Piece of My Heart

Dishman Art Museum

Opening Reception: Sunday, January 26, 2:00-5:00 PM

JAN 31

COLLAGE

Susan and Jimmy Simmons Music Building

7:00 PM

FEB 13 — FEB 15

The Self-Destruction of Emma James

Studio Theatre

lamar.edu/lutdtix

FEB 20

Cardinal Jazz Orchestra Concert

University Theatre

7:30 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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



GIVE NOW, EMPOWER THE FUTURE!

Your generous support for the College of Fine Arts & Communication at Lamar University ensures that the arts and communication fields continue to grow and thrive. Your contribution, no matter the size, makes a lasting impact.

Donate today and invest in collaboration, innovation, creation and excellence.

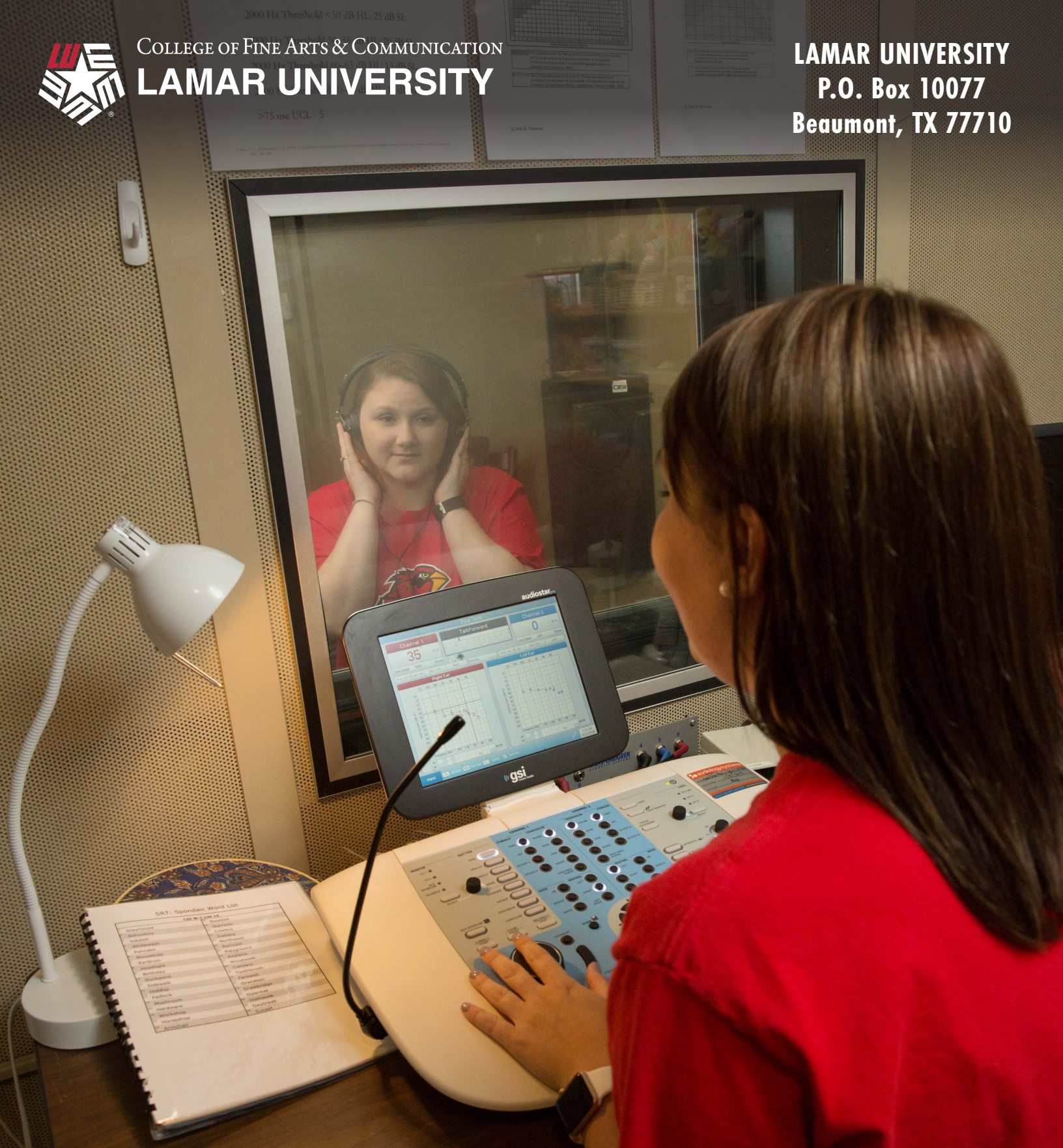


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COLLABORATE - INNOVATE - CREATE

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